

Names of God from the Bible

49 – Spirit

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Spirit for us today.

Reading: John 4:1-26

God is spirit. And that is a problem for us. A Spirit doesn't have flesh and blood. You cannot 'see' spirit, yet we know God is not a 'force'.

This was one of the reasons the Hebrews made and worshipped the golden calf. They wanted to see their God as they had seen the gods of the Egyptians.

The Bible reveals God as a person. A three-fold person: Father, Word (Jesus, the Son) and Holy Spirit. However, God is One Spirit. God is Spirit, The Word is Spirit and the Holy Spirit is Spirit.

We 'know' Jesus because He is the Incarnate Son – He became human. Or as Paul says in Philippians, Jesus 'became' or 'was made in human likeness'. Jesus was not 'human' in the beginning; He was Spirit. When He came to earth (as we celebrated at Christmas), Jesus became a 'Man'. However, He is eternally Spirit.

Since we cannot see Spirit, it is very difficult for many people to believe in God. It takes faith. Nevertheless, as Jesus has 'invaded' earth, we have 'seen' God. One of the reasons Jesus came to earth was to reveal God, to put 'flesh' on God, the Spirit.

Since God is Spirit, it should help us understand His ability to be everywhere at the same time. He is not constricted to time and place. He is able to 'see' everything, know everything and able to 'do' anything. No human power can match Him, restrict Him, control or manipulate Him. His authority is limitless, His glory indescribable and His character, spotless and holy.

No wonder the Bible is able to say there is One God. There are no other gods; only vain imaginations out of people's minds. Yes, there are other spirits, evil spirits that work constantly in opposition to God, however, their power is limited and their end, fatal and pre-determined.

God is the Eternal Spirit. A Spirit seen as undiminished brilliance. A purity untarnished by any indiscretion or compromise. Righteousness dazzling with truth and honesty. Love that is full of grace and mercy.

When Jesus met the woman at Jacob's well in Sychar, she had an encounter that not only changed her life but also the lives of everyone in her town. This is because she was given one of the most profound and significant theological discourses of all time.

Yes, Jesus used His prophetic gift to reveal her past and present to her but there was so much more spiritual import to what He said. The question about a drink of water quickly changed into a theological discussion about worship. The woman had been brought up to believe that there was conflict over worship between her people and the Jews.

Her people believed they should worship where they were in Samaria, whereas, for the Jews, the temple in Jerusalem was the true and only authentic place to worship God. After all, for them, The Temple represented the very presence of God, the place He had chosen for His Name to dwell. The place of the proscribed sacrifices and rituals of worship.

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Jesus replied that God is Spirit. As King David had expressed, *“How can a Temple hold the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe?”* As Stephen said later, *“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.”*

Jesus said let’s forget about the location; God is Spirit. He is everywhere. What is important is your heart and spirit. Those who want to truly worship God must do so in spirit and truth. In other words, no sham or pretence; no wanting to gain anything from God, nor wanting to prove anything to God.

Just a simple contrite heart recognising the grace, mercy and love of God. True worship rising from true gratitude, flowing from true devotion leading to an obedient lifestyle.

What does that name mean for us today

God is far above anything we can think or imagine. He is worthy of worship for Who He is and for all that He has done for us. We can pray to Him, knowing that He is able to perform anything, anytime, in any place, and in any way.

Prayer

Father, I come in awe of Your power, majesty and glory. Thank You that, in Jesus, we have a glimpse of who You are and Your incredible love for us. Please help me to worship You in spirit and in truth, today and for the rest of my life. Amen

Additional Readings

- Genesis 6:1-8
- 1 John 4:21
- Revelation 22:17

Questions

1. How do you respond to the fact that God is Spirit?
2. Has Jesus revealed Himself in this way to you?
3. What attributes of God, as Spirit, can you identify?