

Ruach

רוּחַ



The Hebrew word Ruach is most commonly translated into the English word “Spirit”. In the sermon we went from the creation stories in Genesis to the nativity and on to Pentecost, which is the birth of the Church.

Read Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 2:4-7, Luke 1:26-37, John 20:19-22 and Acts 2:1-4

The list could go on, but there is enough here to get the idea.

1. Describe in your own words what is going on in each of the passages.
2. In each reading, what new thing is happening?
3. In the children’s talk, Christina talked about fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. Can you think of something new God has done in your life?

The word for Spirit in Hebrew is Ruach, in Greek it is the word Pnuema. The Greek word can also mean wind and breath. So we see in the Jewish Scriptures and the New Testament, God’s Spirit and breath have the same qualities, to create and bring to life. When God moves in power it is his Spirit that is at work.

Deeper In

If we were to read all of the accounts in the Scriptures of God’s Spirit at work we would quickly come to realise that God is very strong, omnipotent, all powerful. Which is true, however what is the use of being powerful if you do not use that power?

Read Isaiah 9:2-7

We read this passage at Christmas and we know it is about the Messiah. However, Isaiah was remembering back to a time when God acted powerfully. To the days of Gideon in Judges 6 and 7. *The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.* (Judges 6:1)

Read Judges 7:1-8

- Who was it that won the battle? Who caused the Midianites to turn on each other?
- How many Midianites were there?

This was a great victory that saved God’s people from certain death and God tells Isaiah that he will do it again but this time the effects would last forever.

- How was God going to do this amazing thing?
- Look back at the passage in Luke 1. Can you see any similarities with Isaiah 9?

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. The word in Hebrew for zeal is *qinat* קִנְיָה. The word denotes strength, energy, power and committent, also passionate desire.

It is God’s passionate desire to redeem his creation, to create and new and everlasting covenant that will rescue everyone, and he does that by the power of his Spirit when it hovers over a young woman and she conceives. When the disciples are gathered in a room. The Spirit appears as tongues of fire that come to rest on them and they speak in new languages and a new thing, the Church, is born. Christians talk about receiving new life when they accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and with that new life comes gifts and fruit that transform our lives.

- Can you tell the story of how God has done an amazing thing in your life?