

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your
faithful.
Enkindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth Your Spirit,
and they shall be created,
and You shall renew
the face of the earth.



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More of the Holy Spirit

Do you want more of
the presence of the
Holy Spirit
operating in your life?
If so, then this brochure
will help that desire
become a reality.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Jesus said:

*If you then, though you
are evil, know how to
give good gifts to your
children, how much more
will your Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit to those
who ask him? Luke 11:13 NIV*

Since the beginning of Christianity, there has been a need for a simple way to understand the basics of the faith and the role of the Holy Spirit in that faith. Although there may be some disagreement about the exact ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church and in the life of the Christian, no one can deny the need for His presence and power — today more than ever!

Also, since the earliest days of Christianity, the walk with Jesus has required regular renewal and refreshing.

For many people, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the most powerful spiritual experiences of their lifetime. For others, the same event is more like a gentle wind blowing through their lives. Whatever the impact, the in-filling of the Holy Spirit is a major event in someone's life, whether they are a new Christian or a seasoned church leader.

When the Holy Spirit comes, things change. Even with this awesome and transforming power, the Spirit of God is quiet and gentle and does not force Himself on anyone. Though there are some differences of opinion about just how this happens, it is clear that the Holy Spirit, when given permission, brings about wonderful and sometimes

unbelievable changes in the lives of the present day disciples of Jesus. It is clearly a life-changing encounter with the Living God.

This brochure simply outlines some of the important changes that take place when we welcome the Holy Spirit and His gifts into our lives. While all Christians have the Holy Spirit, not all have learned how to allow the Spirit to guide and energize their service to God. New Testament style discipleship is difficult, costly and sometimes dangerous, so we need much help from God if we are going to be effective and fruitful ministers for Him. That help comes to us through the Holy Spirit who equips and prepares us for serving the Lord and for engaging in spiritual battle when necessary.

The Spirit also brings us new life as He: 1) guides us and helps us be good disciples of Jesus; 2) illumines our minds so that we can better understand the Bible and God's word to us; 3) motivates us to love and serve others – even our enemies; 4) empowers us to live holy lives and become more like Jesus; 5) guides us in both our decisions and our prayers; 6) gives us peace and strength, even when life is hard or painful; and 7) gives us the wisdom, discernment, grace and fortitude necessary to know and freely choose to do that which is good and from God.

Steps to Receiving More of the Holy Spirit

Here are the steps that will invite the Holy Spirit to come to you in power:

1. Repentance

We must repent for our sins and make things right with God. Repentance welcomes the Holy Spirit into our lives. When we freely admit that we are sinners who need forgiveness, especially for falling short of God's plan for our lives, the Holy Spirit will move powerfully within us to set us free, heal us, and bless us and more. Repentance will begin a move of God's grace and power in our lives.

2. Change

We must be willing to accept the changes that God wants us to make. The Holy Spirit is God's agent of creation, change and growth. He is also the one who will help us change into God's holy people who are ready and able to serve Him and build His kingdom. Some of the fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control.

3. Mission

We must prepare to be used by God. The Holy Spirit is the one who both motivates and directs our reaching out in Jesus' name. God has a perfect plan for everyone that includes our serving Him in both mission and evangelization. The Holy Spirit is the world's greatest evangelist – He will guide and direct us as we work to evangelize and minister to

others.

4. Gifts and Ministries

We must accept and learn to use the spiritual gifts and ministries that come to us from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us spiritual gifts and ministries and the one who will show us how to use them properly. Those who use the gifts and ministries under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit will build up the body of Christ (the Church) and do God's work in the world.

5. Warfare

We must be prepared to engage in spiritual battle when necessary. The world, the flesh and the devil are always at war against God, His work and His people. The devil consistently tries to distract or even attack those who use the spiritual gifts and ministries for the glory of God. The Holy Spirit is our chief defender in this battle and the one who empowers us to defeat the work of the evil one whenever and wherever it is found. We should not be fearful when confronting evil because we know that God is with us and that His power through the Holy Spirit is greater than all others.

6. Authority

We should earnestly seek and be prepared to follow guidance and direction given to us by the Holy Spirit through church and community leaders. Knowing and following God's plan for our lives leads to happiness and blessing. The Holy Spirit will reveal God's plan to us and then help us to follow that plan every day. Good spiritual authority helps us to serve God and use our gifts in the best way

possible. Humility and submission to God's appointed leaders in the church and in the community help us to be more like Jesus and to operate more fully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. Release

We must give the Holy Spirit our permission to work in our lives. Even though all baptized Christians have the Holy Spirit within them the Spirit respects our free will choices. If we invite Him to release His power and gifts into our lives, He will do that for us. All we must do is ask — and then receive His grace and power. Our openness to serve and sacrifice for God is our invitation to be used by Him through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for the Release of the Holy Spirit:

Holy Spirit, I truly believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I also believe that You dwell within me and give me the power to be the person God wants me to be.

I invite you now to release Your power and Your gifts within my life. You also have my permission to change anything that is not right in my life. I don't want to hold back anything from You and will accept all of the gifts and other things that You give to me now.

*Holy Spirit, I will do my very best to say "yes" to You as You transform my life, as You help me become a true disciple of Jesus and as You begin to use me more and more for the glory of God the Father.
Amen, Alleluia!*

Prayer of Abandonment

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen.

Charles de Foucauld

Sinner's Prayer

Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.