

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.  
Out of Town: Charles Law and family; Jared Law and family; Mr. and Mrs. Nick Law

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# “God Is Spirit”

By Derek Long

John 4:24 says, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (NKJV). The Bible teaches us “God is Spirit.” What does it mean to say, “God is Spirit”? What does this statement teach us about God's nature? What is a spirit?

The word “spirit” as it is found in the Bible may contain different meanings depending upon the context in which the word is found. We are here going to discuss what the word “spirit” would mean as it is applied to God. However, one cannot simply read the word “spirit” in the Bible and automatically think all these things apply to everything which is referred to as “spirit.” It is evident the word “spirit” is used to refer to different types of things in certain passages like Ecclesiastes 3:21 where we read about the spirit of the sons of men and the spirit of the animal. Animals are here said to have a spirit. However, the passage does not affirm animals possess the same sort of spirit possessed by man or by God.

First, a spirit is not a body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39; Isaiah 31:3). I realize Jesus is God (John 1:1) and be-

came flesh (John 1:14). However, what makes Jesus God was not His physical body. The Spirit which was placed within the physical body of Jesus is what made Jesus God. In a similar way, mankind is said to have a spirit (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Zechariah 12:1; James 2:26) but also has a body of flesh and bones. However, the spirit within man is separate and distinct from the physical body of the person as can be seen in passages like Ecclesiastes 12:7, Matthew 26:41, and James 2:26. The spirit of man is that part of man which is not material. When the Bible says, “God is Spirit,” it is telling us God is not a material being (see also Acts 17:29).

Second, a spirit has qualities of personhood. Perhaps a way to illustrate this would be to examine what the Bible says regarding the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is clearly a spirit as the title implies. The Holy Spirit though is capable of things only a personal being is capable of. For example, the Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10). The Holy Spirit is capable of loving (Romans 15:30). The Holy Spirit hears and speaks (John 16:13; 1 Timothy 4:1). The Holy Spirit possesses knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:11). The Holy Spirit can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29). The Holy Spirit possesses a will (1 Corinthians 12:11). When the Bible says, “God is Spirit,” it means God is an immaterial, personal being.

One thing which might help in understanding the concept of a spirit is to recognize there is both a physical realm and a spiritual realm. The physical realm deals with things we can perceive with our physical senses. The spiritual realm deals with things which at the moment are not seen. Ephesians 6:12 speaks about a spiritual warfare the Christian is engaged in. It says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (NKJV). Spiritual beings are engaged in things taking place in a realm which we do not physically see. All the details about the spiritual realm may not be revealed to us but enough is revealed to help us see such exists. God’s existence as a spirit would be within the spiritual realm.

As best as I can understand it at the time, a spirit is something not composed of matter. A spirit is something which possesses capabilities which we might sometimes describe as a mind. Spirits could either have or not have a body. Spirits take part in things happening within the spiritual realm which is at the present unseen.