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# ***THE SPIRIT WORLD***

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What does the Bible say?

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## DEDICATION

*We dedicate this work to all who are interested in understanding what the Bible says about spirits, their many names and various manifestations – both as to their nature and especially as to their activities.*

## PREFACE

Without doubt, we live in a time of extraordinary events. Theology in many fields is reaching the apex of its development. One could say that we live in another world, especially those of us that have reached a certain age and that can compare the past with the present.

In the present state of affairs, we must never lose sight of one particular from the Bible. In the book of the prophet Daniel (12:4), the Lord says to His servant, “But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge”. This verse speaks of the end times and the increase of knowledge. Here is what I find noteworthy about this verse: the increase of knowledge that has occurred in our current society indicates that we have come to the last days.

Now, this state of affairs causes me to reflect on what is written in Revelation (12:12): “...woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short”. The enemy of our souls bursts out against humanity with all his resources and he tries to dominate us with his craftiness. Is it not written, “that the whole world is under the control of the evil

one” (1 John 5:19) – that is, under his power? ... what to do?...

Thank God that in His mercy, He helps His children. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 that He has given various gifts for the work of the ministry and among these is the gift of “distinguishing between spirits”. What does this mean?

In the New Testament, especially in the Gospels, we find many examples that attest to the fact that a man can be inhabited by the devil. To confirm this, in Matthew’s Gospel we read these words from Jesus: “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ...” (Matthew 12:43-44). The words that Jesus uses here are clear enough and leave no doubt as to their meaning.

The author of this work, Pastor Domenico Barbera, has courageously penetrated this world of spirits, analyzing, I would say almost too specifically the various cases that are found in the Bible.

He has referred, whenever he has believed it necessary, to the Jewish or Greek etymology of certain words. The brother clarifies the thought in depth while drawing some spiritual lessons. In this “study”, scriptures are reviewed (both in the singular as well as the plural forms) that concern evil spirits (i.e. demons).

As we are reminded that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12), Barbera places emphasis on the internal manifestations of these spirits in anyone that is possessed of them. In fact, by the tangible expression of their attributes, he is able to name the spirits.

The work, overall, is well laid out despite some digression, but even these have their place as they increase our knowledge of the subject. For my part, I recommend this work in particular to pastors, leaders and anyone having the responsibility of a Christian Community because by reading this book, the Lord will surely open their eyes to the nature, action and manifestation of “the spirit who is now at work (even today) in those who are disobedient.” (Ephesians 2:2).

Nino Tirelli

Former priest of the Roman Catholic Church

## INTRODUCTION

**F**rom what we read in the pages of the Bible regarding evil spirits, it is important to emphasize what the Word of God teaches in order to have a clear understanding of the subject of “spirits” – both as to their various names, but above all as to know how they behave and manifest themselves in their diabolic work in human life.

We say in “human life” for the simple reason that “these spirits”, according to the Bible, prefer to abide in humans rather than in beasts unless they are obliged to leave their preferred dwelling for a less desirable place (cf. the only case that the Bible gives, Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:26-39).

Let it be clear from the start that our treatment of the subject refers only to “evil spirits” – demons as they are specifically called in the Bible and that has nothing to do with the human spirit.

Obviously, before reviewing the various Bible passages concerning “spirits”, we will give full etymological explanations of the Hebrew and Greek terms used in both the Old and New Testaments to understand better what the Bible teaches about this subject.

The entire subject will be undertaken with the utmost Biblical coherency – with balanced exegesis and without forcing a meaning into the text that is not there. This, of course, is with the goal of gaining a

clear and linear image of the subject. By this, we can completely understand how the forces of evil are manifested – their acts and operations in human life and at the same time, what must be done for those that are affected by these spirits for them to be liberated from these adversarial forces.

We sincerely hope that this study can contribute to the enrichment and clarity of a topic that sometimes can create disagreement in the lives of believers and cause them to underestimate the many manifestations of these “spirits” that operate extensively in the lives of people who are faraway from God and His Word.

Before rejecting the subject of “spirits” (especially considering that there is no unanimity on the subject amongst Christians), we suggest careful, critical and objective consideration. Past teachings based on popular traditions or beliefs, if not substantiated by the Word of God, will result in ongoing closed mindedness or cynicism.

May the Spirit of the Lord illuminate our minds and hearts so that with all our life, zeal and above all, with all the love that we have for people that are in need of being helped and liberated, we can dedicate ourselves to their good, to the praise and glory of the greatest benefactor and liberator: Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

Bible quotations in this present work are taken from the New International Version. Quotations from other versions are clearly indicated.

Heartfelt thanks go to beloved brother N. Tirelli for his work in correcting and editing this work.

Niagara Falls, June 1999

Pastor Domenico Barbera

# Chapter 1

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## *LIST OF SPIRITS THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE*

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### **Premise**

The purpose of this chapter is not only to list all those passages that explicitly refer to “spirits”, but also to identify them with their own specific names as the Bible does. However, we must state immediately that not all translations of the Bible use the exact name of the spirit or spirits for the simple reason that sometimes the names are generic.

In order to know the names of the spirits it will be necessary to examine the Jewish or Greek word

etymologically. This will consistently make it easier to understand and assess the subject.

Finally, in this list we have not included those passages which our translations call, for example, a spirit of “vengeance” (Lamentations 3:60), or a spirit of “strife” (James 3:14 – KJV) even though the context alludes to it, for the simple reason that the word “spirit” does not appear in the Hebrew or Greek text. With this in mind, here are the Biblical names of several spirits:

***The singular form***

- ✓ Spirit of jealousy (Numbers 5:14; 5:30)
- ✓ Different spirit (Numbers 14:24)
- ✓ Evil spirit (Jud. 9:23; 1 Sam. 16:14, 15; 16:23; 18:10; 19:9)
- ✓ Lying spirit (1 Kings 22:22, 23; 2 Chronicles 18:21, 22)
- ✓ Spirit of the Philistines and of the Arabs (2 Chronicles 21:16 - KJV)
- ✓ Haughty spirit (Proverbs 16:18)
- ✓ Crushed spirit (Proverbs 17:22; Isaiah 61:3)
- ✓ Perverse spirit (Isaiah 19:14 - KJV)
- ✓ Spirit of deep sleep (Isaiah 29:10 - KJV)
- ✓ Spirit of prostitution (Hosea 4:12; 5:4)
- ✓ Unclean spirit (Zechariah 13:2; Matthew 12:43; Mark 1:23, 26; 3:30; 5:2,8; 7:25; 9:25; Luke 8:29; 9:42; 11:24; Revelation 18:2).
- ✓ Mute spirit (Mark 9:17, 25)
- ✓ Deaf spirit (Mark 9:25)
- ✓ Demon (Luke 4:33)
- ✓ Spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:11 – KJV)

- ✓ Spirit of divination (Acts 16:16 – KJV)
- ✓ Evil Spirit (Acts 19:15, 16)
- ✓ Spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15 – KJV)
- ✓ Spirit of stupor (Romans 11:8)
- ✓ Spirit of the world (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- ✓ Spirit of timidity (2 Timothy 1:7)
- ✓ Spirit of falsehood (1 John 4:6)

***The plural form***

- ✓ Spirits (Matthew 8:16)
- ✓ Unclean spirits (KJV – Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:27; 3:11; 5:13; 6:7; Luke 4:36; 6:18; Acts 5:16; 8:7; Revelation 16:13).
- ✓ Spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12)
- ✓ Deceiving spirits (1 Timothy 4:1)
- ✓ Spirits of demons (Revelation 16:14)