

The Holy Spirit: Power for Holy Living

HOPE813 FAITH WALK RESOURCES

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me." — Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

Introduction

Many believers know the Father as Creator and the Son as Savior, but stop short of knowing the Holy Spirit as an active, personal presence in their daily life. He is not a force or an "it" — He is the third Person of the Trinity, fully God, and He is the one who makes the Christian life possible at every stage: conviction, new birth, sanctification, and empowerment for service.

Who the Spirit Is and What He Does

The Spirit is present at every major turn of salvation. He convicts the world of sin (John 16:8), regenerates the heart at new birth (Titus 3:5), indwells every believer permanently (1 Corinthians 6:19), and progressively sanctifies us into Christlikeness (2 Corinthians 3:18). Without the Spirit, there is no conversion, no growth, and no lasting victory over sin. He is not an optional upgrade to the Christian life — He is the one who makes it Christian at all.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

HOPE813 stands in the Wesleyan-Holiness-Pentecostal tradition, which holds that beyond the indwelling every believer receives at conversion, Scripture describes a distinct baptism in the Holy Spirit — an empowering encounter available to all believers, evidenced initially by speaking in other tongues, as recorded at Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and in subsequent accounts throughout Acts (Acts 10:44-46; 19:6). Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for this baptism before beginning their ministry (Acts 1:4-5, 8), even though they were already believers. This baptism is for power for witness and service — it is not a reward for spiritual elites, but a gift available to "as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39).

The Gifts of the Spirit Continue Today

We hold that the spiritual gifts described in 1 Corinthians 12 — including prophecy, healing, tongues and interpretation, discernment, and others — did not cease with the apostolic age but continue in the church today, given "for the profit of all" (1 Corinthians 12:7). Paul instructs the church to "earnestly desire spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 14:1), not fear or avoid them. At the same time, Scripture calls for order: gifts are to be exercised in love (1 Corinthians 13), tested (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21), and used to build up the church rather than to draw attention to the individual.

Fruit Before Gifts

A Spirit-filled life is marked first by character, not just power. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control — as the evidence of walking in step with the Spirit day to day. Gifts operate; fruit matures. A believer can move in spiritual gifts and still lack Christlike character, which is why Paul places the "more excellent way" of love (1 Corinthians 13) directly between two chapters on spiritual gifts. Pursue both, but never let gifts substitute for godly character.

Reflection Questions

1. Has the Holy Spirit felt like an active presence in your daily life, or more like an abstract doctrine?
2. Have you sought or received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? What questions or hesitations do you have about it?
3. Which fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) is currently the weakest in your life, and what would it look like to invite the Spirit to grow it?
4. Is there a spiritual gift you sense the Spirit may be developing in you? Who could help you discern and steward it well?

This Week

Spend time each day specifically inviting the Holy Spirit's presence and asking Him to produce His fruit in you — not just His power. Journal what you sense Him highlighting.

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank You for being present with us, not distant from us. Fill us afresh. Produce Your fruit in our character, and release Your gifts through our lives for the building up of the Church and the glory of Jesus. Teach us to walk in step with You every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.