

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:1-11

**Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us
your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire
of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we
shall be created, and You shall renew the
face of the earth. O God, who by the light
of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts
of the faithful, grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever
rejoice in His consolations,
through Christ our Lord.**

HISTORY AND FACTS of the PROMISES of the HOLY SPIRIT

WHERE DO WE FIND THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

a. Old Testament readings: Prophets were given a measure of the Holy Spirit to tell of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 44:3 All God's people will one day be empowered by the Spirit:
"I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring."

Joel 2:28 "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you."

Isaiah 42:1 The Messiah will be empowered by the Spirit: "Here is my servant...my chosen one.....: I will put my Spirit on Him."

Ezekiel 36:27,28 The new covenant will be in the Spirit: "I will put my Spirit in You..... You will be my people, and I will be your God."

b. New Testament Readings: Here the promise is repeated and amplified.

Luke 1:35 Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit: "The Holy Spirit will come on you."

Luke 3:22 He is anointed with the Holy Spirit after His baptism by John: "The Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove."

Luke 4: 1 He is led by the Spirit into the desert: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, Left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

Luke 4:14 He comes out of the desert: "in the power of the Spirit."

Matthew 12:28 He demonstrates the power of the Spirit in His public ministry: "By the Spirit of God..... I drive out demons."

Luke 1:15 John the Baptist, who received the Spirit even before His birth. 7:26 and is described by Jesus as "more than a prophet" 3:16 tells us that in Jesus we not only receive forgiveness and cleansing from sin; through Him the fire of the Holy Spirit is released: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John 14:16,17 Jesus promises His disciples that they will receive the Holy Spirit: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you.....the Spirit of truth" 16:13 "When He the Spirit of truth, comes....." 16:15 The Spirit will receive from me what He will make known to you."

SO WHO MAKES THIS PROMISE?

- a. God our Father makes the promise! **The Holy Spirit is the promised gift of the Father, released to us by the work of Jesus, His Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Now the Holy Spirit is here in Pentecost.**
- b. **The Pentecost Promises:**

Acts 1:4 “Wait for the gift my Father promised.”

Luke 24:49 “I am going to send you what my Father has promised.”

John 15:26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you
From the Father.....”

Acts 2:33 “He (Jesus) has received from the Father the promised
Holy Spirit.”

Luke 11:13 “How much more will your Father in heaven give the
Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

John 14:16-17 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another
advocate to help you and be with you forever--the
Spirit of truth.”

John 14:18 “The Father and the Son are here in us through the
presence Of the Holy Spirit.”

WHAT IS PROMISED?

The promise is “The Spirit of truth--to be with you forever” (John 16:13; 14:16)

Not:

- Just a set of gifts;
- A particular experience,
- A warm feeling,
- A religious ritual.

But:

- The person,
- The presence,
- The love;
- The power;
- The new life of God himself, released in us here and now in the Spirit.

Why?

- To renew us inwardly and outwardly,
- To renew us in our relationships with God, ourselves, and others,
- To renew us in our Christian witness;
- To make us holy (after all He is the Holy Spirit)

TO WHOM IS THE PROMISE MADE?

- a. The promise is made to those who ask.
 - Luke 11:13 “How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
 - John 7:37 “Anyone who is thirsty, come to me and drink.”
- b. The promise is to all who repent and are baptized.
 - Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the of Jesus Christ For the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift Of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Acts 2:39 “The promise is for you **and your children** and for all who are far Off---for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

WHEN CAN WE RECEIVE THE PROMISE?

- a. When we become Christians and are baptized.
 - Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- b. When we ask.
 - Acts 4:31 “After they prayed,...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit And spoke the Word of God boldly.”
- c. When the Father fulfills the promise.
 - Luke 24:49 “The Father poured out “power from on high.”
 - Acts 1:5 “and the disciples and many others were “baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
 - Acts 10:44-45 “The circumcised believers (Jews) who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.”
- d. When the Church prays.
 - Acts 8:15 “Peter and John were sent down to Samaria, and when they arrived they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit.”
- e. When God heals.
 - Acts 9:15-19 “so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit” and he (Saul) could see again.
 - Acts 9:17,18 “He got up and was baptized.”

QUESTIONS WE MIGHT ASK?

- Have I surrendered every area of my life? Am I docile to the Holy Spirit?
The choices we make will always mirror what we are allowing to direct and guide our hearts.
- What evidence is there of the Spirit's work in my life?
Are we allowing God's Spirit to convict, challenge, and change us? How is that happening for us? Is it happening? If not, are we asking?
Galatians 5:22-23 "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
- Am I ever aware of the inner prompting of the Holy Spirit?
- Is Jesus real to me, like a person, and as my Lord? Jenny's story sitting in the grave yard.
- Do I see in myself a love for other people, and do I have a concern and care for people I would not normally choose as friends?
- Do I receive insights when I'm praying, reading scripture, listening to talks or talking with a friend?
- Is there a new excitement when I pray, read the bible or witness to others about Christ in my daily life? Like being here and we talk about Christ in our lives, that excitement, joy in our hearts, the sharing is the Holy Spirit.
- Do we experience a joy, or peace when praising God or after receiving the sacraments?
- Recall what experiences you might have that are of the spiritual gifts we've talked about.
- Have I ever really asked God for His gifts, for the fullness of the Holy Spirit?
- Ask the Holy Spirit what areas in my life do I need Him to transform?
- Do you want to move out of the Upper Room like the Disciples?

**Holy Spirit, soul of my soul,
I adore Thee.**

**Enlighten me, guide me,
strengthen and comfort me.**

**Tell me what I ought to do, and
order me to do it.**

**I promise to submit to anything
that you require from me, and
to accept everything that Thou
allow to happen to me.**

Just show me what Thy will is.

Amen

A Prayer of Love

Father God, thank you for showing me what true love looks like. Please perfect me in Your love by showing me the parts of my life that are not in line with Your Holy Spirit. Show me where I am selfish, self-serving, and easily angered, so that I can surrender those things to You and allow You to replace those traits with Your selfless love. Transform me into someone who loves others just like You love me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Joy

God, thank You for giving me constant access to Your presence. Because You are always with me, I can experience true joy at all times. Although the joy You give isn't based on my circumstances, I don't always live a life marked by joy. Too often, instead of trusting You, I let my problems dictate my reactions. Please forgive me! Fill me with Your joy and peace, so that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, I may abound in hope at all times. Help me to live a life marked by undefeatable joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Peace

Father God, I often find myself overwhelmed by circumstances that are beyond my control, and I am easily distracted by things that don't matter. Please forgive me for not consistently placing my trust in You. Even when I am faced with intense situations. You are still with me. You are the Creator of peace, and I can have access to Your peace-filled presence whenever I draw near to You. So, instead of silencing Your Holy Spirit when I start to feel anxious or discouraged, help me to make room in my heart and mind to experience the peace-filled presence whenever I draw near to You. So, instead of silencing Your Holy Spirit when I start to feel anxious or discouraged, help me to make room in my heart and mind to experience the peace You freely give. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Patience

Holy Spirit, create in me a clean heart that seeks the best in others. Help me to show empathy and compassion to everyone, and to do so with gentleness and respect. When people or circumstances don't meet my expectation, empower me to show grace and understanding. Help me to see my situations from Your perspective so that I can rejoice at all time and show patience when needed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Kindness

God, thank You for continually showing me Your steadfast love and mercy. You are so good! Lord, I frequently find myself easily angered, hurt, or offended. Please change the way I think and behave. It is through Your Spirit that I am forgiven and empowered. So today, I invite You to guide me how to display kindness to others as You have displayed kindness toward me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Goodness

Holy Spirit, there is nowhere I can run to escape Your presence! You won't give up on me because You are too kind to leave me the way You found me. You guide me, counsel me, and show me the paths that lead to life. Today, make me more aware of Your goodness so that I can share Your goodness with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Self-Control

Holy Spirit, let the word of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to You! I don't want to grieve You by living in a manner unworthy of the calling You've placed on my life. Instead, I want to live a disciplined, thoughtful life because I know this honors You. So when I am tempted to give in to anger, selfishness, or pride, help me to consider others as better than myself, and allow me to do this with humility and grace. I surrender control of my life to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Faithfulness

God, You make all things beautiful in their proper timing. Nothing is too hard for You to accomplish! You are faithful to keep Your promises. But so often, I forget this and grow discouraged when my situations don't seem to change. In those moments, it's easy to forget that You are not done working. Through Your Holy Spirit please change the way I think and behave. When I start to grow weary, help me to remember that You are with me. You are faithful, and You have given me everything I need to live a faith-filled life today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer for Gentleness

Holy Spirit, help me pay close attention to the ways that You call me by name and draw me closer to You. And as You do that, show me how to live in a manner worthy of the calling You've given me. Help me to not do anything with selfish ambition, but instead, show me how to consider others as better than myself. Rather than seeking to immediately correct the wrongs I see in other people, let me first bring my concerns to You and allow You to direct my response. Let the conversations I have with others be filled with gentleness and respect so that nothing in my life detracts people from seeing You through me. In Jesus' name. Amen.