

QUESTION: Is there a difference between God's Spirit (that which was breathed into Adam and brought life to the human race) and the Holy Spirit, or Spirit of Truth (which Jesus said in John 14:16 "The Father will give you" and "The Father will send in My name"? This means that there is another? If we already have the Spirit of God in us providing biological life, and the Spirit of Truth and the Holy Spirit are both something that we will receive later, then doesn't this indicate something different?

ANSWER: Well, there is some confusion here about our human spirits and God's Holy Spirit, so let's look carefully at each part of this question. First of all, you make an assumption that it is God's Spirit that He breathed into Adam to give him life. To clear up any confusion, we need to look directly at the Scripture reference that tells us about God giving life to Adam.

- **Genesis 2:7** "And the Lord formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils **the BREATH of LIFE**; and man became a living being."

If you look up in the Strong's Concordance the word for "breath" here, it is the Hebrew word "n'shamah" and can mean wind, breath, divine inspiration, intellect, soul, spirit. **God was creating the "human spirit"** within Adam, as well as giving him physical life. We as humans all have a human spirit that is created in the image of God. **The Hebrew word for God's Spirit** in such verses as Ezekiel 36:26-27 is "ruach", which can mean wind, life, spirit, breath. The word for Holy Spirit used in the New Testament in John 14:16-17 & 25-26 is the Greek word "pneuma". This can also mean air, breath, Spirit (as in God's Spirit), ghost, life, and spirit (as in angel or demon). It is how the words are used in context that determine the exact meaning, but this may be where the confusion comes from. **It does NOT say in Genesis 2:7 that God put His Spirit into Adam, but that He breathed "the breath of life" into him.** God made man (both male and female) in His own image (see Genesis 1:26-27), which means He made man to be a spiritual being. **We, as human beings, are a spirit being, we have a soul (mind, will emotions - our personality), and we live in a physical body.** When Adam disobeyed God, he died spiritually - his spirit man died. He did not die physically until hundreds of years later. Ever since Adam sinned and brought death into the world, **we ALL are born spiritually DEAD (the original "image of God" has been marred and corrupted)**, and that is why we need the new birth through faith in Christ Jesus.

- **John 14:16-17 & 25-26** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may abide with you forever, even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (Verses 25-26) "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** "I will give you a new heart and **put a new spirit within you**; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."
- **I Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and **may your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

God loves us and provides salvation (the **New Birth**) by His grace, apart from anything we can do to earn it. Why do we need the **NEW BIRTH**? Because "God is Spirit" (He is a spirit being), and we can only communicate with Him through OUR spirits. Before we experience the new birth in Christ Jesus, the Bible says **WE are spiritually DEAD**, and **our spirits must be MADE ALIVE**, so that we can worship, communicate with, and experience God! God gives you eternal LIFE - **your spirit is REBORN and MADE ALIVE** in Christ Jesus when you receive Him as your Lord and Savior, and then you can worship God "in spirit." This is what it means in Ezekiel 36:26-27 when God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you (He causes our spirit to be "born again"); I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Then, at the same moment that our human spirit is born of the Holy Spirit and made alive in Christ, **the Holy Spirit of God Himself comes to live within our spirit.**

- **Titus 3:5-7** "NOT by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us; by the washing of **regeneration (being born again)**, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"
- **John 4:23-24** "But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshipers will WORSHIP the Father in SPIRIT and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must **worship in SPIRIT and truth.**"
- **Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, **being DEAD** in your trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **MADE ALIVE** together with Him (Jesus), having forgiven you all trespasses (sins); having wiped out the handwriting of requirements which was contrary to (against) us, and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."
- **Ephesians 2:1& 4-5** "And you He made ALIVE, who were **DEAD** in your trespasses and SINS." "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when **we were DEAD** in trespasses (sins), **made us ALIVE** together with Christ (by grace you have been **saved**)";

Definition: "TRESPASSES" - Transgressions of God's law; all the times we have violated God's laws and commandments.

- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages (results) of SIN is DEATH, but **the gift of God is eternal LIFE** in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Is there a difference between the SOUL and the SPIRIT? Yes, the word of God mentions them as two separate things. The real YOU is your HUMAN SPIRIT within you. **You ARE a spirit, you HAVE a soul, and you LIVE in a body.** When Adam and Eve sinned, they IMMEDIATELY DIED spiritually, and PHYSICAL DEATH came many years later. They were no longer able to have that close communion with God that they once had.

- **Romans 5:12** "Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) SIN entered the world, and DEATH through sin, and thus **DEATH spread to all men**, because ALL SINNED."
- **I Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may **your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Luke 1:46-47** "And Mary said, '**My SOUL** magnifies the Lord, and **my SPIRIT** has rejoiced in God my Savior.'"
- **Isaiah 26:9** "At night **my SOUL** longs for You, indeed **my SPIRIT** within me seeks You diligently...."
- **Psalms 77:2-3, 6** "In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; **my SOUL** refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and **my SPIRIT** was overwhelmed."

The Bible calls the person who has never been born again a "natural man" - he is NATURAL, made of flesh and blood, and he has a SOUL (mind, will and emotions - his "personality"). Because the "natural man" is SPIRITUALLY DEAD, he (or she) cannot really understand spiritual things - the things of God. The most that a "natural" man can do is to TRY to relate to God by means of man-made religion in the SOUL realm. I Corinthians 2:14-16 describes the natural man as being unable to "RECEIVE the things of the Spirit of God". Just as a radio cannot RECEIVE or pick up a message that is sent **if its batteries are DEAD**, so the unregenerate (un-born-again) person cannot RECEIVE the things of God's Spirit because **their SPIRIT is dead**. We must have a **SPIRIT that is BORN AGAIN** and given **LIFE from God** in order to DISCERN spiritual things. If it were possible to have another PHYSICAL birth, that would still not be enough (it's not another flesh and blood birth that is needed - see John 3:3-7), because it must be a **BIRTH from a totally new DIMENSION**, that of the Holy Spirit of God.

- **I Corinthians 2:14-16** "But the **NATURAL MAN does not RECEIVE** (understand) the things of the SPIRIT of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he KNOW them, because **they are SPIRITUALLY discerned**. But he who is SPIRITUAL judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have **the Mind of Christ**."
- **John 3:3-7** "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is BORN AGAIN**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and **the SPIRIT**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **BORN of the SPIRIT** is SPIRIT. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You MUST be BORN AGAIN**.'"
- **I Corinthians 15:50** "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."
- **I Peter 1:23** "Having been **BORN AGAIN**, not of corruptible SEED but incorruptible, through the WORD of GOD which lives and abides forever."
- **John 1:13** "Who were **BORN** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
- **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a **new CREATION**; old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new."

For the next part of your question, you seem to think the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Truth are two separate entities? No, they are just two different ways of referring to God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, and the Comforter (or Helper, depending on your translation). So, you see, the Spirit of Truth and the Holy Spirit are the same person, the third person of the Trinity, or God the Spirit. If you need more instruction in the nature and person of the Triune God, we have a paper entitled "Why Christians Believe in the Trinity". If you would like more insight into what happened when Adam sinned, we have a "Question & Answer" paper about Adam and Eve. For more insight into our triune nature as humans, created in the image of God, please see our paper entitled "Spirit, Soul and Body - Mind, Will and Emotions."

IN SUMMARY: The Holy Spirit of God (also called the Spirit of Christ) comes to live in every believer in Jesus Christ, and **He dwells within our human spirit**, also called the "heart" and "the inner man".

- **Ephesians 3:16-17** "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through **His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith....."
- **II Corinthians 4:16** ".....Even though our outward man (physical body) is perishing, yet **the inward man** is being renewed (strengthened) day by day."
- **I Peter 3:4** "But let it be **the hidden person of the heart**, with the incorruptible ornament, of **a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God."

- **I Corinthians 2:11** "For what man knows the things of a man except **the spirit of the man, which is in him?**"
- **Romans 8:16** "The **Spirit Himself** bears witness with **our spirit** that we are children of God."