

Contemporary Spiritual Disciplines

The purpose of this study will be to enhance the spirituality of contemporary religious practices. In order to do so it will be necessary to gain understanding of Holy Spirit as medium of the presence of God. Further help will come from identifying a disciplined process for preparation, practice and evaluation. These leanings will be applied to the primary religious practices identified in this study.

The premiss of this consideration of spirituality is:
Spirit of God as presence of God

The presence of the Spirit of God "*neshamah*": is chronicled in scripture as breath of God breathed into man's nostrils giving "living soul" (Genesis 2:7). That Spirit of God blowing across creation as a wind is referred to as "*ruach*" (Job 4:9). *Ruach* variously is translated as breath, wind, temper, disposition, spirit of living beings, the Spirit of God. This is the "doing, going" spirit of God. *Ruach* blew in to do God's action: bring prophecy, judgment or presence. In the Old Testament context the Spirit was seen as coming to effect God's purpose and leaving when accomplished. With the advent of Christ, God's Spirit was present because of the divine nature of Jesus the Christ. After Jesus death, burial and resurrection the Spirit of God came to abide in the form of the comforter.

Spirit Presence	<i>ruach</i>
O.T. come & go	Inhabit for purpose
NT	Comforter

How do we prepare
How do we practice
How do we know we did

Prepare:
understand nature of ministry of Holy Spirit
Kenosis: Emptying
In-filling\ immersion
Work- music
Spirit
Presence

Music

Practice:

Whole being

Body; sensory, tactile, auditory, visual

Mind; wrap mind around event

Spirit; "ought"

Evaluation; Did I:

Respond | react

renew/ refresh my Spirit

refocus

Practice of worship;

acknowledge

invoked; invite

Praise

"Thus says the Lord"

Respond

profess/ confess

Practice of Prayer;
Lords Prayer
Discipline of Prayer
Praise
thanks giving
intercession
Listening

Practice of Bible Study;
What does it say
What does it mean
What does it want of me
What will I do

Practice of Gifts: ministries

Identify Gifts

Practice w/ mentor

Identify dependancies

Practice Gifts

Acknowledges "Grace's"

Practice of Presence;
Pray without ceasing
Know presence
Acknowledge
Interact

