

The Holy Spirit

Introduction

According to Hebrews 1:1-2, in Old Testament times God spoke to His people through the prophets. In New Testament times God spoke to His people through His son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Upon His return to the right hand of God, the Lord Jesus received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit which was poured forth at Pentecost (Acts 2:33).

Jesus Promises The Holy Spirit to His Followers

Jesus said it is better that He go away so He could send the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us (John 7:38-39). Why? So we could receive the promise of the Father, the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit. We all need the Holy Spirit, not just a few holy saints.

- I am sending the *promise* of the Father upon you until you are clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49).
- I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; . . .but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you (John 14:16,17).
- To the 120 gathered at Pentecost, Jesus said: ...wait for what the Father had *promised*, which, He said, you heard of from me. For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:4,5, 7).
- Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the *promise of the Holy Spirit...*, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear (Acts 2:33).
- Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For *the promise is for you* and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself" (Acts 2:38,39).
- when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:29-30).
- He gives the Spirit without measure (John 3:36)
- Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Cor. 3:16).

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the same person who brooded over the waters, who came down upon Jesus when He was baptized, who was upon the prophets of old, and who filled the people at Pentecost. It is the Holy Spirit of Power. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and is here for many purposes, including teacher, guide, comforter, leader.

The Third Person Of The Trinity

Many people are confused about the Holy Spirit. We mistake Jesus for the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit for the Father. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, (yes he is with us through His Spirit, inside of us, that is how we are united with Him); yet, He is seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father. The Father is also seated in heaven. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the trinity, is here on earth, and He is here for a purpose.

The Holy Spirit is a Person, it is not a force, power, or energy. As the third Person of the trinity, he has feelings (Ephesians 4:30), a mind of infinite knowledge (Romans 8:26,27) and a will. He speaks (Acts 13:2; John 16:13). A force or power does not have these attributes and abilities!

The Holy Spirit Has His Work To Do

In bringing us to salvation, holiness, and wholeness, each part of the Trinity has its work to do. The Father has His, the Son, Jesus Christ, has His, and the Holy Spirit has His. The general working of the Holy Spirit is to edify us, transform us, and lead us, and to fill us with God's power and authority, giving us spiritual gifts.

1. Helps us

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; . . .(John 14:16).

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name...(John 14:26a).

2. Teaches Us All Things

The Holy Spirit ... will teach you all things...(John 14:26a).

3. Brings To Memory What The Lord Says

The Holy Spirit...will...bring to your memory all that I said to you (John 14:26b).

4. Guides Us To Truth

...when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak...(John 16:13).

5. Prepares Us

...and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:13).

6. Reveals & Bears Witness To Jesus

When the Helper comes... whom I will send to you from the Father... who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me (John 15:26)

7. Reveals Thoughts Of God & Things God Wants To Give Us

The Holy Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God....Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God...we have received the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things freely given to us by God. (I Cor. 2:10-12).

He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is (Rom. 8:27).

8. Brings Us Revelation & Wisdom

The Apostle Paul prays that God...will give them a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

9. Establishes A Witness That We Belong To God

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father! The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:15,16).

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (II Cor. 1:21)

10. Bears Witness When We Make Right Decisions

11. Intercedes For Us According To Will Of God

The Spirit...intercedes for us...with groanings...according to the will of God (Romans 8:26,27)

12. Help Us With Our Weakness in Praying

Romans 8:26

13. Convicts Of Sin & Righteousness

When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).

15. Brings Us To Freedom

The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty (II Cor. 3:16).

The Holy Spirit Brings Transformation & Restoration

In the journey to spiritual growth, inner healing and wholeness, the presence and activity of the power of the Holy Spirit working within us is essential—perhaps more important than the laying on of hands, inner healing prayers, and gifts of the Spirit. However, the growth depends somewhat upon how responsive we are to the Holy Spirit, this teacher who God gives us. The Holy Spirit causes the spiritual senses to flourish within us. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, hear spiritually, speak spiritually, and respond spiritually to the things of God.

Images Of The Holy Spirit

The Bible gives us several images for the Holy Spirit that help us understand His transforming and cleansing work. They are the 1) wind/breath, 2) fire, and 3) the dove.

1) The Wind & 2) The Fire

At Pentecost there came a *rushing mighty wind*, and *tongues of fire* burned on each individual apostle (out of the wind came fire).

Breath/the wind (*pneuma* in Gr, *Ruach* in Heb.): divine power; messenger of God. Jesus taught: "*The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit*" (John 3:7).

Fire: purifying and renewing; Because of its power to destroy, fire can be understood as a means to rebirth at a higher level. The Scriptures talk about a baptism in fire. The image of the Holy Spirit as fire reveals God's desire to bring about a rebirth and transformation with in us.

3) The Dove

At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a *dove*. Noah sent out doves after the flood and one returned with an olive branch.

Dove: peace; sign of reconciliation with God; the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Brings Us To Life

We must become more reliant upon the Holy Spirit to do a wonderful work in us. He alone has the power to bring about an inner transformation within us. We must rely upon Him to receive revelation and the different things He has to offer us. In relying upon the spirit part of our being and responding to the Holy Spirit, we are literally being transformed, and it is restoration.

It is the Spirit who gives life... (John 6:63).

I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land (Ezekiel 37:14).

The Holy Spirit is sent to us to help us develop fully into being that new creation and spiritual maturity. We cannot come into a place of spiritual maturity without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does the work. He is the teacher, the guide. He reveals Jesus Christ in us and guides us into the truth. No one can guide a person into a place of spiritual maturity. I can point to the way, but it is the Holy Spirit who must teach you and guide you into the fullness of whatever the Lord has for you. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. We must go to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to teach us.

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us For Ministry

The ministry of Jesus to the public did not begin until the promise of the Father had come, the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21,22). The Spirit came upon Jesus and anointed him to fulfill the work and ministry. The same was true for the disciples and other New Testament Christians. This appears to be a standard procedure throughout the Bible. In Acts 9:17, Saul was *filled* with the Holy Spirit. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

Jesus is the example for us.

The Spirit came upon Him and anointed Him to fulfill the work and ministry. He was led by the Holy Spirit all of the time. He made that very clear. It's not a matter of just knowing stories about Jesus, but it's seeing that this is the way we are to walk and live; this is how we are to function too.

- He gives the Spirit without measure (John 3:36)
- Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Cor. 3:16).

We need the Holy Spirit to come upon us. We need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the world, to fulfill the Great Commission. We need the Holy Spirit to speak to us and tell us what to do. We desperately need the Holy Spirit working in our lives. It is not enough to mentally accept ideas about the Holy Spirit in our minds, but we must possess the reality of them in our hearts. We need heart knowledge and experiences with the Holy Spirit.

Desire The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

The specialized gifts of the Spirit are our tool kit. They are the tools with which we do the work of God. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our captain commands us to go forth and seek and save those who are lost. In order to do this adequately, we need the gifts of faith, discernment, healing, miracles, wisdom, knowledge, etc. operating in our lives.

We find in Jesus' ministry all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifested: tongues, interpretation, prophecy, healing, miracles, faith, discernment of spirits, words of wisdom and knowledge. Jesus said, "You shall do all the things that I have done, and more." It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit that we can effectively minister to a weary, hurting world. Apart from them, we can do nothing. If we have the fullness of the Holy Spirit in us, we have the potential for all these gifts. (Ralph Nault)

For to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, miracles (works of power), prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues...(I Cor. 12:7-10).

We Must Be Led By The Spirit

Both Jesus and St. Paul taught that we must learn how to be led by the Spirit. This is a key issue if we ever want to mature spiritually and grow up and break free—from man's religion—and experience something deeper. It's only by the Holy Spirit that this can happen. We must have the boldness and courage to be led by the Spirit, then we will mature spiritually and be transformed. God has made us adequate to be follow and serve the Spirit—but not the letter of the law (II Cor. 3:6). We are capable of being led by the Spirit. We can trust the Holy Spirit!

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Romans 8:14).

I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you (Prov. 1:23).

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (Galatians 5:18).

Who made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit (II Cor. 3:6).

The Holy Spirit is like a river flowing out of our inner most being

The Holy Spirit flows deep with in us, below our rational consciousness, and we must learn how to sense the flow.

Jesus said, He who believes in Me...from out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. This He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive (John 7:38).

The Holy Spirit Leads Us Through Dreams, Visions, Prophecies

The Holy Spirit speaks and guides us through dreams, visions, and prophecies. Both the book of Joel in the Old Testament and the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament tell us that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, people will have dreams, visions, and prophecy. By means of this unique spiritual language, we are privileged to hear the voice of God speaking to us and be led by His Holy Spirit.

The prophet Joel prophecies of the Lord's intent to keep communicating with people in the future through dreams, visions, and prophecies.

It will come about...that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days (Joel 2:28).

At Pentecost, when the people are bewildered and amazed and are asking for an explanation of the meaning of this experience, Peter quiets their hearts by reminding them that they are witnessing what the prophet Joel had foretold.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:16-18).

The Lord Speaks Through The Dream and Vision

The Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord, shall make myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. No so, with My servant Moses, He

is faithful in all My household; With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings" (Num. 12:6-8).

I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind (inner man) instructs me in the night (Ps. 16:7 NASB).

There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries...what will take place in the latter days... this was your dream and the visions in your mind while on the bed...that you may understand your inmost thoughts (Dan. 2:28-30).

For God does speak—now one way, now another—though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night ... He may speak into their ears and terrify them with warnings ... to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his life from the pit ... (Job 33:14-18 NIV).

Dreams Communicate In "Dark Sayings"

God tells us that in the dream, He will speak in "dark sayings". "I shall speak with him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses...with him I speak mouth to mouth...and not in "dark sayings" (Num. 12:6-8). "Dark sayings" (*chiydah*) refers to a puzzle; i.e., a trick, a conundrum, some type of message that is tied in a knot, like a proverb or a riddle. Dream work is the art of learning to untie the knot, to understand how to work with the language of symbols. If we want to be led by the Holy Spirit, we need to know how to understand the language of the dream, vision, and often prophecy.

Take Your Dreams Seriously

Once you accept the truth that the Lord wants to speak to you in your dreams, make a decision to take your dreams seriously. Clearly decide that you want and need God's help and direction for your life, and are willing to seek it by listening to your dreams. Make an act of faith by placing your notebook, dream journal, or recorder near your bed.

When you first awake in the morning *wait to see if the Lord spoke to you in the night*. If the Lord spoke to you in a dream, ask Him to bring it to your conscious memory (John 14:26).

When you first awake in the morning, ask the Lord if He spoke to you in a dream and to bring it to your conscious memory. "I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; indeed, my heart instructs me in the night" (Ps 16:7). "Morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear..." (Is. 50:4).

As soon as possible, write a detailed description of your dream, or tell it to your partner. (Dream research shows that 95% of the dreams not written down or told within five minutes are forgotten.)

Dreams and The Bible

A thoughtful examination of both the Old and New Testament records provides overwhelming evidence that dreams and visions were a vital part of God's communication with His people. Approximately one-third of the Bible involves dreams and visions. Riffel (1981) says his review of *Strong's Concordance* yielded 224 direct references to dreams and visions, with approximately 50 dreams specifically mentioned.

In the Old Testament, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, and many others saw visions, dreamed, and had discourse with angels. Similarly, key New Testament people experienced direct communication from God via dreams and visions: from Joseph & Mary, to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, to Paul, Cornelius, Peter, and St. John in the apocalyptic revelations.

Observing how dreams and visions throughout the Scriptures were used by God to speak to His people clearly implies that we should take seriously the messages conveyed to us in our own dreams.

Major Old Testament events centered on dreams/visions

The Old Testament is full of stories of Hebrew patriarchs who believed that the dreams and visions they received came from the Almighty. Their exploits changed the course of history for the ancient Israeli people. Obviously the nation's leaders greatly valued dreams and visions as a way to receive revelation from God. Their very approach to life came from the dreams and visions God gave them. Following are a few examples:

1. To establish God's covenant with Abraham. God assured Abraham of a great future, and that his own offspring would be the ones to share it (*Gen. 15:1-21*).
2. To reaffirm a covenant with Jacob, to promise safety and his return home, as he was fleeing from home (*Gen. 28:10-22*).
3. To an evil king, Pharaoh, in order to save Israel and Egypt. He dreamed of standing by the Nile River and seven fat cows came up, followed by seven lean cows, which ate up the fat cows (*Gen. 40:1-49*).
4. To Jacob/Israel, guiding him to take his family to Egypt, and telling him about the future (*Gen. 46:1-7*).
5. To give Solomon wisdom to follow in steps of David and impart gifts to him (*I Kings 3:5-28*).
6. The prophet Isaiah received visions from the Lord that contained prophetic warnings, future events, the last days, encouragement, correction, promises, and the coming kingdom of God, for the benefit of his people, nation, and Babylon (*Is. 1:1; 2:1; 6:1; 13:1; 21:2*).
7. The prophet Jeremiah spoke of receiving visions, dreams, and prophecies. His prophecies seemed to come from his visions (*Jer. 1:11-19*). (basket of figs; what do you see, Jeremiah?)
8. The prophet Ezekiel received visions through which the Lord spoke to him about the future of the house of Israel (*Ez. 1:1,3; 8:1-18; 37:1-21*).

9. God gave Daniel the ability to understand all kinds of visions and dreams—in order to save the nation (Dan. 1:17).
10. To Nebuchadnezzar, to reveal the future and the thoughts of his heart (Dan. 2:1-49). When King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a great statue made of various metals, Daniel knew both the dream (which the king had forgotten) and its interpretation. Later, Daniel again rightly interpreted the king's dream of the tree in the middle of the world, reaching the sky, which was cut down at the command of a holy one from heaven (Dan. 4:5-27).
11. After interpreting the King's dreams, Daniel rejoiced, saying that the Lord "reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness" (Dan. 2: 22).
12. Daniel had several great dreams/visions of his own: 1). The four beasts, representing four great kingdoms (Dan. 7:1-28). 2). The ram and the he-goat that fought, was interpreted by the angel Gabriel after Daniel sought the Lord for understanding (Dan. 8:1-27). 3). Vision of the man dressed in linen (Dan. 10:1-19; 12:5-6).

God speaks through dreams in everyday circumstances

- To the heathen king, Abimelech, warning him of danger, and to protect Sara (Gen. 20:1-18).
- To Jacob, to give him a promise of God's presence and his safe return, as he was fleeing from home (Gen. 28:10-16).
- To Jacob, to give him wisdom in his relationship with Laban, telling him what to do with the flock (Gen. 31:10-29).
- To Jacob, to direct him to return home (Gen. 31:10-13).
- To Laban, warning him to be careful how he spoke to Jacob (Gen. 31:24).
- To Joseph as a child, working in the fields, revealing God's plan for his life and preparing him for the future. He dreamed of binding sheaves in a field, and his sheaf stood erect and the others bowed to his. In verse 9, a second dream where sun, moon, stars bowed down to him (Gen. 37:1-11).
- To the butler and baker, in prison, telling them of their immediate future (Gen. 40:1-23).
- Joseph was able to open up the meaning of the dreams of the cupbearer and baker, to give him favor with Pharaoh and save his nation (Gen. 40:1-23).
- When King Saul inquired of the Lord, he expected God to answer him, either by dreams, by prophets, or by Urim. When God didn't, Saul believed that he had lost his guidance and went to a medium (I Sam. 28:5-15).
- To Gideon, an angel of the Lord spoke to him, at the wine press, giving him a vision and purpose for his life (Judges 6:11) and directed him in the night, to go down by the enemy camp...(the sword of Gideon) (Judges 7:9-18).
- To an enemy soldier of Gideon, in the battle field camp, telling him of God's protection over Israel. He dreamed of a loaf of barley bread tumbling into the camp.
- To the child Samuel, in an auditory vision, preparing him for what the Lord was going to do. All Israel understood that the Lord had confirmed Samuel as a prophet of the Lord (I Sam. 3:1-21).
- To Elisha's servant, a vision, helping the servant to not fear; saw horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (II Kings 6:17).

- To Balaam and his donkey. Through vision, God opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel of the Lord who was standing in front of the donkey (animals are sometimes more aware of spiritual realities than their more rationally conscious masters) (Num. 22:20-31).

Dreams and Visions in the New Testament

Following is a brief summary of key dreams and visions in the New Testament:

- An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife and reveals the future of the Christ child (Mt. 1:20).
- The Lord God protects the Christ Child by warning the Magi in a dream, telling them not to return to Herod (Mt. 2:12).
- An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him to flee to Egypt and stay there until he is told otherwise (Mt. 2:13).
- Angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him to go back to Israel (Mt. 2:19,20).
- Joseph receives another dream, warning him of danger; he goes to Nazareth (Mt. 2:22).
- Zacharias encounters angel in a vision, who tells him that God will answer their prayer (Luke 1:11-22) .
- Wife of Pilate received a dream that warned not to have anything to do with that righteous man (Mt. 27:19).
- The women at Jesus' tomb saw a vision of angels, telling them Jesus was alive (Luke 24:4,5,22-24).
- As he was dying, Stephen saw the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55).
- Saul encounters the Lord in an auditory vision, receiving revelations and direction (Acts 9:1-6).
- The Lord spoke to Ananias, a disciple of God, in a vision, telling him where to go, what to say and do (Acts 9:10-18).
- An angel of God came to Cornelius in a vision, telling him that his prayers have been heard and what he was to do: find Peter (Acts 10:1-8).
- Peter falls into a trance, seeing the sky open up and something like a great sheet being lowered to the ground by four corners. As Peter reflects on the vision, the Spirit tells him to go with the men downstairs. Cornelius helps Peter understand the radical meaning of the vision (Acts 10:9-20). The Lord confirmed the meaning of this iconoclastic dream in a supernatural way.
- Peter says of his prison escape that he did not know whether what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision (Acts 12:9).
- Paul sees a vision in the night in which a man of Macedonia was asking him to come to Macedonia and help (Acts 16:9,10). Paul took action immediately, and changed his direction.
- The Lord speaks to Paul in the night by a vision, telling him to not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent for the Lord was with him. The Lord tells him he will not be harmed...(Acts 18:9,10).
- Paul falls into a trance as he was praying, and sees Jesus telling him that his life is in danger, his testimony won't be received, and to get of out Jerusalem quickly. He also told Paul where to go—far away to the Gentiles (Acts 22:17).
- (John) heard behind him a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the 12 churches (Rev. 1:10,11).

The Church Needs The Holy Spirit

Pope Leo XIII

At end of 19th century he wrote an encyclical letter on the Holy Spirit and dedicated the 20th century to the Holy Spirit. Early in the 20th century, the Holy Spirit was poured out in the Azusa Street revival in California.

Pope John XXIII (1958-1963)

He welcomed the Holy Spirit afresh to the Roman Catholic world, specifically praying for the Holy Spirit to come and once more revive the church: "May there be repeated thus in the Christian family the spectacle of the apostles gathered together in Jerusalem after the Ascension of Jesus to heaven, and may the Divine Spirit renew your wonders in our time, as though for a new Pentecost". The *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* "these charismatic gifts...are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the church."

Pope John Paul II (1978-2005)

He knew that mankind is incomplete without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and welcomed the Spirit in his own life. When he became Pope, he urged local priests to participate, and adopt a welcoming attitude toward it. "I have always belonged to this renewal in the Holy Spirit." He welcomed the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office under direction of Cardinal Suenens and invited it to operate from within the walls of the Vatican.

1986 Dominium et Vivificantem: document on the work of the Holy Spirit gives profound teaching about the role of the Spirit in revealing Jesus, bringing about personal transformation and empowering for mission. Had a sense of the need for the church to encounter the Spirit.

Eve of Pentecost 1998: He asked the entire church to focus on the person and work of the Holy Spirit for all of 1998, and on the eve of Pentecost he invited all the renewal movements in the church to join him to celebrate this feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "Open yourselves docilely to the gifts of the Spirit! Accept gratefully and obediently the charismas which the Spirit never ceases to bestow on us."

Jubilee 2000: Called church to prepare for a fresh work of the Holy Spirit, as the third day of Christianity arrived. Stood at the doors of the Vatican, at the dawn of the new millennium and said before a listening world: "We welcome you, Spirit of Jesus"

January 6, 2001: Summons to the new evangelization: "Allow ourselves to be filled with the ardor of the apostolic preaching which followed Pentecost."

Called For Repentance: He understood that it would only come on the wings of repentance. He broke ancient strongholds through repentance. Scandal of pedophilia broke out, just as he was hoping for a new holiness in his flock, and the focus was diverted. Held to Prophetic Hope: "A new spring time of Christian life, ...if docile to the action of the Holy Spirit" he continued to insist that a great day of Christian unity and revival was just ahead.

Pope Benedict XVI

"Task is to keep the door open to the renewal movements to prepare room for them." He affirmed Pope John XXIII's prayer for a new Pentecost, and says that his prayer did not go unheard.

Ministry Time

Look up all of the scriptures and read them in your German Bible. Reflect on them, asking God to give you understanding of them. Read the book of Acts, especially the scriptures about the Holy Spirit.

Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life.

The Holy Spirit is received through faith, the same way you accepted Jesus Christ to be your personal Lord and Savior. The Bible says, "Ask, and it shall be given to you" (Luke 11:9). We need to ask God to baptize us in the Holy Spirit. We need to apply our faith, believing that what we asked for, we have received—that God cannot lie. The apostle Paul explains that we receive the Spirit "by hearing with faith." (Galatians 3:2).

Heavenly Father, I come to You right now in this moment. I thank You that Jesus has forgiven me of my sins through His blood on the cross. I need your power and authority in my life. I want to serve only You. Lord Jesus, I ask you to baptize me now in the Holy Spirit. Please fill me with your power and anoint me for the work you have called me to do...I do receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit right now by faith, because You cannot lie. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for baptizing me in Your Holy Spirit, for giving me this gift. Amen.

Welcome dreams into your life

Today Lord, I make a decision that I want to seek your voice and to listen to what You have to say to me through my dreams. I renounce any fear I have of dreams, I ask You to forgive me for being afraid of them, and I come out of agreement with the spirit of fear that wants to keep me from seeking You. I choose to pay attention to my dreams. Lord give me boldness to hear Your voice, every day and night.

Please note that my program notes are not a treatise or doctrinal position on the Holy Spirit or on dreams. They simply reflect my understanding at this time. I encourage you to go to God, asking Him to bring revelation about the work of the Holy Spirit to you. He will not fail an honest heart. If we desire to be of service to God and fulfill His purposes for you, we need to know about the Holy Spirit.

At this time I understand that when individuals receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through genuine heart faith, they receive the "Spirit of Christ" and their own spirit is quickened and made alive, because of the righteousness of Christ Jesus (Romans 8:9,10). We understand the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a distinct work of grace which is not to be confused with the conversion or born again experience. It involves a filling or immersion into God's power and authority and the capability of praying in tongues and functioning with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.