

The Pneuma & the Ruach

John 3: 5-8

5. Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and **the Spirit**."

6. Humans can reproduce only human life, but **the Holy Spirit** gives birth to spiritual life.

7. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

8. **The wind** blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear **the wind** but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of **the Spirit**."

Acts 2:4 "everyone present was filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began speaking in other languages as the **Holy Spirit** gave them this ability".

Spirit, Holy Spirit, and wind are all the same word in Greek

pneuma = "a current of air", "breath" or "breeze" and by analogy "spirit". It's where we get the expression - pneumatic tyre = rubber ring inflated with a current of air.

What do these passages tell us about the person of the Holy Spirit and the way in which He works?

John 6:63 "The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing"

- "The pneuma gives birth to spiritual life"
- "The pneuma alone gives eternal life"

How does Jesus' statement impact on our view of evangelism?

In the Old Testament

ruach = "air in motion" and is the same word used for "breath" and "life". By resemblance to breath and air in motion it means "spirit".

Genesis 1:1-2 "**the Spirit of God** was hovering over the surface of the waters"

Exodus 15:8-10

"at the **blast of your breath** the waters piled up! The surging waters stood straight like a wall". (8)
"You **blew with your breath** and the sea covered them" (10) .

2 Samuel 22:16

"The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the Lord, at the **blast of breath** from his nostrils"

Ezekiel 37: 4-10

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath (ruach) enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath (ruach) in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath (ruach) in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath (ruach) entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Why did Ezekiel have to prophecy twice?

It's the wind, the spirit, the breath of God that delivers Israel at the Red Sea.

It's the wind, the spirit, the breath of God that delivers David from his enemies.

It's the wind, the spirit, the breath of God which gives life to the dry bones.

Without the wind, the spirit, the breath of God there is no life. Breathing is vital. Without drawing in breath we will suffocate and die.

Just as in the physical so in the spiritual we need to keep breathing.

How can we ensure that we keep on breathing in the Holy Spirit?

Examples of ways in which the wind of the Holy Spirit might impact our lives:

1. The wind can turn your world upside down
2. The wind can demolish barriers
3. The wind can ruffle still waters
4. The wind can blow away the clouds
5. The wind can fill our sails
6. The wind can catch the leaves at the top of the tree

How has the wind of the Holy Spirit impacted your life?

How do we ensure that His wind fills our sails?

Are we at the top of the tree looking heavenward or sheltering at the bottom of the tree looking to the earth?