

This morning I would like to look with you at three related Greek words. I don't know how much time we will have to look at these words but I think they are very important words to all of us, and so I would like to look at a few of the passages related to them, and try to get an idea of the range of meaning that they cover.

The three words are pneuma, sarx, and soma. Now the word pneuma is sometimes translated breath or wind. It is more often trans. spirit, and of course if it is trans. spirit there is always the possibility that it means a human spirit and the possibility that it means the Spirit of God. There is a passage that used to puzzle me a great deal years ago. That was the passage in John 3 where we read beginning with vs. 3 (reading through vs. 8). This eighth vs. used to puzzle me greatly. The wind blows where it chooses and you can hear the sound of it, but you can't tell where it comes from or where it goes. Well now is the Bible scientifically out of date? Certainly people today know where the wind comes from. Certainly they know where it goes to. You can see the weather maps any day on the TV. You can find out where the wind is coming from and where it is going to. What kind of an illustration is this of the activity of the spirit of God.

I talked to a good friend about ~~this~~ 20 yrs. ago. I said to him, "You know, I don't think that that is right to say, to translate pneuma as wind. And in the context immediately before and after it to translate it as spirit." I said, "I believe it should be, 'The spirit is active wherever he chooses, and you hear the sound of it, you see the evidences of the spirit's work, but you can't tell where he comes from or where he is going. So is everyone that is born of the spirit.'" Well he said to me, "That is a rather ridiculous idea. He said, 'Of course pneuma could be translated wind or spirit, but it says the wind blows, and the word blow is a verb related to the noun spirit, or wind. So it must be the wind wind. The wind blows. It would not be the spirit spirits.'" Well he seemed to be irritated at my attitude on this verse that I did not repeat the idea to anybody else. Until just