

A. The Promise of the Holy Spirit

The Promise of the Helper (paraclete): John 14:16–17 (ESV)¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

- During the Last Supper, Jesus promises his disciples that he won't leave them as orphans

The First Breath → Resurrection Sunday: John 20:22 (ESV)²² *And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- On the very night Jesus rises from the dead, he appears to the terrified disciples hiding behind locked doors.

The Final Instructions to Wait → The Ascension: Luke 24:44-49 *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

Luke's 2nd letter! Acts 1:3-8 *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority (speaking of 2nd coming). But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

- **Jesus also gives them a command to go THROUGH Samaria!** No more traveling across the Jordan, through Perea, and back through Jericho to get to Jerusalem. There are NO more distinctions! ALL ARE WELCOME IN CHRIST'S CHURCH.

The Day of Pentecost → 50 Days After Passover: Acts 2:1-4 *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

- **While about 120 believers are praying together in an upper room, the wait ends.** A sound like a blowing violent wind fills the house, and what look like tongues of fire separate and rest on each of them. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and instantly begin speaking in other languages.

The Result → The Church is Launched Publicly: Acts 2:14–21 (ESV) ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

- **Powered by the Spirit, Peter preaches a bold sermon, and about 3,000 people are baptized that single day, birthing the global Church.**

REMEMBER: Before the Holy Spirit came → the disciples had the BEST of intentions but no POWER.

Matthew 26:41 (ESV) ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

The Idea of the Holy Spirit is not merely intellectual or symbolic!

Acts 1:8 (ESV) ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **“power” Dynamis: Spiritual power, ability to perform an activity, etc.**
- **Power to DO God’s will!**

B. The Holy Spirit Gives us POWER to Do God’s Will:

1. **Personal Presence and Fellowship:** The Holy Spirit is a Person who ensures believers are never left as orphans. (John 14:8)
2. **Helper and Advocate:** He is given as our Helper to teach us and bring Jesus' words to our remembrance. (John 14:6-8)
3. **Revelation of God’s Depths:** The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God, to reveal what has been prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:10–11) .
4. **Understanding of Scripture:** We need the Spirit to understand the things freely given to us by God and to interpret spiritual truths (1 Corinthians 2:12–13).
5. **Character Transformation (Fruit):** He produces Christlike character—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23).
6. **Relational Empowerment:** He provides the supernatural power to love, serve, and submit within marriages, families, and workplaces (Ephesians 5:18–21).
7. **Freedom from Bondage:** The Spirit provides power to break free from the cycle of sin and the weight of religious legalism. (Galatians 5:1, 16-21)
8. **Supernatural Endurance:** He grants the strength to persevere through hardship and "how long?" seasons of suffering. (2 Corinthians 1:3-11, Ephesians 3:16, Colossians 1:11)
9. **Purpose and Function:** The Spirit gives each believer a "job in God's family" (a spiritual gift) to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:4–7).

10. **Boldness for Mission:** He empowers believers to speak the Word of God with great boldness, especially in hostile environments (Acts 4:29–31, Matthew 10).
11. **Empowers Spiritual Gifts:** The Spirit gives supernatural gifts to build up the Body of Christ and glorify God! (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4)
12. **Confirmation through Signs:** The Spirit stretches out God's hand to heal and perform signs and wonders in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:30).

QUESTION: Do we need the Holy Spirit? Do YOU need the Holy Spirit in your life?

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) *Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

- **The Imperative Mood (Our Responsibility):** The verb is a command. It is our responsibility. We may grieve, quench or resist the Spirit, preventing Him from filling us with His Spirit.
- **The Passive Voice (Jesus fills us):** We are commanded to be filled, the filling is done by another. Jesus fills us, which means that we can ask Him to fill us.
- **The Present Tense (Continual Pursuit):** This is not a one-time event! This is supposed to be our lived reality! The “Wind in our sails.”
- **Summary: 1) Pursue – we must seek the Spirit, 2) Ask – we humbly request the Spirit’s filling, 3) Continue – we must move beyond past experience, to daily reliance on the Spirit!**

Analogy: sailing - The sails of a sailboat need to be constantly being filled.

- You can’t fill them on Sunday and then sail around all week and then fill them again next Sunday.
- **In order to keep moving you need to constantly keep the sail filled.**
- If you don’t, **you’re just dead in the water, or you’re drifting with the current.**
- **You can’t even steer** because you have no power and you make no forward progress
- **To keep your sail filled, you need to find the direction of the wind** and trim your sail by letting it out or pulling it in and adjusting your tiller to fill your sail.
- **Then you get the benefit of the power of the wind that is constantly surrounding you.**

Galatians 5:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Application: We are to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, so that we can DO GOD’S WILL. Accomplish His purposes! For the “Glory of God!”

c. Come, ALL who are Thirsty! The Holy Spirit won’t FORCE himself on us!

John 7:37–39 (ESV) ³⁷ *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

- The only prerequisite for receiving the Holy Spirit is FAITH in Jesus and THIRST. **Are you thirsty?**

Isaiah 55:1–9 (ESV) ¹ *“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money*

for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

- **PROBLEM** → many have actively or passively pushed the Spirit from their lives! Like the sailboat at sea!
- **They are so satisfied by the things of this world** – they have spent their labour and money on themselves! They no longer THIRST for GOD!
- **Why we lack “thirst”:**
 1. **Unrepentant sin** – bitterness, addiction, pride, lust, etc.
 2. **Unbelief & false beliefs** – Do we believe in & that we need the Spirit?
 3. **Embarrassment** – not wanting to be different
 - **My story: HS – not wanting to be seen with me by my friend**
 4. **Fear** – where or what will the Spirit lead you to do?
 5. **Busy** – too busy with our own “kingdom” and having no time to “Seek FIRST His Kingdom!”

MY STORY → **The Holy Spirit first spoke to me as a drug dealer!** COME, as you are! But has continued to deliver me, speak to me, help me understand Scripture, set me free from sin, teach me, correct me, direct me!

IF you are “thirsty” COME to the Waters!

1. **Confess any sin, unbelief, embarrassment, fear, _____ ,etc.**
2. **Pursue! Ask the Spirit to fill you with His Presence!**
3. **Ask the Spirit for the grace (*charis*) & power (*dynamis*) to DO God’s Will**
4. **Walk by the Spirit! Allow the Spirit to convict, encourage, speak, & direct, as HE wills**

Lord... where have we placed our hope? In this world? or the one to come?

Lord... are we walking in step with your Spirit? Or walking in the flesh?

Lord... prepare our hearts to receive Your Word this AM... prepare the soil of our hearts today..

Lord... reveal the things in our lives that we need to lay down... and give us the power to do so today...

HOLY SPIRIT. WE INVITE YOU INTO THIS ROOM. INTO OUR CHURCH. INTO OUR MIDST. We declare that

You are welcome! You are more than an honored guest, you are God. Would you lead us. Convict us.

Encourage us. Empower us. Teach us this AM...