



PENTECOST

Pentecost - worshipping with joy; inviting the Spirit to be poured out on you.

Devotionals for 18 - 24 July 2021 – Revelation 2:7; Adapted from a Billy Graham bible study.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

During Jesus's last days on earth, He promised His followers that "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things" (John 14:26)

In art the Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove. This is probably because in the New Testament we first meet the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus. Some of the passages that depict the Holy Spirit as a dove include the following:

... and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. (Matthew 3:16)

... and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. (Mark 1:10)

... and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Luke 3:22)

Speak to My Heart, Lord Jesus

The Holy Spirit Speaks - As you continue to learn about the reality of the Holy Spirit in your life, do not be discouraged if you do not entirely understand how the Holy Spirit does His work or how God can be three Persons in One. God is too big to be fully understood by the human mind. However, He wants you to understand as much as you can, and He has already taken the initiative to reveal Himself to you with the goal of becoming an intimate part of your life. He will continue to take that initiative. It is within the context of relationship that you can develop a fuller and more meaningful understanding of God.

The Holy Spirit works in many different ways. He will cause a particular Scripture to speak to your heart; He speaks through other Christians; and He will speak through that quiet voice that some people call their conscience. Don't just listen, but do what He says. The following steps will help you as you work through the process of knowing and maturing in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Steps to Peace with God

1. **RECOGNIZE GOD'S PLAN**—peace and life - God loves you and wants you to experience His peace and life. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16, NKJV

2. **REALIZE OUR PROBLEM**—SEPARATION FROM GOD - People choose to disobey God and go their own way. This results in separation from God. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23, NKJV

3. **RESPOND TO GOD'S REMEDY**—THE CROSS OF CHRIST - God sent His Son to bridge the gap. Christ did this by paying the penalty of our sins when He died on the cross and rose from the grave. The Bible says, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8, ESV

4. **RECEIVE GOD'S SON**—LORD AND SAVIOR - You cross the bridge into God's family when you ask Christ to come into your life. The Bible says, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12, ESV The invitation is to: **REPENT** (turn from your sins), **ASK** for God's forgiveness, and by faith **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ into your heart and life and follow Him in obedience as your Lord and Savior. When you make this commitment, you become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and a part of His family (John 1:12).

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: “Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and that You raised Him to life. I want Him to come into my heart and to take control of my life. I want to trust Jesus as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”

If you have never explored what it means to find the deep satisfaction and purpose in a relationship with Jesus, do so now. If you have already turned your life over to Jesus Christ, make your relationship with Him primary in your life (Matthew 6:33).

If you have committed your life to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you have received the Holy Spirit. Be confident of this.

Walk in the confidence of God’s Word. Renounce your own ways, and surrender to the Holy Spirit. This will involve obedience and faith more often than feelings (Colossians 1:9–14). Both of these come from knowing the Scriptures.

Regularly review the Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit. Ponder what each verse means in your life. In addition, studying with another more mature Christian or in a small-group Bible study will allow you to develop a stronger foundation.

Look for evidence of the Spirit in your life and allow Him to identify areas in which He is working or would like to be working. Seek to exhibit and cultivate the fruit of love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Additional Scripture for Meditation –

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| 1. Matthew 22:29 (the power of understanding) | 5. Titus 3:5 (the renewing of the Spirit) |
| 2. John 3:6–8 (the Spirit’s new birth) | 6. Hebrews 13:5–6 (contentment and confidence) |
| 3. Romans 6:11–13 (death to sin) | 7. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (inspiration of the Spirit) |
| 4. Romans 12:1–2 (transformation) | |

Quiz:

1. A remarkable event occurred in the 10th chapter of the book of Acts. Simon Peter, who had once denied even knowing Christ, (during the time of Jesus' arrest), had an opportunity to present the concept of the risen Savior to a foreigner. What was the nationality of this man to whom Peter revealed Christ, after receiving an urging from the Holy Ghost?

- a) Greek
- b) Lebanese
- c) Syrian
- d) Italian

2. Many people often wonder if they are indeed a child of God. According to Romans 8:14-17, what is the one SURE way that someone can KNOW, beyond the shadow of any doubt, if they are one of God's children, as opposed to being merely one of His created beings?

- a) The Holy Spirit bears witness to the spirit of individuals
- b) Jesus reveals it to them through His prayers for them
- c) There is no certain way that anyone can actually know it to be true
- d) The heavenly Father calls them on the telephone

3. How many gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11?

- a) 9
- b) 21
- c) 7
- d) 15

4. A number of men near the city of Ephesus had been baptized by John the Baptist, but when Paul asked them (in Acts 19:1-7) if they had received the Holy Ghost, they seemed confused and responded that they were not even familiar with

such a thing. Paul then laid hands on them and they manifested signs of receiving the spirit of Christ. How many men did Paul lay hands on that day?

- a) 12
- b) 303
- c) 48
- d) 7

5. What promise is made to people who have the Holy Ghost dwelling within their hearts, according to Romans 8:9-11?

- a) they will have their mortal bodies quickened
- b) they will never be ill, nor die physically
- c) they will be successful in all of their earthly endeavors
- d) they will be the first people allowed into heaven

6. What do the following three events have in common?

1 - The account of the Samaritans receiving the word of God and subsequently the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:14-17)

2 - The story of the little children being brought to Jesus (Matthew 19:13-15)

3 - The occasion when Jairus' daughter was raised from the dead (Mark 5:41)

- a) another person laid hands on each of them
- b) angels were always present
- c) in each instance, Jesus was personally involved
- d) they all occurred prior to Jesus' crucifixion

7. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1-4 are all related to the same event. What happened, that Jesus had foretold His disciples about?

- a) a volcanic eruption destroyed much of Jerusalem
- b) people rose up in rebellion to God
- c) the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost
- d) great amounts of wealth were given to the early church

8. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Ghost descended from heaven in the bodily form of a particular animal. How did it appear to John and to others who were being baptized at the same time?

- a) like a lamb
- b) as a dove
- c) it seemed as a goat
- d) resembling a hawk

9. How is it possible for people to say that Jesus is Lord, according to scripture found in 1 Corinthians 12:3?

- a) through superstition and the beliefs of our ancestors
- b) by believing that God keeps some information to Himself
- c) by the Holy Ghost
- d) through intellect and careful consideration

10. 1 John 5:7-11 tells us that there are three witnesses in heaven, The Father, The Word and The Holy Ghost. According to the 11th verse, what EXACTLY are they witnesses OF?

- a) "that God is the dominant force of the universe"
- b) "that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."
- c) "that all men must be saved, according to His will, regardless of their choice"
- d) "that Lucifer was cast from heaven and reigns freely on earth"

1. The correct answer - Italian

2. The correct answer - The Holy Spirit bears witness to the spirit of individuals

3. The correct answer: 9

4. The correct answer - 12

5. The correct answer - they will have their mortal bodies quickened

6. The correct answer was another person laid hands on each of them
7. The correct answer - the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost

8. The correct answer: as a dove
9. The correct answer: by the Holy Ghost
10. The correct answer: "that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

Talking to Our Heavenly Father - *If we have faith, our prayers will be answered.*
You're Not Alone, Let Us Pray with You & For You

- Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family of Mr. Allan Burton "Al" Clement (wife, Ms. Diane Clement; brother-in-law of Ms. Betty Clement) on his passing. Ms. Diane Clement, 809 North Cumberland Lane, Port Washington, WI 53074; Betty Clement, 6822 Enge Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Ms. Debbie Schacht, prayers for healing after heart procedure. Get well cards can be sent to 4017 W. Hemlock St., Milwaukee, WI 53209
- Ryland Thompson, 6 y/o son of Ms. Mystique Thompson and grandson of Ms. Michelle and Mr. Anthony "Tony" Harrington, experienced a traumatic fall causing four spinal fractures. Ryland is home and doing well. Cards and prayers of healing can be sent to: Ryland Thompson, N168 W21700 Main Street #203, Jackson WI 53037
- Prayers of encouragement and steadfastness for Ms. Jennifer Cechvala, as she beings her Spiritual Guidance ministry ~ a place to ...breathe, be still, become. 5th Ave. UMC (lower level of the church in the former children's library area).
- Prayers of condolences to the family of Mr. Robert Edison. Robert (Bob) Edison passed away last year; a celebration of life service was held on June 5, 2021 at Faith United Protestant Church, Park Forest, Illinois. Cards of sympathies can be sent to Ms. Dot Edison, 107 Cedar Ridge Drive, #N223, West Bend, WI 53095
- Continued healing prayers for Ms. Barbara "Barb" Johnson, 190 Mayer Street, West Bend WI 53090
- Mr. Ethan Schnell, Ms. Dot Edison's daughter-in-law's nephew. Ethan is going through extensive chemotherapy as he is battling cancer. Due to his compromised immune system, he is unable to be with his wife, who is pregnant with their first child. With conviction we pray for miraculous healing of Ethan's body and soul. May his pain cease, may his strength increase, may his fears be released as he is abundantly blessed with love and joy surround him. 500 Melrose Street, Morgan Town West Virginia 26505
- Condolences to Mr. Larry and Mrs. Nancy Kritz and his family on the passing of his mother, Lillian Kritz; 7471 Kevin Drive West Bend, WI 53090
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued healing; alankempf33@gmail.com; 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Mr. Ted Meilahn, restoration of strength and courage as he lives into his "new normal"; 1085 Fondu du Lac Ave., Box 23, Kewaskum, WI 53040
- Ms. Julia Stettler, strength and ability to meet the challenges and changes that will occur during the next months; 107 Cedar Ridge Dr. #N313, West Bend, WI 53095
- 5th Avenue UMC's Laity, Laity Leadership, Pastor & Bro. Martin – Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Bro. Bob Krell, continued prayer for healing; 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Mr. Roger Sacia, prayers for healing; Mrs. Nobi Sacia words of encouragement and prayers for healing; 502 Crocus Court, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Nancy Whitson, healing and strength; 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- Mr. William (Bill) & Mrs. Ginger Hornung have moved and we will update their address as soon as possible.

Prayer: You are God. I praise you because you are holy, and I thank you for dwelling in my heart. Thank you for working in my life. You guided me into salvation, renewed my dead spirit, and you opened my eyes to the Truth. Thank you. Help me to see you more clearly – to recognize your movement in my life. Make me more sensitive to you so I can follow you more closely. Still, I know that I am selfish and rebellious. I need you to help me be obedient when I recognize your leading. I need you. I ask you for your help and comfort today. Help me to walk in you, the Spirit of God. Grow good fruit in my life. You are the one who produces these in me: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I cannot live out these things on my own; I need you. Amen!

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin