

The Spirit of God



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1. God's Enduring Testimony
2. God's Mighty Power
3. God was in Christ
4. God's Good Gifts
5. God's Loving Care

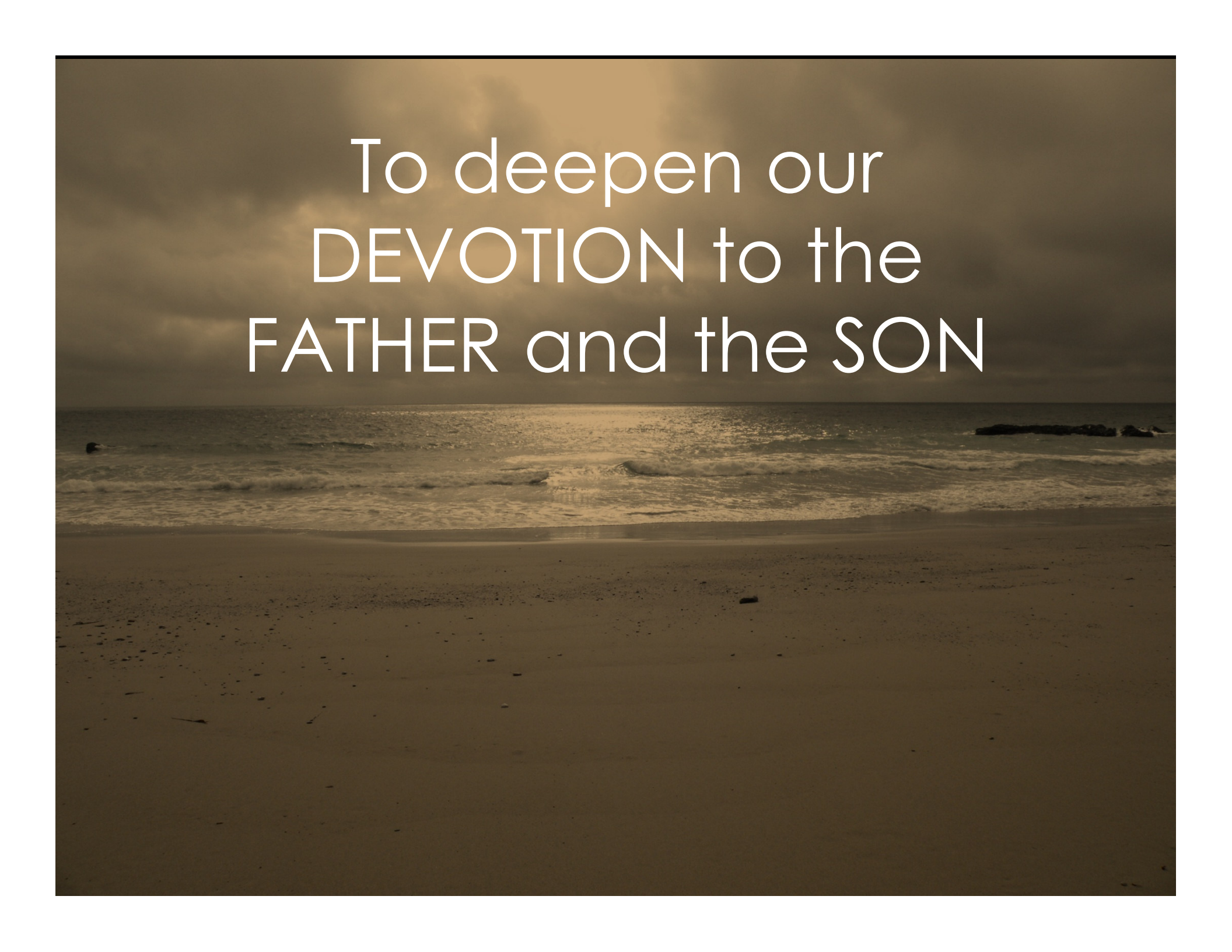


Portland Harbour



Aims

- Why has the subject proved to be so difficult?
- How is the Spirit described and manifested in scripture?
- What is the significance of the term '*Holy*' Spirit?
- How can we speak with confidence about God's Spirit today?

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a warm, golden light from the setting sun illuminating the clouds and the water. The ocean waves are breaking on the shore, creating white foam. The beach is sandy and appears to be mostly empty. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

To deepen our
DEVOTION to the
FATHER and the SON

The promises of God 60+

The kingdom of God / heaven 110+

Love (*agapē*) 140+

Spirit (of God or Christ) 250+

Examples of uses of the word 'spirit'

- the Spirit of God
- evil spirits and phantoms
- The life-giving principle
- the seat of action or feeling
- temperament and disposition
- the spirit or true meaning of something
- distilled alcoholic liquor

Metaphor:

Hebrew

rûach

Greek

pneuma

Latin

spiritus

North European

geist (ghost)

*wind /
breath*

rûach in Ezekiel 37:

- The Spirit of the LORD
- The breath of life
- the wind
- the four points of the compass

Matthew 12.27-28:

'... If I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the **Spirit of God**, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11.19-20:

Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the **finger of God**, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

John 3.6

Current editions of KJV:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the **Spirit** is spirit

1611 KJV:

... That which is born of the **spirit** is spirit

NIV:

... but the **Spirit**^{*} gives birth to spirit.

^{*} *Or but spirit*

Be still and know that I am God
I am the Lord that healeth thee
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust

Praise the Lord 11



‘... The testimony of God came by the Holy Spirit, by which God testified in his prophets and, in these last days, spoke through his Son. Hence the effects of the word believed are attributed to the Spirit; and because the word sets men to breathing in God’s moral atmosphere, it is termed “spirit and life”’

JOHN THOMAS, *Elpis Israel* (1848)

The law of the **LORD** is perfect,
reviving the soul

Psalm 19.7

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path

Psalm 119.105

All scripture is **God-breathed** and
is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting
and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be
thoroughly equipped
for every good work.

2 Timothy 3.16-17

Open my eyes
that I may see
wonderful things in your law

Psalm 119.18

'One universal irradiant Spirit, by which the Father fills all and knows all; and when He wills, performs all.'

JOHN THOMAS: Epitome of the One Faith (mid-1860s)

- universal – nothing exists or functions without it
- irradiant' – the source of spiritual light
- under God's control – not ours
- the means by which the Father works

Question of the Day #1

Why is it that, although the Hebrew word *rûach* (usually translated 'Spirit' or 'spirit') occurs almost 350 times in the Old Testament and the Hebrew word *qodesh* (translated holy or holiest) occurs 300+ times, they only occur together three times – once in Psalm 51.11 and twice in Isaiah 63.10-11)?

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