

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

Which voices draw your attention the easiest? The loudest ones? The most persistent ones? The ones closest to you? God wants to speak to us, but we have to still ourselves to hear Him.

When's the last time you heard from God? Most likely it was not an audible voice but rather a gentle nudge from His Spirit or a disciplined reminder of His desires for you. As you listen to God and follow in obedience to His commands, His peace permeates your life. He reassures you with calmness and strength.

We know there is power when God speaks. He spoke the world into existence. Asaph declares in Psalm 50:1-2: "The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth."

God wants to shine forth in our lives. In Psalm 50, God reminds His people that He desires not just sacrifice, but a sacrifice of thanksgiving. He wants those called by His name to perform their vows to Him, the Most High. He wants us to surrender to His commands and to praise Him for His goodness.

Where will God speak to you this week? Will it be at work? Will it be at school or at home? Will you hear Him in church? Will you hear Him in the silence?

In order to hear from God, we must be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). We must isolate ourselves from the outside noise and distractions. As we do so, we will be like Isaiah who saw God "high and lifted up" and realized his sinfulness (Isaiah 6). We will sing and cry out "Purge me from every sin" and trust God for His forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Take a moment, right now, and stop.

Read God's Word.

Be still.

Listen to Him speak to your heart.

Get up and do what He commands.

Do it for His glory and His renown.

“Lord, yielded and still, I come seeking Your will. Please, Lord, speak to my heart today. Amen”

The Bible teaches that God is three Persons in One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit and the Father and the Son share the same attributes. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is eternal, having neither beginning nor end (Hebrews 9:14); omnipotent, having all power (Luke 1:35); omnipresent, being present everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:7); and omniscient, knowing all things (1 Corinthians 2:10–11).

### The Holy Spirit's Personality

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon people for limited times, empowering them for specific tasks (Exodus 31:1–5; Numbers 24:2). In the New Testament, Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit in the gospel of John, chapters 14–16. Christ describes Him as a Person with intellect, emotions, and will. Her presence within each believer is Jesus' special provision for His followers alone. She comes alongside us to advise, exhort, comfort, strengthen, intercede, and encourage us. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift, and She makes it possible for Jesus to be in and with each of us. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that She may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Her nor knows Her; but you know Her; for She dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:16–17). “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (John 15:26).

### The Holy Spirit in the Believer

Before Jesus' ascension into heaven, He told His followers to “wait for ... the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4–5). This began the fulfillment of the promises about the Holy Spirit given in the gospel of John. From that time until now, every believer shares the power of the Holy Spirit as She:

Dwells within (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

Seals us in Christ (Ephesians 1:13–14)

Assures us of salvation (Romans 8:16)

Helps us grasp the truths of Scripture (John 14:26)

Empowers us to live the Christian life (Romans 8:9, 13–15)

Develops fruit (character of heart) (Galatians 5:22–23)

Gives us gifts for serving others (1 Corinthians 12)

In addition, the Holy Spirit works in the following ways both in us and through us:

She convicts people of sin (John 16:8–11)

She gives new life to those who trust in Jesus (John 3:6–8; Romans 6:4)

She speaks (Acts 13:2)

She intercedes (helps us in prayer) (Romans 8:26)

She testifies about Jesus (John 15:26)

She guides (John 16:13)

She commands (Acts 16:6–7)

She appoints (Acts 20:28)

She leads (Romans 8:14)

She gives power to be Christ's witnesses (Acts 1:8)

It is the believer's responsibility to submit to the Holy Spirit. Our choice seriously impacts our spiritual growth and our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit can be:

Lied to and tested (Acts 5:3–4, 9)

Resisted (Acts 7:51)

Grieved (Ephesians 4:30)

Blasphemed (shown contempt)

(Matthew 12:31)

We are baptized through the Holy Spirit when we become believers. We then have the opportunity and responsibility to be filled with the Holy Spirit, yielding daily to Her control. The filling of the Holy Spirit shows itself by the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

### The Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit

As the Holy Spirit develops our understanding of God, we grow toward maturity. The result will be what Scripture describes as fruit. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22–23, ESV).

"All Christians should be marked by all the fruit of the Spirit. Put in the simplest terms, the Bible tells us we need the Spirit to bring fruit into our lives because we cannot produce godliness apart from the Spirit. In our own selves we are filled with all kinds of self-centered and self-seeking desires which are opposed to God's will for our lives."

—Billy Graham

In addition to the fruit of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives every believer at least one gift with which to encourage and strengthen the church. All gifts are not the same, but they all have the same purpose: to unite and build up the church (Ephesians 4:12–13). Paul tells us to desire these gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31). Scripture enumerates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in: Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:8–11; Ephesians 4:11–12. "These gifts come to us from the Holy Spirit. She chooses who gets which gifts, and She dispenses them at His good pleasure.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" Galatians 5:22–23. While we are held accountable for the use of any gifts He gives us, we have no responsibility for gifts we have not been given. Nor are we to covet what someone else has or be envious of that person. We may wish to have certain gifts and even ask for them, but if it is not the will of the Holy Spirit, we will not get what we ask for. And if we are dissatisfied because the Holy Spirit does not give us the gifts we want, we sin."