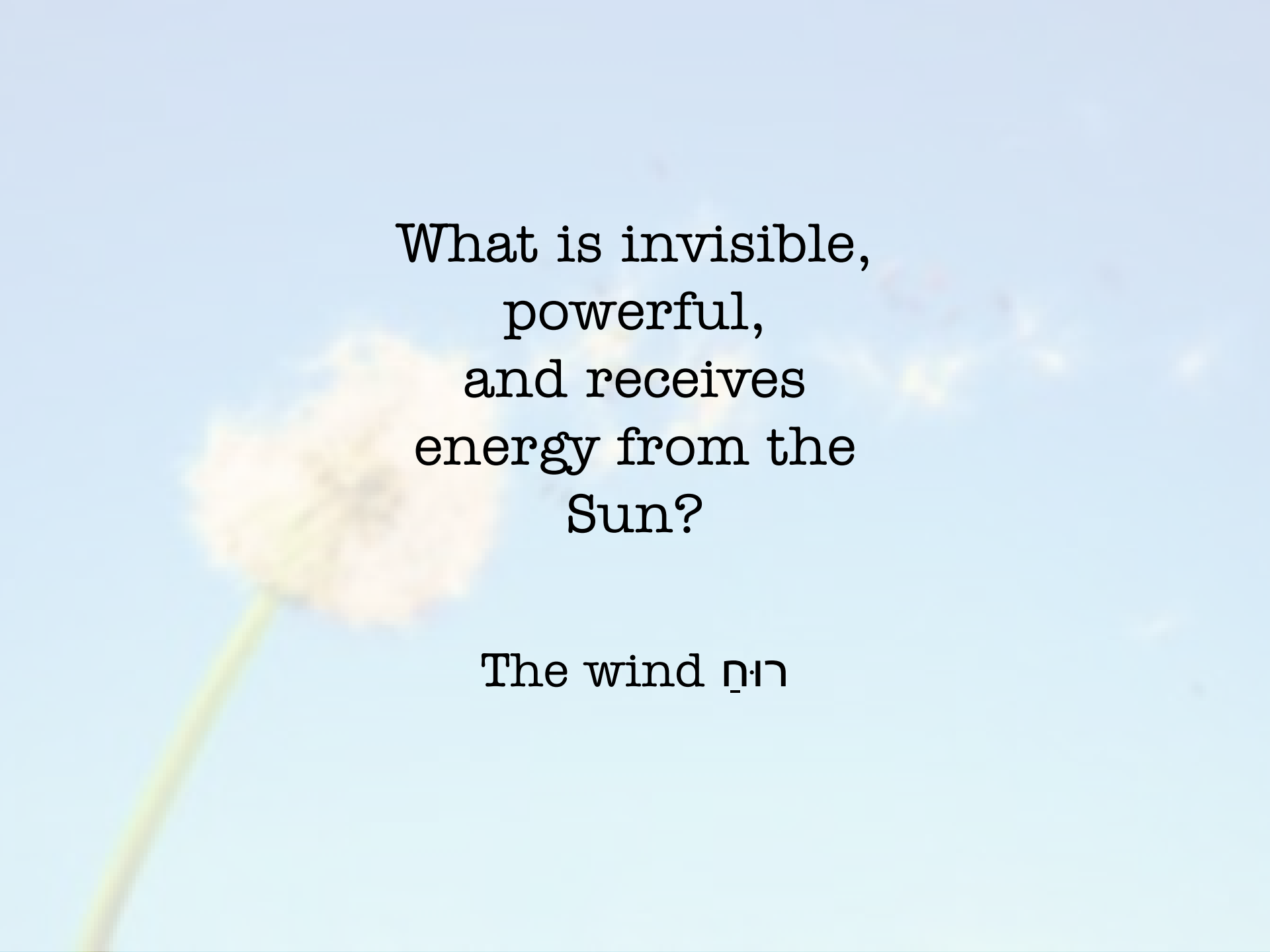


A dandelion seed head is shown in the foreground, slightly out of focus, against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The text is centered over the image.

# Spirit: A biblical study

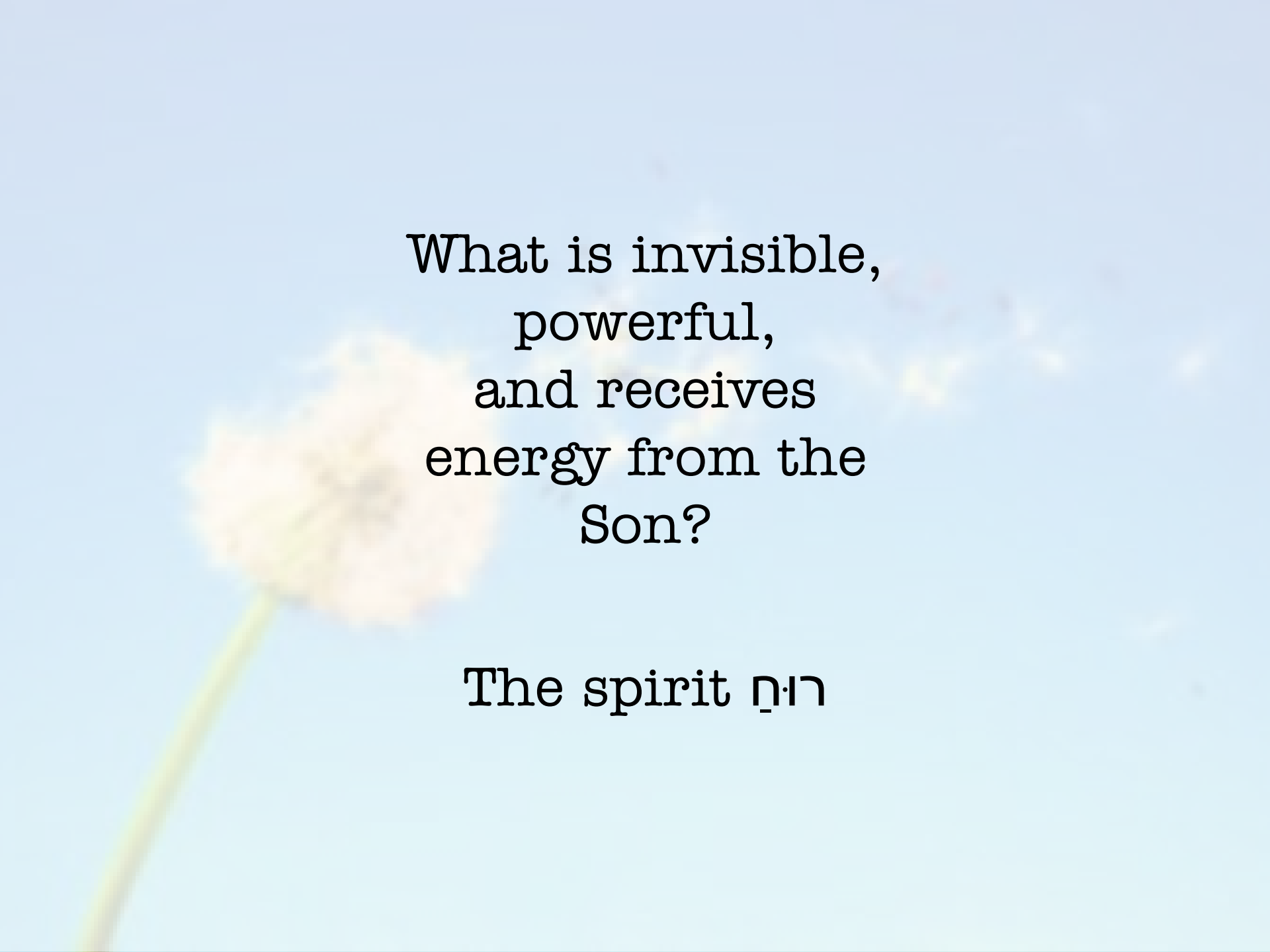
Research and Scholarship Symposium

April 10, 2013



What is invisible,  
powerful,  
and receives  
energy from the  
Sun?

The wind רוח



What is invisible,  
powerful,  
and receives  
energy from the  
Son?

The spirit רוח

# Spiritual Care: Nursing Literature

- Active/Compassionate listening
- Communication of concern and empathy
- Praying with/for the patient
- Consulting the chaplain or spiritual guide
- Encourage patient to engage in spiritual practices
- Promoting trust
- Offering hope
- Encouraging reconciliation
- Any act that nourishes the soul or spirit

Barss (2012); Carson (2011); Nardi & Rooda (2011); Alpert (2010)

# Spirit in the Old and New Testaments

רוּחַ ruwach

- 378 occurrences

Translation

- spirit n = 232
- wind n = 92
- breath n = 27

πνεῦμα pneuma

- 385 occurrences

Translation

- spirit n = 111
- Holy Ghost n = 89
- Spirit of God n = 13

Strong, James: The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order. electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. H7307

Q. What is the spirit?

A. The non-material  
essence of me

I am a substance dualist who believes in  
functional holism.

- Spirit is different from the Body.
- Spirit and Body are deeply integrated with mutual functional dependence and causal connection.

# Spirit vs Soul vs Breath

Spirit: ruwach רֹּחַ or pneuma πνεῦμα

Soul: nephesh נֶפֶשׁ or psuche ψυχή

Breath: nashamah נְשָׁמָה

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath (nashamah) of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Numb 16:22 But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, "O God, the God who gives breath (ruwach) to all living things, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"

Job 27:3-4 As long as I have life (nashamah) within me, the breath (ruwach) of God in my nostrils, my lips will not say anything wicked, and my tongue will not utter lies.

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 (nashamah) of breath (ruwach) from his nostrils.

1 Thess 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit (pneuma), soul (psuche) and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



I “think” the ruwach, nephesh, and nashamah are parts of our non-material essence.

Just like our heart, lungs, and kidneys, are parts of our material essence

# Biblical word study: Spirit (ruwach/pneuma)

- Spirit of God
- Spirit of man
- Disembodied spirits
- Spirit of animals?

Eccles 3:21 Who knows if the human spirit rises upward  
and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?

Genesis 6:17; 7:15; 7:22

# Spirit of God

- **Spirit of God fills men** (Ex 31:3, 31; Numb 24:2; Judg 3:10; Judg 6:34; Judg 11:29; Judg 14:6; Judg 14:19; 1 Sam 10: 6,10 & 11:6 & 16:13 & 19: 20, 23; 1 Chron 12:18; 2 Chron 15:1 & 20:14 & 24:20; 1 Cor 3:16; Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Acts 2:4; Acts 2:38; Acts 4:31)
- Judges 15:14 When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines came to meet him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord took control of him, and the ropes that were on his arms became like burnt flax and his bonds fell off his wrists.
- Acts 2:4 Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech.

# Spirit of God

- When the Spirit of God comes upon men, we are empowered to do supernatural acts
  - Prophecy (1 Sam 10 & 11; 2 Chron 15:1 & 20:14; Acts 2:17-18; Neh 9:30; 1Cor 12:10)
  - Super strength (Judges 14:6 & 19)
  - Lead men (Deut 4:9; Judg 6:34; Rom 12:8)
  - Speak words of encouragement (1 Chron 12:18; 2 Chron 20:14; Rom 12:8)
  - Be wise (Prov 1:23; Eph 1:17; 1 Cor 12:8)

# Spirit of God

- Leads men (1 Kings 18:12; Matt 4:1; Rom 8:14)
- Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God



# Spirit of God

- All the things the Spirit of God did/does for man, He did for Jesus: filled Him, led Him, empowered Him to do **supernatural acts** (Isaiah 11:2; Matt 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32-33; Matt 12:28)
- Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord--and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

# Spirit of God

- Physically moves people (Ezekial 11:1&24; Acts 8:39)
- Contends with man-and always wins (Genesis 6:3)
- Brought quails for the Israelites to eat (Numb 11:31)
- Makes man/Gives life (Job 33:4; Zech 12:1; 2 Cor 3:6)
- Leaves men (1 Sam 16:14)
- Slays the wicked (Isaiah 11:4)
- Gathers scrolls (Isaiah 34:16)
- Teaches men (I Cor 2:13)
- Sanctifies men (Rom 15:16)
- Prays on our behalf (Rom 8:26)
- Raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11)

# Spirit of Man

- Seat of Emotions
  - troubled (Gen 41:8; I Sam 1:15)
  - Fearful (Josh 2:11)
  - Anguished (Job 7:11)
  - Stirred (Acts 17:16)
  - Weak/fail (Psalm 77:3; 142:3,4,7)
  - Stubborn (Deut 2:30)
  - Embittered (Psalm 106:33)
  - Broken (Prov 15:13)
  - Jealous (Numb 5:14)
  - Vexed (I Kings 2:15)
  - Without deceit (Psalm 32:2)
  - Trustworthy (Prov 11:13)
  - Rejoicing (Luke 1:47)
  - Patient or proud (Eccles 7:8)
  - Strong (Luke 1:80)



# Spirit of Man

- The essence of life
  - When man dies, his spirit leaves him (Job 15:30; Psalm 104:29-30; Eccles 12:7; Luke 23:46)
  - When Jesus raised men from the dead, their spirit returned (Luke 8:55)

# Spirit of Man

- **Man's spirit can be harmed, grieved, or broken by**
  - Unhappy family relationships (Gen 26:35)
  - Dreams (Gen 41:8)
  - Harsh treatment (Ex 6:9)
  - A devious tongue (Prov 15:4)
  - A sad heart (Prov 15:13)
  - The actions of others (Psalms 106:33)
  - Worry about one he loves (2 Cor 2:13)
- **A man's spirit can be revived or refreshed by**
  - Food and water (Judg 15:19; I Sam 30:12)
  - The Spirits of others (I Cor 16:18; 2 Cor 7:13)
  - Good news (Gen 45: 27)
- Men can have different spirits (Num 14:24)

# Spirit of Man

- The spirit affects the physical
  - A broken spirit dries up the bones (Prov 17:22)
  - A man's spirit can endure sickness, but who can survive a broken spirit? (Prov 18:14)

# Other spirits

- Seven spirits are before the throne (Rev 1:4)
- Spirits interact with God and obey Him (1 Sam 16:14-15; 1 Kings 22 & 2 Chron 18)
- Jesus is Lord of unclean spirits (Matt 10:1; Mark 1:27; 3:11; 5:8,13)
- Unclean spirits can cause physical infirmities (Mark 9:17; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 13:11)
- Unclean spirits can trouble a man (Luke 6:8; 1 Sam 16:14-15)

# What have I learned so far?

- God's spirit interacts with men and man's spirit
- Other spirits interact with men and man's spirit
- Man's spirit can be grieved
- Man's spirit can be revived or refreshed
- Man's spirit interacts with his physical self
- A Man's spirit survives after physical death

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Barss (2012); Carson (2011); Nardi & Rooda (2011); Alpert (2010)

# Implications for my Nursing Practice

I Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: **faith, hope** and **love**. But the greatest of these is love.

Spiritual Formation is the  
foundation of Spiritual  
Care