

THE SEVEN SPIRITS



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POWERHOUSE PUBLICATIONS

2006

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Powerhouse Publications
Beverly Hills, CA

Printed in the United States of America

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Second Edition

THE SEVEN SPIRITS

John to the seven assemblies (churches) that are in Asia: May grace (God's unmerited favor) be granted to you and spiritual peace (the peace of Christ's kingdom¹) from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven Spirits [the sevenfold Holy Spirit²] before His throne³,

Revelation 1:4 (AMP)

There are seven Spirits before God's throne? The fact that the word "Spirits" is capitalized suggests Deity. Are there *seven* Holy Spirits? We have learned to associate the number three in relation to God – accepting by faith that God exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Three in One). Theologians have argued over this for centuries. Understanding the concept of the Trinity is made somewhat easier by employing certain analogies. You might think of *water, ice and steam*. They are all H₂O, just in different forms (liquid, solid, gas). But how do we comprehend the number seven in Revelation 1:4? The Amplified version shows us that the Apostle John's reference to "the seven Spirits" is more accurately translated as the *sevenfold* Holy Spirit. The number seven (in both the Old and New Testaments) represents completeness and perfection. In fact, the Book of Revelation contains a myriad of sevens, including (but not limited to) seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. Could this mean, then, that "the seven Spirits" (or, the *sevenfold* Holy Spirit) is a reference to His completeness and perfection?

¹ And there shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse [David's father], and a Branch out of his roots shall grow *and* bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him — the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential *and* obedient fear of the Lord —

Isaiah 11:1-2 (AMP)

As the Anointed One of God, Jesus has in Himself the fullness of operation of the sevenfold Holy Spirit. We know from the apostle Paul that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ:

¹ G. Abbott-Smith, *Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*.

² Richard of St. Victor, cited by Richard Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*.

³ See Isaiah 11:2

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For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature].

Colossians 2:9 (AMP)

There is another important aspect of this revelation that we've got to get a hold of. Maybe I should have warned you to fasten your seatbelts first! Just think about the fact that we are *in Christ*. Therefore, the fullness of the power of the Spirit of God that dwells in Christ also lives and abides in us. Read Colossians 2:9-17.

And you are in Him, made full *and* having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

Colossians 2:10 (AMP)

According to Ethelbert W. Bullinger, a respected British theologian and author during the 1800's, the original Hebrew text of Isaiah 11:2 is written as *genitive of origin and efficient cause*.

The word "of" in each of these passages would better be translated "from."

Thus, where the scripture says "the Spirit of wisdom," the original Hebrew might more accurately read, "the (Holy) Spirit Who gives us His wisdom"⁴.

Likewise, the Spirit of Understanding is the (Holy) Spirit Who gives us understanding⁵.

Keeping this in mind, we now see something powerful concerning our salvation: Once we have come into a relationship with God through the Blood of Jesus, we are imbued with powerful blessings by the Spirit of Light.

Considering how Isaiah 11:2 lays it out for us (keeping Bullinger's analysis in mind), the seven Spirits might be described as:

⁴ See James 1:5

⁵ See Psalm 119:104

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1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The Holy Spirit, Who gives Wisdom
3. The Holy Spirit, Who gives Understanding
4. The Holy Spirit, Who gives Counsel
5. The Holy Spirit, Who gives Might
6. The Holy Spirit, Who gives Knowledge
7. The Holy Spirit, Who gives the fear of the Lord

We are children of the Most High. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and fellow heirs with God's Anointed One⁶. As a part of our inheritance, we receive a perpetual (as we submit to God and resist the devil) filling with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and a reverent fear of the Lord. Considering the fact that His fullness is in us - through Christ, let's take a close look at each of these seven manifestations of the Spirit of God (as they apply to both Christ *and* His body)!

Spirit of God (rûach yehwah)

The Hebrew literally reads: **the Spirit of Yahweh** (or, "Jehovah"... although some scholars feel that "Yahweh" is the more accurate transliteration). This is God's personal Name (never to be taken lightly⁷). It identifies Him as the Existing One. He is the Absolute Unchangeable One. He is the One ever coming into manifestation. He is the God of redemption. He is the Life Giver. He is the Creator. His Spirit indwells and watches over us⁸.

In Isaiah's prophecy, the Spirit of God rests upon the Messianic king. This Spirit imparts warlike energy... empowering Him to defeat every foe. In like fashion, we

⁶ See Romans 8:16-17

⁷ See Exodus 20:7

⁸ See Psalm 91:1

who have been baptized by the Holy Ghost also have that same warlike energy residing in us. You may at times feel like falling on the floor, crawling into a corner, and laying down. But... that doesn't invalidate the fact that God's power is residing in you at this very moment. You just need to stir yourself up⁹. Jesus has given us warlike energy from the Holy Ghost. He has given us authority *and* power to trample over serpents and scorpions. We receive the mental strength and ability to conquer satan and all of the power that he possesses. And, to top that off... Jesus gave us His Personal guarantee that nothing shall by any means harm us¹⁰. What a powerful revelation, isn't it? But guess what? There's more!

The Spirit of God also gives us executive and administrative power to empower prophetic gifts in uttering instruction and/or warning.

You might call it the power (from the Holy Ghost) to utter a good word in due season. This may involve preaching a sermon, or delivering tongues or interpretation of tongues. Or, it may be as simple as uttering a word of scripture at the precise moment it is needed¹¹. Likewise, it may be the act of expressing a psalm, a hymn, or a spiritual song to a wounded heart for comfort, exhortation, and/or encouragement¹². An individual operating in the office of a prophet (or exercising a prophetic gift) may be led to speak a more precise word into an individual's spirit (Note: such utterances are *always* in line with the word of God). Even if an individual hasn't been called to operate within that gift, the Holy Spirit might still use him or her to utter or interpret a message (in English or in tongues) that may be targeted towards a specific individual or his/her need.

Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

Luke 10:19 (AMP)

⁹ See 2nd Timothy 1:5-6

¹⁰ See Luke 10:19

¹¹ See 1st Peter 4:10-11

¹² See Colossians 3:16

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The Spirit of God gives us power over the works and forces of satan. We can resist demons and demonic activity by invoking the name of Jesus and pleading the Blood that was shed for us on the cross. As you build yourself up with the Word of God in your heart

¹⁰With my whole heart have I sought You, inquiring for and of You and yearning for You; Oh, let me not wander or step aside [either in ignorance or willfully] from Your commandments¹³.

¹¹Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

¹²Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:10-12 (AMP)

Be careful to examine or judge yourself to ensure that you do not have unconfessed sin in your heart. When the Spirit alerts you to something you have done that was wrong (or something good that you should have done but did not do), repent and turn back to walking in a right relationship with the Father. If not, God will bring His divine correction down upon your life... and nobody likes getting spanked, do they?

³¹For if we searchingly examined ourselves [detecting our shortcomings and recognizing our own condition], we should not be judged and penalty decreed [by the divine judgment].

³²But when we [fall short and] are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined and chastened, so that we may not [finally] be condemned [to eternal punishment along] with the world.

1st Corinthians 11:31-32 (AMP)

Remember that sin will choke the word and make it unfruitful¹⁴. If you are not living a righteous life and are harboring sin in your heart, the effectiveness of your prayers will be compromised¹⁵. Recognize this as a part of the devil's trap and have a heart that is quick to repent, quick to turn from sin, quick to run to the Father for grace and mercy to help in time of need¹⁶.

¹³ Psalm 119:10 : II Chron 15:15

¹⁴ See Luke 8:14

¹⁵ See Psalm 66:18, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:15, John 9:31, James 4:3 and 1st Peter 3:7

¹⁶ Hebrews 4:16

One of satan's tricks is to tempt you into sin, and then use your moment of weakness to try and infiltrate your mind. If satan can convince you that God will not forgive you, he can attempt to draw you into a backslidden condition. At this level, you could fall into actions and lifestyles that could lead to death. But thank God that He has given us His Spirit - and that the Holy Spirit leads and guides us into all truth¹⁷!

Spirit of Wisdom (rûach chakh^emah)

Here we see the Holy Spirit giving us skill, shrewdness, and wisdom. This isn't simply something one gets by earning a Ph.D. or some other high degree. This is better... much, much better! We're talking about practical wisdom *from God* that will help you successfully complete your plans. What plans? Well, if you are yielding to the Spirit (since He has the right of way), then...

For I know the thoughts *and* plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts *and* plans for welfare *and* peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP)

According to the Hebrew text, that "final outcome" is the substance of your hopes and dreams... that thing you most greatly desire. That is what your loving Heavenly Father wants for you. Nothing but His very best! And how will you accomplish those plans? By the gifts imparted on you by the Spirit of God, who gives you wisdom! Let's look at an example of the wisdom that God gives, reading Proverbs 8:12 in five translations:

I wisdom dwell with prudence {or, subtilty}, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.
[King James Version with notes]

"I, Wisdom, live with Prudence; I attain knowledge and foresight."
[Tanakh: The New JPS Translation]

¹⁷ See John 14:25-27

I wisdom dwell [with] prudence, and find the knowledge [which cometh] of reflection.
[Darby Translation]

I, wisdom, have dwelt with prudence, And a knowledge of devices I find out.
[Young's Literal Translation]

I, Wisdom [from God], make prudence my dwelling, and I find out knowledge and discretion.
[Amplified Bible]

Notice the common thread running through each translation. This gives us a glimpse of the living and active wisdom that our Heavenly Father gives to us. It is a wisdom that incorporates the shrewdness to transact business and all matters of our daily lives. Use that wisdom on your job. Use it in your office or position in the church, or on some community advisory board. The wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives us also incorporates wisdom in administration. This is similar to the Wisdom of Solomon (open your Bible and read about the Wisdom of Solomon¹⁸). We receive **the mind of Christ**¹⁹!

The Spirit of Understanding (rûach ûvînah)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit imparts understanding and discernment. As we charge our batteries with the word of God, the Spirit will give us total recall of the scripture(s) most pertinent to the circumstance(s) that we may be facing²⁰. We receive (from the Spirit Who gives us understanding) the ability to tell right from wrong. Of course, discerning right from wrong is only half of the battle. The Lord may direct us to a thing or away from another thing. The bottom line, however, is that it is our responsibility to act on it (embracing that which is right and rejecting that which is wrong²¹).

¹⁸ Read 1st Kings chapters 4 through 11

¹⁹ See 1 Corinthians 2:16

²⁰ See John 14:26

²¹ See Romans 12:9

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We also receive the ability to discern truth from lies. This is a valuable gift which we should utilize (through prayer, and faithfully leaning on and relying completely on Him) when conducting major financial transactions. Don't you dare close on that house (or accept that job offer) without first looking to the author and finisher of our faith. Likewise, activating godly understanding prior to entering into a marriage alleviates a lot of headaches. Jesus said:

²⁶But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He [Himself] will testify regarding Me.

²⁷But you also will testify and be My witnesses, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27 (AMP)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He will reveal truth²² to you... and give you counsel from the storehouses of truth.

I experienced this one day when a man once approached me claiming to be deacon at a church I had previously attended. My suspicions about his veracity (or lack thereof) were confirmed when attempted to con money out of me. As I suspected, he wasn't really a deacon. He basically had memorized the names of the pastors of several area churches in order to gain the confidence of Christians. The following Sunday, he showed up at my church. He didn't come to worship... in fact, he didn't even come inside the sanctuary. He sent an usher to find me and ask me to step outside where he started another hustle for money. It was a good thing that I had just spent the previous hour in praise and worship and was in the Spirit at that moment. Otherwise I might have laid hands (or knuckles) on him. That thief didn't get another penny from me. Unfortunately, he caught a young family coming in for service and managed to rob them of \$60. I'm sure that, in the future, that young father will utilize the Spirit of understanding before reaching into his pocket and giving his money away since, through the Spirit who gives understanding, we will come to possess the object of knowledge.

²² See John 14:25-27

A friend of mine who ran a benevolent ministry is an example of someone who consulted with the Holy Spirit before giving anything away. When a woman came in looking pitiful and poor... and her three children with her looking desperate and hungry, my gut reaction was to dump out the contents of my wallet to help her. However, my friend asked the woman to step outside while we prayed about her situation.

During prayer with the Spirit and with understanding²³, the Holy Spirit instructed my friend to phone a sister church where she found out this woman had just been. Further investigation revealed that this woman was going from church to church with the same sad story, collecting lots of money. When confronted with this information, the woman's façade of spirituality fell away and she cursed my friend as she angrily left the sanctuary.

Pray for understanding and discernment before any business deal or any serious life decision (such as taking a job or getting married). The Spirit of Understanding will protect you as you seek to walk according to the will of the Lord.

The Spirit of Counsel (rûach 'etsah)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit provides us with an internal source of good counsel and wisdom, advice, and purpose. Often, while walking in our own fleshly "wisdom," we make "dumb decisions" because we make the mistake of leaning on our own understanding. Consider the words of the wise teacher:

Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 (AMP)

Regardless of how high your IQ may be... you are an imbecile in comparison to the vast resources of knowledge possessed by the Spirit of God. The Bible tells us that if God had weakness or foolishness, that would still be greater than any

²³ See 1st Corinthians 14:15

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strength or wisdom possessed by mere men. Yet, people laugh at the “Jesus freaks” who spend time in church and in the word of God, not realizing that it is our life in the word that gives us wisdom²⁴.

²⁴But to those who are called, whether Jew or Greek (Gentile), Christ [is] the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.

²⁵[This is] because the foolish thing [that has its source in] God is wiser than men, and the weak thing [that springs] from God is stronger than men.

1st Corinthians 1:24-25 (AMP)

God created this universe and everything in it. He created man and has known ever man who ever lived (from Adam forward). He is the omnipotent, omniscient, all-knowing God. If we rely upon His Spirit of Counsel, we can make the right decisions in life. We can trust the leadership of the Holy Spirit when deciding:

Who

- Who you will marry?
- Who should “baby-sit” your children?
- Who is the best contractor for those home repairs?

What

- What job offer should you take?
- What city (or country) should you move to?
- What ministry should you participate in?

When

- When should you teach your children the gospel?
- When should you take that vacation?
- When is it time to retreat to your prayer closet?

²⁴ See Colossians 3:16

Where

- Where can you find a good church in your new city?
- Where is the safest place to park your car?
- Where should your children go to school??

How

- How to share the love of Jesus with your mean neighbors..
- How to lose weight.
- How to best serve God with your talents.

As you yield to the Spirit of Counsel, He will teach you all things... according to the word of God. It is your responsibility to hide God's word in your heart²⁵, or else He will have little to work with in ministering to you.

The Spirit of Might or Strength (rûach ûgh^evûrah)

The Spirit of Might gives you the power to do what you know to do. Sometimes, it seems the things God requires of us are difficult (if not impossible). Yet, as we rely upon the Holy Spirit, He gives us that power to do those things that God would have us to do.

Would you like to know how to overcome your addiction to tobacco, alcohol, Big Macs or Haagen-Dazs? You do so by the Spirit of Might as He bears the fruit of self-control²⁶ in your life.

Would you like to know how to control your raging hormones and keep your self sexually pure from adultery or fornication? Again, it is by the Spirit of Might. Likewise, you can have the power to keep your mouth shut when you might

²⁵ See Psalm 119:10-12

²⁶ See Galatians 5:23 and 2nd Peter 1:6

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otherwise want to cuss someone out, to tell someone off, or to tell an improper joke. The Spirit of Might will help you to control your tongue²⁷.

The Spirit of Might gives us power to overcome the enemy. Don't cower in fear of the devil. Boldly proclaim the Name and the Blood of Jesus. Just be sure that you truly KNOW Him²⁸. If not, you may suffer a similar (or worse) fate as the seven sons of Sceva did²⁹. If you *are* in Christ, then you have His promise:

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

Traditionally, church people equate the Holy Ghost with joyful shouting, dancing, running around and other such outbursts. Well... that isn't so far from the truth. After all, the joy of the Lord is our strength... as it was for King Jehoshaphat. He faced an enemy too big to defeat through his own might... so his solution was to go into battle praising God. The joy of the Lord resulted in the defeat of his enemy. Here is the account, in 2nd Chronicles 20 (from The Message Bible):

¹⁻² Some time later the Moabites and Ammonites, accompanied by Meunites, joined forces to make war on Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat received this intelligence report: "A huge force is on its way from beyond the Dead Sea to fight you. There's no time to waste—they're already at Hazazon Tamar, the oasis of En Gedi."

³⁻⁴ Shaken, Jehoshaphat prayed. He went to GOD for help and ordered a nationwide fast. The country of Judah united in seeking GOD's help—they came from all the cities of Judah to pray to GOD.

⁵⁻⁹ Then Jehoshaphat took a position before the assembled people of Judah and Jerusalem at The Temple of GOD in front of the new courtyard and said, "O GOD, God of our ancestors, are you not God in heaven above and ruler of all kingdoms below? You hold all power and might in your fist—no one stands a chance against you! And didn't you make the natives of this land leave as you brought your people Israel in, turning it over permanently to your people Israel, the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived here and built a holy house of worship to honor you, saying, 'When the worst happens—whether war or flood or disease or famine—and we take our place before this Temple (we know you are personally

²⁷ See Psalm 39:1, Psalm 141:3, Ecclesiastes 5:6, James 1:26

²⁸ See Matthew 7:22-24

²⁹ See Acts 19:13-17

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present in this place!) and pray out our pain and trouble, we know that you will listen and give victory.'

¹⁰⁻¹² "And now it's happened: men from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir have shown up. You didn't let Israel touch them when we got here at first—we detoured around them and didn't lay a hand on them. And now they've come to kick us out of the country you gave us. O dear God, won't you take care of them? We're helpless before this vandal horde ready to attack us. We don't know what to do; we're looking to you."

¹³ Everyone in Judah was there—little children, wives, sons—all present and attentive to GOD.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Then Jahaziel was moved by the Spirit of GOD to speak from the midst of the congregation. (Jahaziel was the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah the Levite of the Asaph clan.) He said, "Attention everyone—all of you from out of town, all you from Jerusalem, and you King Jehoshaphat—GOD's word: Don't be afraid; don't pay any mind to this vandal horde. This is God's war, not yours. Tomorrow you'll go after them; see, they're already on their way up the slopes of Ziz; you'll meet them at the end of the ravine near the wilderness of Jeruel. You won't have to lift a hand in this battle; just stand firm, Judah and Jerusalem, and watch GOD's saving work for you take shape. Don't be afraid, don't waver. March out boldly tomorrow—GOD is with you."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Then Jehoshaphat knelt down, bowing with his face to the ground. All Judah and Jerusalem did the same, worshipping GOD. The Levites (both Kohathites and Korahites) stood to their feet to praise GOD, the God of Israel; they praised at the top of their lungs!

²⁰ They were up early in the morning, ready to march into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were leaving, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, "Listen Judah and Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! Believe firmly in GOD, your God, and your lives will be firm! Believe in your prophets and you'll come out on top!"

²¹ After talking it over with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed a choir for GOD; dressed in holy robes, they were to march ahead of the troops, singing,

Give thanks to GOD, His love never quits.

²²⁻²³ As soon as they started shouting and praising, GOD set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir as they were attacking Judah, and they all ended up dead. The Ammonites and Moabites mistakenly attacked those from Mount Seir and massacred them. Then, further confused, they went at each other, and all ended up killed.

²⁴ As Judah came up over the rise, looking into the wilderness for the horde of barbarians, they looked on a killing field of dead bodies—not a living soul among them.

²⁵⁻²⁶ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to carry off the plunder they found more loot than they could carry off—equipment, clothing, valuables. It took three days to cart it away! On the fourth day they came together at the Valley of Blessing (Beracah) and blessed GOD (that's how it got the name, Valley of Blessing).

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²⁷⁻²⁸ Jehoshaphat then led all the men of Judah and Jerusalem back to Jerusalem—an exuberant parade. GOD had given them joyful relief from their enemies! They entered Jerusalem and came to The Temple of GOD with all the instruments of the band playing.

²⁹⁻³⁰ When the surrounding kingdoms got word that GOD had fought Israel's enemies, the fear of God descended on them. Jehoshaphat heard no more from them; as long as Jehoshaphat reigned, peace reigned.

³¹⁻³³ That about sums up Jehoshaphat's reign over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king and ruled as king in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. His mother was Azubah daughter of Shilhi. He continued the kind of life characteristic of his father Asa—no detours, no dead-ends—pleasing GOD with his life. But he failed to get rid of the neighborhood sex-and-religion shrines—people continued to pray and worship at these idolatrous god shops.

³⁴ The rest of Jehoshaphat's life, from start to finish, is written in the memoirs of Jehu son of Hanani, which are included in the *Royal Annals of Israel's Kings*.

³⁵⁻³⁷ Late in life Jehoshaphat formed a trading syndicate with Ahaziah king of Israel—which was very wrong of him to do. He went in as partner with him to build ocean-going ships at Ezion Geber to trade with Tarshish. Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah preached against Jehoshaphat's venture: "Because you joined forces with Ahaziah, GOD has shipwrecked your work." The ships were smashed and nothing ever came of the trade partnership.

Second Chronicles 20 is the perfect scripture to meditate upon when you are faced against a seemingly insurmountable enemy. You don't need to fight... all you need to do is praise God through His Spirit of Might. The Spirit of God gives us the power to praise and worship the King of Kings... even when we don't feel much like smiling much less like giving exuberant joyful praise. There are times when we just want to fall in front of the altar and cry. Yet, the joy of the Lord is our strength and stronghold³⁰.

Evangelist R.W. Schambach once shared the story of a woman who was crying at the altar after a church service. She piteously repeated over and over... "Please, Jesus... please, Jesus... please, Jesus... ple-e-e-ease, Jesus..." Schambach told her to change just one word. Instead of "Please" she was to say "Thank You." Well, she started out just as piteously as she sounded before... "Thank you, Jesus..." But as her piteous whining became a proclamation of powerful praise... the tone of her voice changed to match the victory she had achieved in the spirit.

³⁰ See Nehemiah 8:10

Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

Nehemiah 8:10 (AMP)

The Spirit of Might (or Strength) is like the noise of shouting in warlike strength. Martial arts legend Bruce Lee never fought silently. His warrior cries were part of his greatness. Any great warrior runs into battle with a great sound. That sound is what distinguishes a victorious Christian from a defeated Christian.

The Spirit of Knowledge (rûach da'ath)

The Holy Spirit indwells us for a purpose. That purpose is not just to give you a pleasurable chill up and down your spine (although that is very cool). He is within you to fortify you with:

- Knowledge
- Perception
- Skill
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Wisdom

Through the Spirit of Knowledge, we can know the character and nature of God and his relationship with His children. That nature is, of course, His great love. After all, God is Love³¹. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes on Him (Jesus) shall not perish but shall have everlasting life. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance³². Most people think of God as a harsh judge sitting on a throne of anger. Yet we, through the Spirit of Knowledge, know the *true* nature of our Heavenly Father:

Like as a father [has love and compassion on] his children, so the Lord [has love and compassion on] them that fear him.

Psalms 103:13

³¹ See 1st John 4:6-8

³² See Romans 2:4

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For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you [hope and a future].

Jeremiah 29:11

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

The great thing about it is that not only do we come to know His nature, but as we grow up in His image³³, we come to possess this knowledge.

The Spirit of the fear of the Lord (rûach w^eyir'ath y^ehwah)

Through the indwelling Spirit of God, our relationship with the Almighty is one that takes on the characteristics of respect, reverence and piety. As we come to a deeper knowledge of God, we receive the reverence to obey God... and to worship and adore Him.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever.”

Psalms 111:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 9:10

From the above scriptures, you can see that the key to gaining wisdom, knowledge and understanding is to fear the Lord. The question is, what does it mean to fear Him? As Christians, we have been brought into a family relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the first-born among many brethren. Paul explains,

³³ See Ephesians 5:1 and Colossians 3:10

in Romans 8:14-17, that we are not just servants of God, we are the sons (and daughters) of God. Reflecting on earthly relationships, a child has no fear of his father unless he has been behaving disobediently. Still, when we fall short of God's standard, we have the promise of forgiveness³⁴. The idea of a "mean" or "angry" God can be identified in a sermon delivered by a 13th century mystic by the name of Johannes Tauler. Tauler's "*2e sermon pour le saint sacrement*" contains the following quote:

"God does not wish to be the only one to punish us, He wishes that we may be punished by all creatures. Man is hunted like game offered to the Emperor; he is hunted, torn, and bitten by dogs, and he is thus more pleasing to the Emperor than if he had been taken gently. God is the Emperor who wants to eat the game taken by the hunt. He also has his hunting dogs; it is the Enemy who hunts man through temptations of all kinds; he slithers toward you from all corners, in all kinds of ways, and hunts you through diverse temptations; first through pride, avarice, and all sorts of vices, then through despair and excessive sorrow. Dear child, hold steady, that will not do you any harm; your needs must be hunted."

Unfortunately, this attitude survived (to some extent) the Protestant reformation of the 16th century. Even today, many Christians hold fast their belief that it is God's will and purpose to throw obstacles in their way. They fail to realize that it is satan who puts obstacles in our way. Jesus sits on the right hand of the Father's throne, constantly making intercession for us³⁵. God's perfect will is for us to victoriously overcome the obstacles that the world throws at us, thus bringing glory to His name³⁶. How many times have you heard someone sing, "Lord, don't move my mountain... just give me strength to climb?" One of the most popular American gospel songs in the late 1980's was entitled, "I'm Climbing Up The Rough Side of the Mountain." Little do the composers and singers of such music realize, they are reflecting the attitudes of 13th century men such as Tauler.

³⁴ See I John 1:9

³⁵ See Romans 8:34, Hebrews 1:3,13, and Hebrews 8:1-2

³⁶ See John 16:33, 1st John 5:4-5 and 1st Peter 4:12-19

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We must learn to recognize when satan is throwing fiery darts at us and not accept his lies that God is sending those things to teach us a lesson. If we allow the Holy Spirit to perform an “attitude adjustment” in this area, we will no longer cower in fear when disaster strikes. Rather, we will run boldly to the throne of grace into the arms of our loving father³⁷. Don't take on Esther's “If I perish, I perish...”³⁸ attitude when approaching the throne of our Father. As expressed in Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10, we can see the reverent fear of a child before his father. These scriptures do not reflect fright or terror – as toward someone with pernicious or malevolent intent towards you. The Hebrew word translated “fear” in these scriptures is (transliterated) “YIR'AH” which means moral reverence. It reminds us that our Heavenly Father loves us. Does that mean that God will never deal with us for our sins? Let's see what the scriptures have to say about this:

⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected [us], and we gave [them] reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened [us] after their own pleasure; but he for [our] profit, that [we] might be partakers of his holiness. {after...: or, as seemed good, or, meet to them}

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:5-11

My son, do not despise or shrink from the chastening of the Lord [His correction by punishment or by subjection to suffering or trial]; neither be weary of or impatient about or loathe or abhor His reproof,³⁹.

Proverbs 3:11 (AMP)

³⁷ See Hebrews 4:16

³⁸ See Esther 4:16

³⁹ See Proverbs 3:11, Psalms 94:12, Hebrews 12:5, 6, and Revelation 3:19

Hebrews 12:5-11 shows us that when God chastens us, it is for our profit. Likewise, Deuteronomy 8:5 further enhances our image of God as our Heavenly Father, who chastens us for our benefit. In Jeremiah 29:11, God tells us that His thoughts toward us are good, not evil. Furthermore, Isaiah 55:6-13 shows us that, although we may have a negative or cowardly attitude, His thoughts are on a much higher level⁴⁰. In that, we can rejoice!

If you were to do a word study in the Hebrew scriptures of the word “fear,” you would find about 17 different words in the Hebrew language. These include “Eymah,” which means fright, horror and/or terror. Examples can be found in Exodus 15:16 and 23:27. Another example is “Yare’,” which Adam experienced in Genesis 3:10 after committing his sin of rebellion against God. In Job 3:25, Job reveals that the trial he suffered was something that he had feared. The word “feared” in this scripture is the Hebrew word “Pachad.” This was something that startled Job and made him tremble. The word “afraid” in Hebrew is “Yagor.” This was pure fear, not a respectful reverence of the Lord.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.

2nd Timothy 1:7 (AMP)

In this scripture, Paul uses the Greek word “Deilia” which expresses a timid, fearful and faithless spirit that no Christian should be under. Just how bad is deilia fear? In Revelation 21:8, we read that the fearful (in Greek, “Deilos”) will be cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. Why such a harsh penalty for fear (and unbelief)? Faithless fear denies the power and the love of God. It is a force that can short-circuit God's blessings in your life. Kenneth Copeland described the force of fear as the opposite of faith. For example, Acrophobia (the fear of heights) is faith that you will fall. Agoraphobia (fear of being in public or in a crowd) is faith that someone “out there” is going to harm you. In that manner, fear activates satan's destructive activity in your life (just as faith activates God's power in your life. If you are walking in cowardly “Deilos” fear, pray and ask the Lord for an “attitude

⁴⁰ See Isaiah 55:8-10

adjustment.” Otherwise, you will be blatantly denying God's lovingkindness (which, in itself, is a powerful study topic) and his ability to save, heal and bless you. Don't be like Thomas in John 20:25, operating in wilful unbelief. Serve God with gladness⁴¹ and a spirit of faith that worketh by love⁴².

1st John 4:16-19 tells us that God's perfect love casts out fear (in Greek, “Phobos”). When you are made perfect in His love, your phobias (those things that cause you alarm, fear and terror) will be cast out.

Have you ever noticed some people walking down the street? It seems as if they are afraid of their own shadow. Sadly, many people come into church Sunday after Sunday, too intimidated to greet a stranger. They have not been made perfect by love⁴³. When we serve God out of an attitude of faith and love, we come into a full understanding and experience of the reverent fear of the Lord, which is like the fear a child has for his father. In Psalm 103:13, the Lord pitieth us like a father pitieth his children. The word “pitieth” in Hebrew is “Racham”) and literally means to fondle, love, have compassion on, show mercy to, and have pity upon. It is an amalgamation of the protective love of a father and the nurturing love of a mother. God has “Racham” for us⁴⁴. Should you be afraid of God's chastisement? No... but receive it with joy! God chastens us from His love for us, not out of anger⁴⁵. He delights in us and desires to see us grow into His image⁴⁶. As we grow in faith and in a closer walk with Him, allowing the Holy Spirit to impart a reverent fear of the Lord within our hearts, our Father will be glorified by the fruit that our lives bear⁴⁷. Then, God will continue to cleanse us with His word so that we will become even more fruitful⁴⁸ and have stronger faith⁴⁹.

⁴¹ See Psalm 100:2

⁴² See Galatians 5:6

⁴³ See Colossians 3:14

⁴⁴ Read Isaiah 54:7-9 for more guidance on this topic.

⁴⁵ See Proverbs 3:11-12

⁴⁶ See Ephesians 5:1-2

⁴⁷ See John 15:8

⁴⁸ See John 15:1-4

⁴⁹ See Romans 10:17

Is Isaiah's sevenfold Spirit a delineation of what John saw in the Book of Revelation? That is an issue for theologians to fight over for the next millennium. However, we certainly see that this sevenfold manifestation personified in the person of Jesus Christ and, as we grow into His image, may we see them more and more in our lives.

If you have never accepted God's gift of salvation by asking Jesus into your life, you can say a simple prayer in your own words. Acknowledge that you have sinned against God. Let Him know that you are truly sorry. Thank Him for sending His Son Jesus Christ to die for you and to take your sins and shame away. Thank Him for raising Jesus from the dead, victorious over death and hell. Ask Him to cleanse your sins, to wash you in the blood of Jesus, to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Resolve to serve God for the rest of your life, seeking Him daily in prayer and in studying His word (the Bible). Ask Him to give you direction each and every day of your life. Thank Him for what He has done.

If you've followed those simple steps, then congratulations! You are now a member of God's family... a son/daughter brought into a privileged relationship with Him through the working of the Holy Spirit⁵⁰. Also, if you don't have a Bible, get one. Begin by reading the Gospel according to John. Ask God to lead you to a church where you will be able to grow spiritually and fellowship (socialize) with those who are on the same path.

If you are a Christian but do not see the fruits of the sevenfold Spirit in your life, examine yourself. If there are areas in your life that fall short, simply set your heart to seeking an upright walk before God through feeding upon the word of God and spending quality time in prayer.

If you are in Christ, you should know that you are not condemned. You have the promise that if you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness⁵¹.

⁵⁰ See Romans 8:15-17

⁵¹ 1st John 1:9

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If you need prayer, send us your request by any of the following avenues.

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