



COME HOLY SPIRIT,
SET US FREE



Alan Marvel Moses

"Come Holy Spirit Set Us Free"



PRINCE LORETO GEORGE
JUNIOR 1



Reuben Samuel J

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Presbyter's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of the Members of the Clergy Team and the Pastorate Committee, I wish each one of you a Happy Pentecost Celebration! The Day of Pentecost is an important feast in the Church's Liturgical Calendar, when we celebrate the birth of the Church founded by our Lord. We welcome the Holy Spirit that Christ has promised to us and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On this day, the Holy Trinity was fully revealed to us. The theme suggested for our meditation is: **"COME HOLY SPIRIT SET US FREE"**

The Holy Spirit is one among the three persons of the Trinity (John 4: 24; 2 Cor. 3: 17). The Holy Spirit is not just a power, but on the contrary, a powerful person (Acts 1:8). Various activities of the Holy Spirit can be seen from the first book of the Bible. But various differences are evident in these activities. During the Old Testament days, the Holy Spirit came only upon the anointed Kings, Lords and Prophets. But during the end times, that is now, after the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) the Spirit is poured on everybody (Acts 2: 17; Joel 2: 28; Isaiah 28:2).

God's character is seen in the Holy Spirit. That is why it is said that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit sets us free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Cor 3: 17). The Bible promises us freedom from all forms of bondages. The Holy Spirit is transliterated as Ha-qodesh Ruach in Hebrew and Pneumahayonn in Greek. In the Old Testament, Ruach has been used 378 times and Pnema has been used in the New Testament 379 times. Ruach has been used variously. God's power or supernatural power is the meaning designated for this. To make people do superhuman things, God send upon them the Spirit (Ruach) - Judges 3: 10; 6:34; 11: 29; 13: 25; 14: 6, 19; 15: 14; I Samuel 11:6). The Spirit of God was the power behind the prophets (Numbers 24:2; I Samuel 10: 6, 10; 19: 20, 23). The Holy Spirit is not just a power, but a power with a personality. The Bible points out the Holy Spirit as a person. A powerful person (Paraclitos). It is a masculine name.

1. The Holy Spirit sets us Free (Isaiah 61: 1- 11)

The Holy Spirit is a liberating Spirit. The freedom that the Holy Spirit gives is the release of the ones in bondages, sight for the blind and deliverance for the oppressed. When Jesus began His ministry, this is what He began preaching in Nazareth. That is why Luke 4: 18, 19 is known as the Nazareth Manifesto. This freedom is whole and complete. This is the spiritual, worldly and societal freedom.

2. Liberated to Liberate (Acts 2: 1- 13)

The Holy Spirit liberates us so that we may lead others also to this liberation. The Holy Spirit that was poured on the people on the day of Pentecost, in a way, led them to new portals of freedom. It was the completion of the prophetic voice that was much awaited (Joel 2: 28; Isaiah 28: 2-6). The Christian Church is a fellowship that was formed in Jerusalem. It was started with just 120 people and now it has spread far and wide throughout the world. Wherever these people went they raised the trumpet of liberation. The reason behind this was the Spirit that was in them.

3. The Holy Spirit that is in Jesus Christ (Luke 4: 16 – 21)

"... the Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me", this was an important part of the Nazareth Manifesto of Jesus. The work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus is evident from His birth to death.

1. Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1: 26 – 38).
2. Even in childhood, Jesus was strengthened by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2: 40).
3. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and He began His ministry (Acts 4: 27; 10: 38; Luke 4: 18; Hebrews 1:9).
4. Before the ministry, He was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted (Luke 4: 1; Matthew 4: 1).
5. He did His ministry by the Holy Spirit (Acts 10: 38; Mark 5: 30; Luke 5: 17; 10: 21).
6. Through the Spirit, He offered Himself to death on the cross (Hebrews 9: 14).
7. He rose by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8: 11, Psalm 16: 10; Ephesians 1: 19, 20; John 10: 18).



John the Baptist introduces Jesus Christ as the 'one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit' (Luke 3: 16; Acts 11: 16). The meaning of the Hebrew word *Messiah* is 'anointed one'. In Greek '*Christos*' and in Latin '*Christus*'.

Even though Christ and Holy Spirit are two persons of the Trinity, the Church argues that Christ was cent percent God, and cent percent man. Even though as a child He was strengthened by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2: 40), God the Father anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power in His 30th year (Acts 10: 38). If Jesus, the Son of God needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit, how much more do we, as weak humans, need the Holy Spirit.

May the day of Pentecost help us to reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to renew our commitment to living out our faith. May the outpouring of the Spirit empower us to be bold witnesses, agents of reconciliation, and instruments of God's peace.

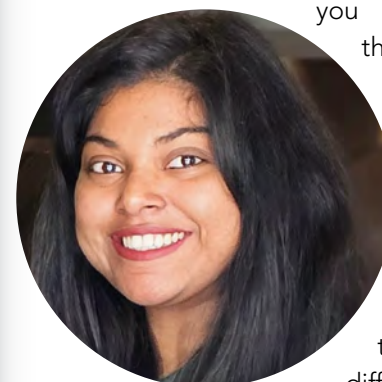
Prayers and good wishes,
Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Vincent Vinod Kumar
Presbyter-in-charge

Editors' Note

Dear Reader,

The Magazine Committee is delighted to bring you the Pentecost edition of the ReMARKable - where we celebrate the birth of the Church, together. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit, not just to comfort and guide us, but also to set us free!



In these pages, you will find thought-provoking articles, different perspectives of the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, some exciting puzzles for a mind work-out, a poem that tells an amazing story, and art that speaks louder than words. As you turn the pages of our magazine, we believe you will experience the joy of the Spirit, breaking the chains that hold you back, and filling you with His gifts.

We are deeply grateful to our Presbyter Rev Vincent Vinod Kumar, our Asst Presbyter Rev Ruth Rekha Michael and the pastoral team for their never-failing support. A big shout out to all our contributors, we thank you for being the backbone of the ReMARKable.



**'Come, Holy Spirit, we need You
Come, sweet Spirit, we pray
Come in Your strength and Your power
Come in Your own special way.' _ Amen**

Jessica Jenish
Convenor

Asha Elisha
Co-Convenor

Come, Holy Spirit, Set Us Free

– Rev Ruth Rekha Michael



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
I greet you all in the blessed name of our Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ.

May the Spirit of God, be with us and strengthen
us all, as we go through this life journey. It's not by
might, nor power but by the Spirit of the Lord. As we
celebrate Pentecostal Sunday, may the almighty God
anoint and fill us with His Holy Spirit and set us free.

"Come, Holy Spirit, set us free", is a prayer or
invocation asking for the Holy Spirit to empower
individuals and communities to experience freedom,
both spiritually and in other areas of life. This freedom
can involve liberation from sin, fear, condemnation,
and other constraints. The Holy Spirit is seen as a
source of spiritual enlightenment, and a renewed life
in the presence of God.

The freedom offered by the Holy Spirit is
understood to be whole and complete,
encompassing spiritual, worldly, and
societal dimensions.

In the Old Testament, Ezekiel
37:1-14 describes a vision of
a valley filled with dry
bones coming back to life,
symbolising God's promise
of restoration and revival
for the exiled Israelites. The
bones represent the dead
spiritual state of the nation,
and God's power to bring them
back to life is a metaphor for His
ability to restore hope and purpose.

The exile for the Israelites was
a place of lifelessness and
hopelessness. Here, restoration
of life and hope comes. It was
a life opposing context for the
Israelites, but God affirms life,
life in all its fullness. Ezekiel, knows

the humiliation and suffering,
but God intervenes. He imagined
God walking him towards the valley
of dry bones, asking him whether the dry bones will
come back to life again. What God encourages is
re-imagine. Where there is the scene of death, God
encourages him to re-imagine the place of life, where
there is dryness, to re-imagine the place of freshness,
where there is lifelessness, to re-imagine about hope.

The bones lying in the valley represent not just lives,
that were lost, but also the dignity that was stolen from
the people. Ezekiel left it in God's hand. In turn, God
gave the Prophet something to do. God commanded
him to prophesy to the dry, dead bones, restoring life.
The bones came back to life. The power of God's
love regenerated life in the valley of dry bones. In the
valley of dry bones, a place of brokenness, despair
and death, Ezekiel re-imagines God's Mission.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we meditate upon
the theme, "Come, Holy Spirit, set us free", let
us examine within ourselves and our lives. Is
there any area, in our life, that we see, dryness,
dead, despair, brokenness? Is there anything
that we feel impossible in our lives? Is there
anything that we cannot carry? Is there
anything that is hindering
in our life? There are many times
we feel desperate in our lives.
But there is freshness, hope, life and
fullness in the presence of
God, in the love of God.
Even though we walk through
the valley of dry, dead bones,
the God of life, God of hope, God of
restoration, God of liberation and freedom,
walks along with us. We are not alone. We
have a Great God who can set us free, from
all our situations. Let this be our humble prayer,
"Not by might nor by power, but by your Spirit
Lord; Come, Holy Spirit, set us free". Amen



Pentecost And Freedom

– Rev Dr Moses Jayakumar



The celebration of the Festival of Pentecost,
which falls on 8th June this year, reminds
us of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The
Risen Lord instructed the disciples not to
leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift from the Father,
the gift of the Holy Spirit. The word 'Pentecost' is
from Greek, and it means 'fiftieth'. The gift of the
Holy Spirit was given to the disciples fifty days after
the resurrection of our Lord. Hence, this festival is
the Feast of Pentecost, or the Feast of Fifty Days.
I use the term - Feast of Fifty Days - because we
have references to the Feast of Fifty Days in the Old
Testament. They are not called with the Greek name
Pentecost, but in substance they were Feast of Fifty
Days.

The first celebration in the Old Testament is the 'Feast
of Weeks', also known as the 'Feast of First Fruits',
which was a Harvest Festival. This was one of the three
major festivals the Jewish people were commanded
by God to follow. Every Jew will travel to Jerusalem
to celebrate these three important festivals. We read
the instructions given by God to the people of Israel
for the Festival of Weeks in the books of Exodus and
Leviticus.

The other 'Fifty Days Festival' was to remember the
covenant with God on Mount Sinai and the giving of
the Ten Commandments. When the people arrived at
the foot of the Mt Sinai, after fifty days Moses went
up to the mountain as instructed by God, and he
received the Holy Commandments (Ex 19:16-20).

One more Feast of Fifty Days was the celebration
of Jubilee. It was a celebration of the Fiftieth year
and the most salient feature of this festival was the
restoration of people and property which were given
away in times of critical financial situations. The details
can be found Lev. 25:10 **Consecrate the fiftieth year
and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its
inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of
you is to return to your family property and to**

your own clan. During this
year the ancestral land that the
Israelite families had sold was given
back to them.

With this understanding of the concept of Festival of
Fifty Days from the Old Testament, I wish to relate the
concept of Jubilee to the theme of 'being set free'. The
reading from the Gospel of Luke talks about freedom,
and Jesus came into the world not only to proclaim
freedom, but also to set people free from various kinds
of oppression and slavery. After being filled with the
Holy Spirit, Peter preached the Gospel to the crowd
and we read in Acts that more than 3000 persons were
baptised. When we read further to understand the
new life style lived by those who accepted the Gospel
and the new values which they demonstrated through
their living, we could see the concept of social and
economic justice becoming a reality. It is stated **they
sold property and possessions to give to anyone
who had need.** This was a voluntary action on the
part of the faith community, and they did not do this
out of compulsion. It was the effect of the Gospel
preached to them, and the work of the Holy Spirit
who gave the inspiration.

The basic principle that God gave to the Israelites
while instructing them to observe the Jubilee was - **do
not take advantage of each other, but fear your
God.** The people were not to take advantage of the
vulnerability of the poor and oppress them through
their economic dealings. We may not be dealing
with land and slavery in our days, but the attitudes
such as claiming superiority on the basis of status in
life, community, region, caste, language and even
mistaken understanding of true spirituality are to be
seen as 'taking advantage'. Let not the theme 'Come
Holy Spirit, Set Us Free' be seen only as a spiritual
exercise. It is essential to understand the social and
economic implications of this freedom and that is a
challenge for each one of us.

Pentecost: The Coming Of The Holy Spirit And The Birth Of Ecclesia

– Rev Dr Sushana Pramanik



Pentecost marks a significant moment in the history of Christianity. Etymologically, the English word 'Pentecost' comes from the Greek word 'pentekoste' meaning fiftieth. Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter which is also fifty days after Easter. As recorded in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, empowering them to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This event regarded as the birth of the Church that is in Greek known as 'Ecclesia.'

The Biblical Account

After the event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He appeared to His disciples for forty days, teaching them about the Kingdom of God. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus instructed them to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival was celebrated fifty days after Passover, and the disciples were gathered when a mighty rushing wind filled the house, and tongues of fire appeared over them. During that time, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and started speaking in different languages that enabled them to preach the Gospel to the people of different nations (Acts 2).

The Formation of the Ecclesia/Church

In the New Testament, the Greek term for 'church' is 'ecclesia' (Romans 16:4). The apostle Paul understood the concept of 'ecclesia' as the place of meeting of the believers or the household of God (Romans 16). Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter delivered a powerful sermon, explaining that this event fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. He urged the crowd

to repent and be baptised, leading to the conversion of about 3,000 people that day (Acts 2). This marked the beginning of the Christian Church. The term 'Christian' appears three times in the New Testament: Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16. The Greek term 'christianos' translated as the 'follower of Christ' signifies such repented and baptised community of believers united by faith in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Significance of Pentecost

Pentecost symbolises the transition from the Old Covenant, centered on the Law, to the New Covenant, characterised by the Holy Spirit, and the mission of the Church. The Holy Spirit became the Guide and Comforter for the believers, empowering and strengthening them to spread the Gospel across the world. The Church grew rapidly, with early Christians devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Ecclesia

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the life of the Church/Ecclesia, guiding, empowering, and sustaining the believers in their faith. As recorded in Acts 2:14-47, the Holy Spirit helps towards the empowerment for ministry, provides guidance and revelation, enlighten with conviction and transformation, ensures unity and fellowship, and initiates intercession and worship within and among the believers of the Church/Ecclesia.

May the Holy Spirit continue to remind the followers of Christ about the mission and ministry of the Church/Ecclesia!

Come Holy Spirit Set Us Free – Rev Dr M Mani Chacko



We live in a world that constantly defines freedom in terms of independence - freedom to do what we want, freedom from restrictions and freedom from responsibility. Jesus in His mission statement announces the true nature of freedom, a freedom that comes not from us, but from God. We hear these profound words defining true freedom from the Prophet Isaiah, read by Jesus Himself in the synagogue at Nazareth, declaring His mission and the very essence of His anointing: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me..." (Luke 4:16-20). The freedom Jesus envisages includes good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, liberation of the oppressed as signs of God's favour.

The idea of freedom as envisaged by Jesus has been popularised by the theologian and priest, Samuel Wells, in his influential book, **A Nazareth Manifesto: Being with God**. Wells proposes a profound shift in how

Christians should understand freedom as engagement with the world, moving from a model of "working for" people to one of "being with" them.

Wells argues that the dominant mode of Christian action has often been paternalistic, with a focus on providing services and solutions from a position of power or privilege. In contrast, he points to the example of Jesus, who spent the vast majority of His life simply living among the people of Nazareth, sharing in their daily lives, struggles, and joys. According to Wells, true freedom is found in the act of presence and solidarity. It emphasises accompaniment, mutual learning, and the building of relationships as the primary means of enacting God's love and justice in the world. It is precisely this **freedom for all** that we, the Church should mean and work for, when we pray the prayer "Come Holy Spirit Set Us Free".

Note: Rev Dr Mani Chacko, Ph D (King's College London) is the former General Secretary, Bible Society of India

RUACH – Asha Elisha

Rushing like a mighty wind,
Upon the apostles poured
A double flame; they shook with praise,
Confused bystanders asked each race:
How did I understand?

Note: Ruach (pronounced roo-akh) is the Hebrew word for spirit, breath, or wind. When spoken, the word engages one's breath and lungs. The first mention of Ruach in the Bible is in the very first chapter of Genesis - Genesis 1:2. (Source: <https://firmisrael.org>)



Unfinished Symphony: Come, Holy Spirit, Come

– Rev Dr Thomas Ninan



Asians refer to the Holy Spirit as 'Pavitra Atma', or 'Antaryami'. It refers to the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. It is the divine or inner consciousness that is at work in every living being. It is often understood as the 'inner controller', 'inner witness', or 'supersoul'.

Sin has destroyed the harmony of our lives. God is still working on us to tune us into a 'harmony', so that the church, as a people of God, are a beautiful Symphony. Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish theologian and philosopher refers to our disharmony as part of "dead religion". So, the ancient prayer of all humanity is, "Come, Holy Spirit, come and help us crucify our 'ego' on the Cross".

Christological Need - Formation to Transformation: This needs to be a process for being a fruitful people. A tree has roots, a trunk, branches, leaves and should bear fruit. So too, the Church has longstanding traditions (roots), a solid institutional structure (trunk and branches). Leaves are devotions, liturgy and sacraments. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, there will be no fruit of loving service. Jesus expects us to deliver fruit in season.

Ecclesiological Need: The needs of the people change with changing times. So, we need relevant responses, which will lead to 'new ministries'. Some may not want to be vulnerable, and backtrack due to insecurity. Faith challenges us to step out. The Holy Spirit empowers us when we are humble and submit to His leading. So, without prejudice, the Church will, as a 'Jesus Community', take up challenges and form new ministries. New leaves, fresh fruits and refreshing

actions of compassion follow.

Missiological impact: A change in status quo, a leap into the unknown makes the mission of the church to be a liberative mission - making all things new - for a new heaven and a new earth. Those who do not have faith, hope and love have made a niche and have commodified the people and the ministry to be an identity and comfort zone. This kills the movement and dynamism of the Church to be a Jesus movement.

Some act as tigers among wolves, so that the wolves play games. The wolves and other wolves clash due to vested interests. The tiger and the wolves exploit the sheep and at times, consume them. Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection are a paradigm for sheep. The phrase, 'innocent as a dove and sharp as a serpent' is a Biblical idiom that encourages a combination of wisdom and innocence. The Holy Spirit guides so that we are discerning and cautious. The Holy Spirit encourages a balance between a gentle, innocent heart and a discerning, shrewd mind. Followers of Christ must be both wise and harmless.

The sheep need a Good Shepherd, not a hireling. Wolves disguised as sheep do enter the fold. Tigers attack, steal sheep and leave. This Pentecost, let the wind, the 'Ruach' blow into our church, so that we may be sheep of one Shepherd. (John 3:5-8. May the Good Shepherd protect the sheep from the tiger and the wolf. May the sheep leave their 'sheepish ways' and be innocent and discerning. May St Mark's Cathedral continue to be a 'Church for the City', committed to be fruitful and share in acts of love and compassion. May our Harmony become a Symphony in the city.



Hearing The Voice Of The Holy Spirit – Achamma Thomas



God speaks to us in various ways. We should tune our minds to understand God's ways to communicate with us.

The following are a few ways the Holy Spirit speaks:

1. Through circumstances where we recognise His will and experience peace as we take the right steps in dealing with situations.
2. Through a still small voice from within us. It may be a compelling thought which forces us to understand what He wants to say.
3. Through His word. As we study the Bible, we recognise what we read relates to what we face in our daily life. The Scriptures speak to us as we study and spend time in understanding what God is trying to tell us.
4. Through a person or a counselor. God may use a friend, a parent, a priest, a brother or a sister for this. God may speak through the experience of another person, maybe as we read a book.
5. Through nature. When we consider the wonderful way we are made and how wonderfully nature is planned, we cannot escape God's voice in nature. God may speak to us through the beauty of nature. Also, we may recognise God through natural disasters.
6. Through the difficulties of people who need our help. For this our hearts should be sensitive to the needs of others, and we must have a compassionate and loving heart. We must make ourselves available for such needs. Sometimes God may call us for a specific vocation.

Reasons for not being able to hear Gods voice:

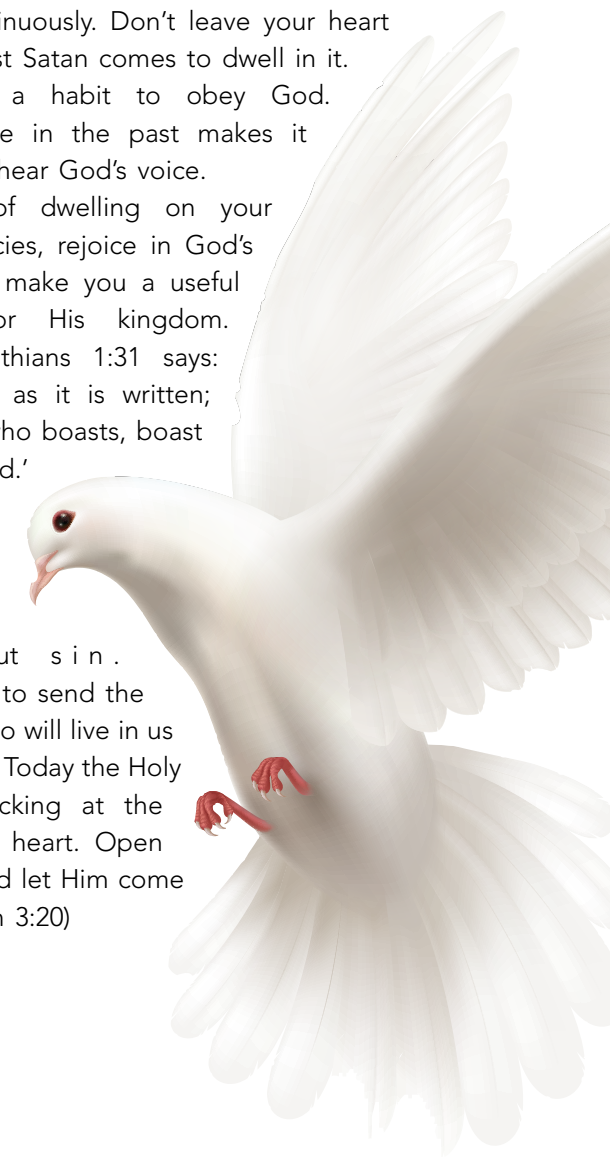
1. Involvement in worldly matters. We may not leave any space for God to speak to us.
2. Holding a grudge against a person.
3. The wickedness of our hearts may prevent us from listening to God's voice.

Jesus spent long hours in prayer, so that He could overcome these temptations.

What should we do to hear God's voice?

1. Commit our lives to Him.
2. Make it a habit to commune with God and consult Him. Be sensitive to His voice. If we develop a habit of tuning into His voice, it will be easier to listen to His still small voice. For this, we need to study the Scriptures and understand the person of God. Let God's Kingdom be our first priority.
3. Have a broken and contrite heart. Throw away your pride.
4. Pray continuously. Don't leave your heart empty, lest Satan comes to dwell in it.
5. Make it a habit to obey God. Obedience in the past makes it easier to hear God's voice.
6. Instead of dwelling on your inadequacies, rejoice in God's ability to make you a useful vessel for His kingdom. 1st Corinthians 1:31 says: Therefore as it is written; 'let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Jesus lived on earth in human form, yet without sin. He promised to send the Holy Spirit who will live in us and guide us. Today the Holy Spirit is knocking at the door of your heart. Open your heart and let Him come in. (Revelation 3:20)



When The Spirit Came Alive – Vijay Chandy



For most of my early life, I had a clear understanding of God the Father and Jesus the Son. In Sunday School, I was taught about their relationship, their roles, and their love for me. But when it came to the Holy Spirit, He remained a mystery, mentioned occasionally, but never explained.

That changed many years later, well into adulthood, when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Almost immediately, something unexpected happened: a sudden, intense hunger for spiritual truth. It felt as if something deep within me had awakened.

I began reading the Bible with new eyes. What once seemed like a distant collection of stories became a living voice speaking directly to me. Every page held a treasure. Each verse resonated with truth I had never noticed before.

As I engaged with Scripture, the reality of the Holy Spirit came alive. I discovered He is not a vague spiritual force but a personal, present, and active member of the Trinity - God Himself dwelling in me. The Holy Spirit teaches, convicts, comforts, and empowers. He is a gift given, not to the world at large, but to everyone who believes in Jesus.

More than merely dwelling in us, the Holy Spirit begins a work of deep transformation. He cleans us up from the inside out, aligning our hearts with God's truth and enabling us to live victoriously. Through Him, we are able to walk in freedom from bondage - not by our effort, but by His power.



Scripture tells us that we who believe are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). And with His indwelling presence, along with the Bible as God's living Word, we truly have everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We lack nothing. We are fully equipped to live abundant lives that honour God.

The truth the Holy Spirit leads us into is the person of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus Himself said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32), and, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to this freedom.

Discovery of the Holy Spirit transformed my entire faith journey. What had once been centered on church attendance and moral effort became deeply relational and Spirit-led. I began living with the powerful awareness that God was not only with me - but within me.

As believers, when we recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit, everything changes. We begin to experience joy, freedom, and power that were always meant to be part of Christian life. If we remain unaware of this truth, though sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we will live as if spiritually alone. So, if the Holy Spirit feels distant, you are encouraged to search the Scriptures again and ask Him to reveal Himself. He is waiting to be known, and when He is, our walk with God will never be the same.

Welcome, Holy Spirit

– Katherine Pearson



Welcome, Holy Spirit. Welcome into this place. Fill us with Your power; dwell within us.

Joel prophesied in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-29):

'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.'

John the Baptist prophesied:

'He who comes after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'

Jesus said:

'I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.'

Jesus also said:

'John baptised with water, but in a few days, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 1:5)

Jesus Christ is the baptiser with the Holy Spirit

He instructed His disciples to remain in the city until they were clothed with power from on high. Pentecost was the manifestation of this promised fullness. When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the house, and divided tongues as of fire appeared and rested on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance - and thus, the Church was born."

The Gifts and Anointing of the Holy Spirit

They received power, boldness, and special abilities

to perform works of God. The nine gifts are: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the gift of faith, the discerning of spirits, the working of miracles, the gift of healing, the gift of speaking in tongues, and the gift of interpretation of tongues. Some received diverse gifts, but by the same Spirit, all were baptized into the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The five-fold ministries were given to the Church - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers - to build up the body of Christ, perfect the saints, and equip them for the work of ministry. The gifts of the Spirit are dynamic in nature; they are the weapons of spiritual warfare, pulling down strongholds and setting captives free. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church of God.

The anointing was given for the building up of the body of Christ, for unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

The anointing is the same yesterday, today, and forever - for all who are far and near, from generation to generation. All gifts operate through love, and without love, they amount to nothing, for the greatest of all is love.

To receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit, drink of the Spirit of God. The Lord Jesus said, 'Come and drink of me, and utterance will be given to you.' In the last days, Jesus stood and cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. For out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.' (John 7:37-39) Jesus is coming soon for His Bride, the Church - without spot or wrinkle - dressed in white linen.

The Church and the Bride say, 'Come, Lord.'

Guide Us, O Holy Spirit

– Stanley David

St Augustine opened his eyes after a deep meditation. He thought, I sit down to write, as I do every day, and I write my thoughts as they emerge in my consciousness. Yet, when I confront this overwhelming concept of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am devoid of any guidance. I feel that I must flee from the Holy Spirit, for being so presumptuous about trying to define and contain the power of the Holy Spirit in the confines of my limited knowledge.



But, where can I go? The words of the Psalmist cried out to him in Psalm 139:7:

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there, Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me".

This then, is my most humble confession, thought St Augustine, as he gazed at the horizon into the skies. A lone seagull glided across the sky, until it faded away from his sight. He smiled as he recalled God's omnipresence and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He prayed by the precipice of the rock, and was uplifted, as he uttered and shaped the words that were to be his divine gift of the Holy Spirit:

*"Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy."*

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." – John 14:26



Come Holy Spirit, Fall Afresh On Me – Rachel Mohan



The Holy Spirit is a unique and special gift from God. In John chapter 14, Jesus in His final address to His disciples who were bewildered and apprehensive about

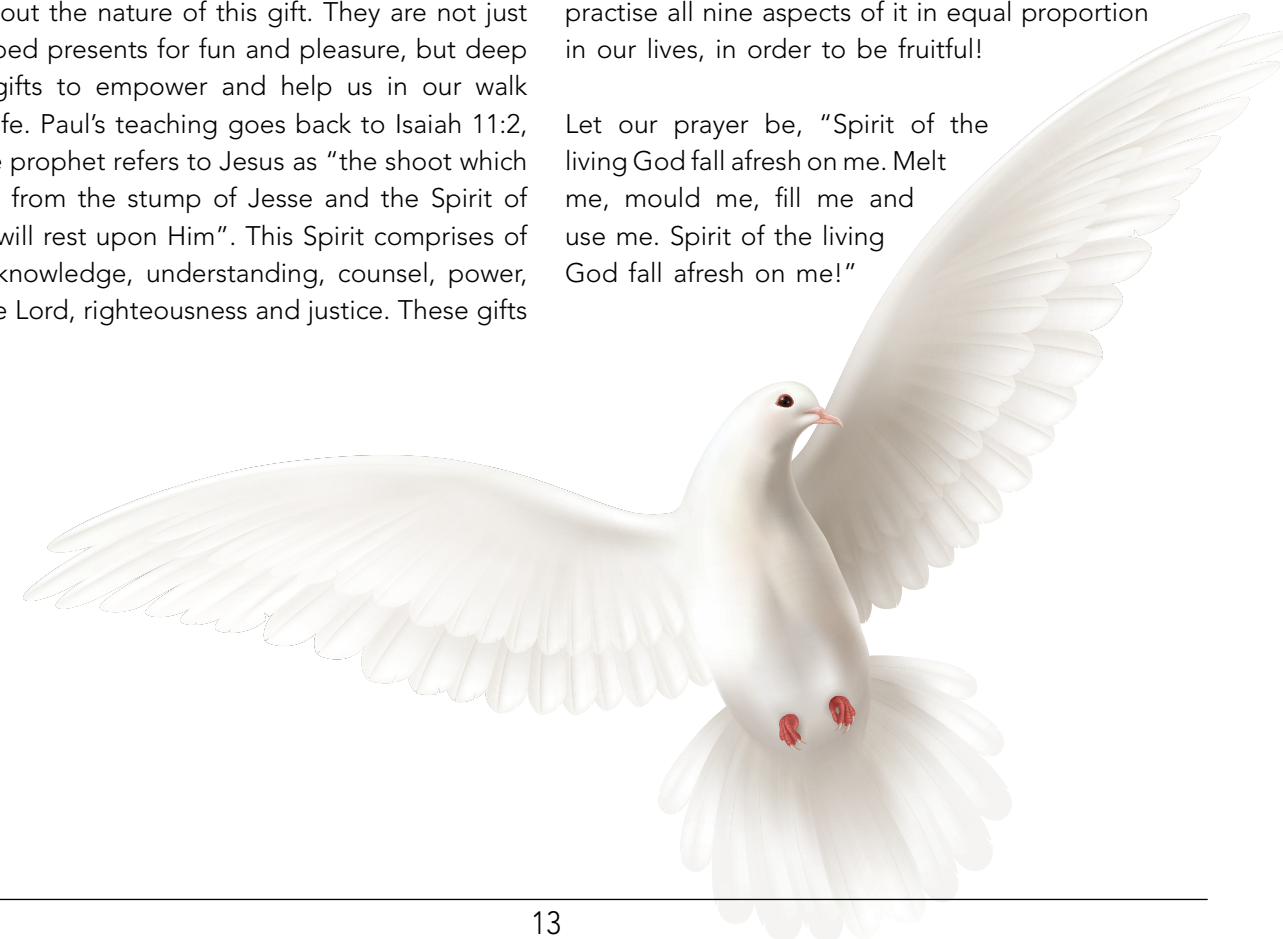
His going away, consoles them saying that He was not leaving them to face the world alone, but was providing them with a Counsellor, the Spirit of Truth, to lead, guide and comfort them at all times. In a touching gesture of reassurance He tells them, "I will not leave you as orphans". (John14:18). The same stands true for us also to this day. Who then is this Holy Spirit?

The Bible gives us two major facets of the Holy Spirit, describing them as the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, each unique and distinct, yet complementary to each other. A gift is something special we receive from someone and it comes free to us. In this respect, the Holy Spirit is a gift God has given as a token of His love for us. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul tells us clearly about the nature of this gift. They are not just gift wrapped presents for fun and pleasure, but deep spiritual gifts to empower and help us in our walk through life. Paul's teaching goes back to Isaiah 11:2, where the prophet refers to Jesus as "the shoot which will come from the stump of Jesse and the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him". This Spirit comprises of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, power, fear of the Lord, righteousness and justice. These gifts

are meant to help us lead just and holy lives, helping those in need, and doing what is right in the sight of our Lord.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit on the other hand, does not come free like gifts. It is the outcome of the way we use the gifts of the Spirit in our daily lives, and is manifested in our thoughts, words actions and interactions with the world around us, When we show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and the most important self-control in our lives, we will enjoy the fruit of our labour. Once again, it is Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, who talks about living by the Spirit". Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature", is his exhortation. Such a life will be a joy to us, a blessing to others and a witness to Christ. It is interesting to note that Paul refers to the fruit of the Spirit in singular, implying that we need to practise all nine aspects of it in equal proportion in our lives, in order to be fruitful!

Let our prayer be, "Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me. Melt me, mould me, fill me and use me. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me!"



Understanding the Holy Spirit: Our Ever-Present Comforter

– Dr Rajan Samuel

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, is always with us, guiding and strengthening us in our walk with God. Before we explore how to discern and understand the Holy Spirit, it is important to recognise how the world often portrays the concept of “spirit.” In many cultures, spirits are depicted negatively, associated with fear, superstition, and rituals.

During my time in Africa and South East Asia, I observed three common beliefs about spirits - though I do not endorse their existence:

1. Pleasing the Spirit – Some believe that spirits must be appeased through rituals. In certain months, people dedicate time and money to this practice, even burning fake paper money as an offering.
2. Seeking Guidance from Spirits – Even some Christians engage in rituals to summon spirits, hoping to gain insight into the past life and the future.
3. Death Rituals – In some traditions, death is marked by symbolic gestures, such as placing personal belongings of the deceased in the coffin. Additionally, unfulfilled dreams and wishes are sometimes represented by miniature forms of houses, cars, or other significant items placed near the coffin.

However, as Christians, we



hold a different truth: God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is always with us. The Holy Spirit is not a force to be feared or manipulated but a divine presence that comforts, teaches, corrects us and leads us in truth.

Here are four Bible references that affirm the Holy Spirit as our Comforter:

- **John 14:16** – “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”
- **John 14:26** – “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
- **Romans 8:26** – “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles.”

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to face the challenges of today. May these verses remind us that the Holy Spirit is not distant, but ever-present, offering peace, wisdom, and strength in every season of life.



Kindness: A Fruit Of The Spirit, A Way Of Life

– Anu Elisha



Jesus was and is the ultimate embodiment, the supreme example of kindness. It was apparent in everything that He did - when He preached to the people, when He healed the sick, and when He walked with His disciples. Even His suffering on the cross didn't dim His innate kindness. He ensured that Mary, His mother would be well taken care of. He even asked God to forgive the very ones who crucified Him.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.” - Matthew 5:14

We are called by God to be the light of the world, to follow the example set by His beloved Son Jesus, to reflect His glory in the good works that we do.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32

Let's:

- Make kindness the lifestyle of our choice, our way of life.
- Be true to the well-known phrase, “Above all, be kind”.
- Be that beacon that shines brightly for Jesus, in a world that desperately needs kindness.
- Pick the narrow path of kindness which He trod, and thus, let it be apparent that we belong to Him, and Him alone.

Let's surrender to Jesus, and grow this fruit of the Spirit - KINDNESS.



“Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”

– Ephesians 5:19

The Fruit Of The Spirit

– Hephziba Paul



When building a home, we take careful thought and lots of “perspiration” to build the foundation correctly, allow for proper drainage, insulate well, build the framing straight and strong. All of that has to be done before the interiors are done, with careful thought and lots of “inspiration” in the myriad finishing and decorating decisions that make a house a “pleasurable” dwelling. During the entire process we have to prioritise constantly to make sure that the home would represent the best use of the resources.

In the book of Haggai, the returned exiles were called to rebuild the house of the Lord - the temple, which lay in ruins while they were scrambling to build their own houses. In Haggai 1:7, the Lord Almighty says, “Give careful thought to your ways”. Careful thought - God repeats the phrase three times in this book. Call them to put the Lord first, so that He can bless them with the harvest of fruitfulness.

As New Testament people, we no longer build a temple for the Lord. Christ dwells, not in a temple of stone, but in the lives of His people - lives dedicated for His use, and we are to build a life that He may take pleasure in it and be honoured (Haggai 1:8).

It takes careful thought to build a life foundation on God’s word. It takes careful thought to frame a life with prayer. It takes constant prioritising to seek first His kingdom. (Mathew 6:33) when so many temptations and decisions confront us. But the rewards are worth all the work because we provide the “perspiration” to build carefully.

Jesus Christ provides the “inspiration”. He comes to dwell with us. He decorates our lives with joy, His spirit paints our rooms with the colours of peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. He makes our homes warm and hospitable, rather than just empty shelves.

And when we build lives for Him, He promises that He will someday return the favour. While we are building homes for Jesus Christ, He is busy preparing a room for each of us in His Father’s house. (John 1 4:2)



The Holy Spirit: Our Power And Guidance

– Dr A Stephen



The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is central to Christianity, though Roman Catholic (RC), Eastern Orthodox (EO), and Protestant Church (PC) traditions emphasise different aspects. All affirm the Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity - fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. However, they differ on the Spirit’s procession: RC and most PC traditions teach that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (Filioque), while EO holds that the Spirit proceeds from the Father alone, rejecting the Filioque clause added to the Nicene Creed - a key point of theological division. Within Protestantism, the understanding of the Holy Spirit is diverse, but central themes unite its expressions. The Spirit is seen as the power of God at work in believers’ lives and as the guide for Christian living and mission.

Key Functions of the Holy Spirit

1. Power for Salvation (Regeneration):

The Spirit convicts people of sin (John 16:8), awakens faith, and brings spiritual rebirth - being “born again” (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5). This regeneration enables a person to respond to the Gospel.

2. Power for Transformation (Sanctification):

The Spirit sanctifies believers, helping them grow in holiness and reflect Christ’s image (2 Corinthians 3:18). He produces the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23), leading to a life of righteousness.

3. Power of Illumination:

The Spirit guides believers in understanding Scripture. Upholding the principle of sola scriptura, Protestants believe the Spirit enables every believer, not just clergy, to grasp biblical truths.

4. Power of Indwelling and Fellowship:

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, forming a personal connection with God and interconnecting all believers into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).

5. Power for Ministry and Mission:

The Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4) and empowers believers for service, leaders, teaching, and evangelism. As Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit as Our Guidance

The Spirit also acts as our guide in various dimensions of life:

Truth: He is the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13), leading believers into sound doctrine and guarding against false teaching.

Decision-Making: Like in the early Church (Acts 13:2-4), the Spirit leads through prayer, Scripture, and inner conviction.

Prayer: The Spirit intercedes for believers, especially when they struggle to pray (Romans 8:26-27).

Living in the Spirit

Believers are called to live Spirit-filled lives by:

- Being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18): an ongoing posture of surrender.
- Walking by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16): submitting daily choices to His guidance.
- Not grieving the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30): avoiding sin and disobedience.

At the end of the day, the Holy Spirit not only empowers people, but also unifies the Church, grows the body of Christ, and furthers God’s mission in the world. The Spirit is active and at work, preaching, directing, using spiritual gifts, transforming lives, and moving the Church toward what God has in store.

The Great Feast Of The Holy Ghost: Whitsunday – Asha Elisha

"Pentecost Sunday may be considered the birthday of the church as it marks the decisive moment in God's season of redemption when the Holy Spirit collided full force with the hearts of all those who believed in Jesus, creating the new community of God."

- Geoff Little

In traditional Anglicanism, the great Feast of the Holy Ghost, Pentecost, is usually referred to by its ancient name, Whitsunday, so named because on this day, in celebration of the gift of that birth from above conveyed by the Holy Spirit in the font of Baptism, candidates would receive the laver of regeneration attired in white clothing.

(Source: www.stmichaelsanglican.org)

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Pentecost. In the English Church it has always been called Whitsunday - White Sunday, because of the white garments worn by those who were traditionally baptised on this day. Pentecost means the fiftieth day. And for the Jews it marked the day on which God gave Moses the Ten Commandments - fifty days after the Exodus from Egypt.

For on the first Pentecost or Whitsunday, the Holy Ghost descended out of the heart of the Ascended Christ and into the community of the Apostles vesting and mantling them with the spiritual gifts that would mark the new union and

communion with God the Father that Christ tailors and fashions out of the hearts and souls of true believers.

Today, Holy Spirit, with humble joy we receive You with open arms, even as You have been freely given by the Father and the Son.

Almighty God, on this day, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, You revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation: Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the

Gospel Your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Note: A compilation of thoughts, sourced from the Internet



The Fruit Of The Spirit

– Gem Easter Raj



Evergreen Spiritual Life

Spiritual life is like an evergreen tree, flourishing in every season. As the psalmist says, it is like a tree planted by streams of water, evergreen and fruitful. The Word of the Lord revives the soul, and those who meditate on it day and night bear lasting fruit, preparing their souls for eternity. A life renewed by the Spirit of God is true spiritual life.

Fruit-Bearing Christian Life

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." The Christian life thrives only through connection with Christ. Just as a branch draws nourishment from the vine, believers grow spiritually and reflect Christ's character. Their actions testify to His presence within them.

Spiritual Transformation

The redeemed are being transformed into Christ's likeness. The Holy Spirit renews the heart, mind, character, and relationships, shaping them in the image of Christ. This ongoing renewal transforms both the inner character and the outward behaviour.

Life-Giving Fruit and Seed

The Holy Spirit produces fruit that reveals divine character and integrity. This fruit carries seeds of life, nurturing future generations. Without the Spirit's renewal, the fruit of the soul is lifeless, like seedless fruit. True spiritual fruit fosters growth, glorifies God, and is manifested in virtues and good works that contribute to the harvest of souls.

The Fruits of the Spirit

Love is the first and greatest fruit, a powerful force that establishes God's Kingdom. The Holy Spirit fills hearts with God's love, enabling believers to love others. The

fruit of the soul draws others to Christ, creating love-centered relationships across the world.

Joy is the fullness of heart experienced by a redeemed soul. Heaven rejoices when a sinner is saved. Soul-winning multiplies that joy.

Peace It is secured by Christ's sacrifice, brings harmony, well-being, and courage. It enables believers to maintain cordial, peaceful relationships that promote peace in the world.

Long-suffering teaches patience in the midst of trials and endurance through hardships without bitterness.

Kindness is compassion in action, empathising with others and stepping out of one's comfort zone to help them.

Virtue reflects a life marked by generosity, honesty, integrity, and a servant's heart, setting an example for others.

Faith involves holding firmly to the truth, maintaining a clear conscience, and bringing joy through acts of encouragement.

Meekness is not human weakness, but God's strength to overcome the flesh, the world, and Satan. Jesus Himself exemplified meekness.

Self-control, a mightier battle than conquering foes, rules over the mind and tames the desires within.

Reflection:

If you have love, you will not fight.

If you are joyful, you won't harbor anger.

If you possess peace, there will be harmony.

If you practice long-suffering, you won't lose your temper easily.

If you have virtue, you will stand firm in the truth.

If you hold faith, you will remain steadfast.

If you are gentle, you will speak kindly.

If you exercise self-control, you will wisely govern your body and desires.

"For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit." – 1 Corinthians 14:2

Hearing The Voice Of The Spirit – Dr Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh

Bible Texts: Psalm 37; Ezekiel 36:26-28; John 14; Romans 8: 26 27

Introduction: The Holy Spirit communicates with us and ministers to us every day, in amazing ways. The Holy Spirit responds to us when we pray, "Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You. Glorify Your name in all the earth. Holy Spirit speak Lord, we want to hear Your voice". Praise be to the Holy Spirit.

The Desire: We have the desire to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit daily, in all circumstances. As we continue to delight in God daily, the Holy Spirit grants us the desires of each one's heart. We hear the voice of the Spirit in varied ways. We hear directly, through every aspect of Sunday worship service, through YouTube-video messages-WhatsApp Messages-Facebook-emails-Instagram, through the nature -daily TV National and Global News/Happenings, as well as through our interaction with people in the Family, Church and Society.

Hearing the Voice of The Spirit and Obeying: We are able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit when we continue to sustain our personal relationship with the Triune God through **PRAYER** - adoration, thanksgiving, repentance, confession of sins and receiving God's forgiveness. We hear the Voice of the Spirit through the **BIBLE...** when we read, study and meditate/reflect on God's Word. Also, when we read a daily **DEVOTIONAL** Message (eg, Our Daily Bread. Upper Room, etc). We hear the Voice of the Spirit when we spend **time with God**, listening to the

promptings of the Spirit that we can feel in our heart, mind and emotions.

God enables us to discern the Spirit's Voice. We trust God to lead and direct us to make the right choices and decisions, every day. God expects us to spend time with the Spirit asking, seeking and knocking. The guidance of the Holy Spirit may be totally contradictory to our thoughts and plan of action. Listening to the Voice of the Spirit and obeying will bring blessings to us even in the midst of struggles and challenges.

Let us consider the Voice of the Spirit in the context of a Christian Marriage. Parents prayed much for the marriage of their son and daughter. Lo and behold, the Holy Spirit arranged the marriage through a Presbyter. The parents of the Bride to be, wanted to know the expectations of the parents of the Bridegroom to be. In response, his parents said, "The Holy Spirit has spoken to us NOT to demand anything from you. We are thankful to God for your Daughter. We will celebrate these two young adults coming together in Holy Matrimony. Please let us share the wedding expenses. May God bless us all". Thanks to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Thanks also to the Parents' willingness to listen to the Spirit's promptings and obey.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, thanks for filling our hearts anew daily. Help us to hear Your voice and obey You. Amen.



Pentecost – George Philips G

Pentecost: The Birth of the Church

Pentecost is a significant Christian festival celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles following Jesus' ascension. This event marks the birth of the Church and the beginning of its mission to spread the Christian message worldwide.

The Holy Spirit: The Third Person of the Trinity

In Christian theology, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Holy Spirit is often described as a Comforter, Guide, and Counsellor who empowers believers, bestows spiritual gifts, and leads them into all truth.

"Come, Holy Spirit, Set Us Free"

The Holy Spirit brings freedom from sin, fear, and condemnation, enabling believers to live fully in God's freedom. As stated in 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom".

Hearing the Voice of the Spirit

Discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit involves recognizing God's guidance in daily life. This can manifest as inner thoughts, feelings, impressions, or a sense of peace. Jesus said, "But when He, the Spirit

of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come".

The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22-23, refers to nine attributes produced in a person's life by the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities reflect God's character and are the result of the Holy Spirit's work in believers' lives.

Promise of the Holy Spirit

The promise of the Holy Spirit was foretold by Old Testament prophets and fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. This promise assures believers of God's guidance, teaching, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit: Our Power and Guidance

The Holy Spirit is God's presence and power, guiding and empowering believers. He provides spiritual gifts, reveals God's truth, and helps believers live lives pleasing to God. Through prayer, Scripture, and circumstances, the Holy Spirit offers insights and direction, leading believers in God's will.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom...



Towers To Tongues: A Journey From Confusion To Clarity – Emmanuel David



Reflecting on Pentecost, my thoughts turned to Babel, where men ambitiously wished to build a city with a tower reaching the heavens, aiming to “make a name for ourselves” (Genesis 11:4). Their motive - driven by pride and greed - led to failure; the tower was never completed, and God confused their languages, causing misunderstanding, division, and dispersal.

The name Babel, from the Hebrew root meaning “to confuse” or “jumble,” reflects the chaos that ensued. So when spoke to each other, they could not understand each other. Because of the lack of understanding, they dispersed and could not accomplish their goal. Babel stands as an example: when our ambition is to glorify ourselves, it results in confusion and failure.

Contrast this with Pentecost, which occurred fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection. The term Pentecost, rooted in the Greek pentēkostē meaning “fiftieth,” marks the moment the disciples, gathered in prayer, received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Tongues of fire descended, and they spoke in languages understood by all present - Parthians, Medes, Cretans, Arabs, and more.

Unlike Babel’s self-serving ambition, the disciples sought to fulfil God’s will in humility. At Babel, men tried to ascend

to heaven through a physical structure; at Pentecost, heaven came down to humanity. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples, enabling clear communication and unity, as diverse peoples understood the wonders of God in their own tongues.

Babel symbolises human pride leading to division, while Pentecost reveals divine empowerment fostering unity. As we ponder these events, we might ask ourselves: Are we building towers of pride, seeking our own glory, or are we, like the disciples, humbly seeking God’s will, ready to receive His Spirit? In a world often marked by division, Pentecost invites us to reflect - how can we embody the unity and understanding God desires, ensuring we do His will, on earth as it is in heaven?



Pentecost: Birth Of The Church – Stephen Azariah



Pentecost celebrates the coming of The Holy Spirit and occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Easter is a season when Christians celebrate Jesus’s victory over death. Resurrection to New Life and Ascension into Heaven and giving of The Spirit, specifically The Holy Spirit.

The word was no longer meant just for Jerusalem but intended to spread to the ends of the earth and made them disciples

Who is The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is The Third person of The Trinity along with God The Father and Jesus The Son. The Holy Spirit is the love poured out for us from The Father and The Son.

Pentecost reminds us of this Love; it concludes the season of Easter and is known as the Birthday of The Church.

At Pentecost The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles who were lonely and afraid after Jesus left them. It was not only a reminder Jesus would always be with them, It emboldened them with a strength beyond themselves to continue Jesus’s Work of building God’s Kingdom on earth , it gave them courage, and spiritual gifts like speaking in new languages equipping them to **share the Gospel to the ends of the earth**



Traditionally, Catholics used to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, a sacred rite that strengthens and deepens one’s relationship with God. Through this sacrament, the individual is **empowered by the Holy Spirit** and receives the **Seven Gifts of the Spirit**, which are:

1. Wisdom
 2. Courage
 3. Guidance
 4. Knowledge
 5. Piety
 6. Understanding
 7. Fear of The Lord
- The Holy Spirit is the very breath of Life within us.

If you desire The Holy Spirit! ask The Holy Spirit! Come into me and kindle the fire of faith within me.

Faith And Fruit – R. Excelicia Cunville

The fifth chapter of the letter to the Galatians is usually affiliated with the fruits of the Spirit. But the preceding verses to that passage, starting with the first verse of this chapter talks about being bound to the law. The apostle writing this letter fervently requests the believers of Galatia not to yield to this “yoke of slavery” as put by the Amplified Version.

And ‘law’ here is nothing but the rules and regulations in the Old Testament, including circumcision and the Mosaic Law. God gave these to the Israelites in order for them to uphold His covenant with them.

So why is it decried here? The Apostle explains then, that the promised Messiah is all we need for redemption and righteousness. And he emphasises this by saying that if people still cling to the circumcision and other rituals for salvation, “Christ will be of no profit (advantage, avail)” to them. Why? Because by sticking to these rules they show that they trust the outward rituals more than they trust Him. If they want to strive to do good works and show their righteousness by upholding and binding themselves to the law that has already been broken and triumphed over by Christ, then the loss is theirs. By holding on to outward traditions, rituals, rites, piety they

actually sever themselves from Him who had already come to the world, was punished for our sins, crucified, died, buried and is risen!

So if we live in the age of the risen Lord, we should not be tied to and bound by the law and all its outward manifestations. Instead we should be led by the Holy Spirit who is here to guide and help us.

Then we do not have to try to do good, or give an ostentatious display of our good works because when we are led by Him we emanate “love, joy, peace, patience (an even temper), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control...” which are the fruits of the Spirit and to which no one can object.

How many of us show love and kindness without patronising, to a stranger in our midst? Or who comes to church for the first time? I believe that if we show friendliness and good disposition to all - irrespective of whether they are from our church or not, whether they are Christians or not, we can bring more people to the love and mercy of Jesus. With the Holy Spirit leading us we can conquer all strife, jealousies, divisions, anger amongst ourselves and be a light to others.



Are Tongues And Miracles Today Biblical? – P Paulraj

Here are some “remarkable” Biblical facts. Examples of spiritual gifts as told in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Romans 12:4-8 and Ephesians 4:7-13 are wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Cessationists and continuationists are two main groups among Christians today. Cessationists believe that certain miraculous gifts, such as healing, prophecy and tongues have ceased with the death of the apostles, or the completion of the New Testament canon. Cessationists say that though God does perform miracles today, the Holy Spirit no longer uses individuals to perform miraculous signs, “AS EXISTED IN THE FIRST CENTURY DURING CHRIST’S AND APOSTLE’S TIME.” Continuationists believe that these gifts remain active and available to the church today.

Miracles occurred during different periods for specific purposes in different ways. The Red Sea parting in Exodus 14, Moses changing his staff into a serpent and his hand becoming leprous (Exodus 4:1-8), Elijah stopping rains and God answering through fire (1 Kings 17:1; 18:24) and some of the miracles the apostles did in the first century do not happen at all these days. During offertory time in churches these days, couples do not fall dead as happened with Ananias and Sapphira. Dead bodies rotten and decayed for four days do not get raised up as happened with Lazarus. After the first century during Jesus and the Apostles’ time, such miracles have ceased.

Speaking in tongues has references in Acts 2:3-11, foretold in Isaiah 28:11 and Mark 16:17, and also in Acts 10:46, Acts 19:1-7, 1 Corinthians 12:9-10, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 1 Corinthians 13:8, 1 Corinthians 14:2-28, 1 Corinthians 14:39-40, and Romans 8:26. “We hear

them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God” says, Acts 2:11. The Greek word translated tongues literally means “languages”. Therefore, the gift of tongues is speaking in a language a person does not know in order to minister to someone who does speak that language.

Biblically, while speaking in tongues others hear them in their own language, and it is useless, unless it is interpreted. “For this reason, anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says”. (1 Corinthians 14:13) “But in the church, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue”. (1 Corinthians 14:19) Also, 1 Corinthians 13:8 mentions the gift of tongues ceasing. 1 Corinthians 14:27-28 says, “If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.” 1 Corinthians 14:22 describes tongues as a “sign to unbelievers,” and 1 Corinthians 14:33 reiterates, “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

In 1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1, we are instructed to pursue love, the greatest gift of all. While God can and still does perform miracles today, the Holy Spirit no longer uses individuals to perform miraculous signs, as existed in the first century during Christ’s and the Apostles’ time.

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”. (John 20:29)

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”. (Romans 10:17)



To God The Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

– Grace Vinaya Vinodkumar



St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (1:13-14) tells us that when an individual believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, they are “sealed” with the promised Holy Spirit:

“When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1: 13-14, HCSB)

What does it mean to be “sealed”? In general, it means that something has been “made definite” so that it cannot be “changed or argued about.” In contrast, the sealing referred to in this Biblical text indicates four essential aspects. The first aspect, security, refers to the Holy Spirit marking each believer with His own unbreakable seal so that nothing can be changed in regard to him/her. The second aspect, authenticity, signifies that a believer belongs to God and is a valid citizen of His Divine Kingdom and a part of His Divine Family. Next, ownership indicates that we are now God’s divine property, who belong entirely and eternally to Him from that moment. Lastly, the aspect of authority shows that believers after they are sealed with the Holy Spirit are God’s delegates to declare, impart, minister, and safeguard His Word and His gospel with His own authorization.

No wonder many hymn writers have written to extol the Holy Spirit. One of these was Martin Luther, the

great Reformer. He extended a stanza quoted in a sermon by Berthold of Regensburg which dated back nearly to the 1200s into a four-stanza hymn. In 1524, this hymn was published as Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist (literally, we only ask the Holy Spirit).

“To God the Holy Spirit let us pray”

*To God the Holy Spirit let us pray
Most of all for faith upon our way
That He may defend us when life is ending
And from exile home we are wending.
Lord, have mercy!*

*O sweetest Love, Your grace on us bestow;
Set our hearts with sacred fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Every stranger, sister, and brother.
Lord, have mercy!*

*Transcendent Comfort in our every need,
Help us neither scorn nor death to heed
That we may not falter nor courage fail us
When the foe shall taunt and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!*

*Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light;
Teach us Jesus Christ to know aright
That we may abide in the Lord who bought us,
Till to our true home He has brought us.
Lord, have mercy!*

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The Holy Spirit: Our Power And Guidance

– Shanthi Premkumar



When we think of the Holy Spirit, we may picture a mysterious, supernatural force, often linked with VISIONS, tongues or miracles. But what if the Spirit was never meant to dazzle us, but to empower us, guide us and unite us in the mission of serving one another?

In the earliest Christian movement, the Holy Spirit was not a supernatural idea. It was a day-to-day experience. The Spirit was understood as the breath of God and not something magical, but something humane. When Jesus spoke of the Spirit, He did not say it would make people “feel spiritual” but it would make them bold witnesses, agents of love, truth and justice.

In John 14, Jesus calls the Spirit as a helper, comforter and advocate. That means the Spirit is not forcing us to feel special or privileged, but guiding us into truth, helping us speak when we feel voiceless and giving us clarity when we are lost. (John 14: 16,26)

Let us look at the early disciples. They were untrained, fearful, ordinary people. Yet after

experiencing the Spirit they became courageous, generous and radically inclusive. They sold their possessions to care for the poor, they broke social barriers, they started to empower others. (Acts 2: 44 & 45)

The Spirit empowers us in our decisions to forgive, to stand up against injustice, to include the out caste, to build something that serves, not exploits.

So when we talk about the Holy Spirit today, let us not reduce it to emotional experiences, or a symbol of a chosen one. Let us return to what Jesus intended: the Spirit as a living presence with us, calling us to live His Kingdom Vision, where the poor are lifted, the broken healed, and love triumphs over power.



Bible Word Puzzle – Dr Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh

The fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5: 22-23

Please let us enjoy this puzzle as a family and close with siniging the chorus Galatians 5: 22-23. May the holy spirit help us to lead a spirit filled life. Amen.

Please read Galatians 5: 22-23. Mark each part of the fruit of the spirit in this word puzzle. It should match with the chorus below

B U T L O V E T H E J O Y
F R U I T P E A C E O I S
K I N D N E S S A Y L O H
S P I R I T M E E K N E S S
O H F A I T H F U L N E S S
N E S S E L T N E G D A Y S
T E M P E R A N C E A N D
G N I R E F F U S G N O L
G L O R Y T O G O D N O W

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE JOY AND PEACE (2). KINDNESS AND MEELKNESS. FAITHFULNES
AND GENTLENESS. TEMEPRANCE LONG SUFFERING AND LOVE JOY AND PEACE

Biblical Brain Teasers

– Kalyani Pearson

1. In what city did Philip live?

2. Where was the first miracle that Jesus performed?

3. When did Christ put spittle on a man's eyes?

4. How large was the lad's lunch which Christ used to feed 5000?

5. When did Jesus say that He was the Resurrection?

6. Who was Peter's brother?

7. Who said, 'Thou shall never wash my feet'?

8. Who was called the Lamb of God' and who called Him that?

9. What was the Upper Room?
10. Who was the first Christian martyr and how was he killed?

11. Who said, "Almost thou persuadeth me to be a Christian."

12. In what city were the followers of Christ first called Christians?

13. Who in Europe was the first to become a Christian?

14. Who was called an Evangelist?

15. Who calmed the riot at a theatre?



10. Stephen was the first Christian martyr and they stoned him to death. (Acts 7:59)

11. King Agrippa said it to Paul. (Acts 26:27)

12. The disciples were called Christians in ANTIOCH. Here, they assembled themselves with the church and taught much people for almost one year. (Acts 11:26)

13. Lydia of the city of Thyatira. (Acts 16:14-16)

14. Phillip of Caesarea was called as an Evangelist. (Acts 21:8)

15. The town clerk of the city of Ephesus. (Acts 19:35)
1. Phillip lived in a city called Bethesda. (John 1:44)

2. At a marriage in Cana of Galilee. (John 2:1-11)

3. It is during the day, He put the spittle on a blind man's eyes. (John 9:6)

4. It had 5 barley loaves and 2 small fishes. (John 6:9)

5. When Martha tells Him that she knows that He shall rise again in the Resurrection at the last day. (John 11:25)

6. Andrew (John 1:40)

7. Peter (John 13:8)

8. Jesus is called the Lamb of God by John. (John 1:29)

9. It is the upper residing room, where the disciples and others prayed with one accord. (Acts 1:13)

Answers

Come Holy Spirit, Set Us Free

– Rev Dr Moses Jayakumar

The theme for our meditation for the Festival of the Pentecost, is 'Come Holy Spirit Set Us Free' and the gospel passage is the most popular Nazareth Manifesto from Luke. In this passage, Jesus refers to freedom for the prisoners, recovery to the blind and freedom to those who are oppressed. While reading this quotation from the prophet Isaiah, He declared that this prophecy is fulfilled today in your hearing, meaning that He had been anointed by the Spirit to carry out this ministry of setting people free. During His ministry, He gave freedom to many - sick, blind, lame and also those possessed with the evil spirits.

As we focus on the subject of being set free by the Holy Spirit, I wish to draw your attention to an important subject where Jesus pronounced liberation from the traditional practices. It is not a miracle story, but a teaching that proclaims freedom to the true worshippers. That subject is Worship, and the relevant passage is from John 4th chapter. The story describes the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. I wish to underline verse 21, "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."

Considering the limitation of space, I will not elaborate on the whole event, but will go to the immediate context. During the conversation with Jesus the woman realised that the person talking to her is not an ordinary Jew, but someone with divine qualities. She could infer this when Jesus pointed out the true moral and family condition in which she lived. The woman was very uncomfortable with the probing statements made by Jesus, and with great ease turned the subject of conversation from personal life to religion, particularly the practice of worship. She placed before Jesus the prevailing practice of worshipping God in the mountains.

The Jews worshipped in Jerusalem and the Samaritans worshipped on the Mount Gerizim. In His reply, Jesus proclaimed that God is not confined to any particular place, but He is Spirit and is present everywhere. The people, the devotees, the followers, the believers need not go in search of God to any place considered as holy, but the Holy God has made Himself available to everyone without any sort of discrimination. There will not be any claim on the locations either by the Jews or the Samaritans, because the difference will no longer exist.

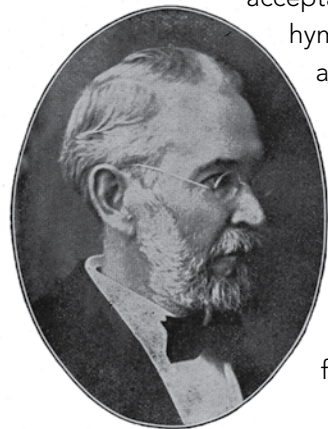
God is available to persons from every community and nation. It is an act of setting free those who were made to feel that they were inferior before the eyes of God because of certain religious stipulations. The Samaritans who were considered as impure people by the Jews can also worship the same God, worshipped by the Jews. It was also an act of setting the Jews free from their pride and feeling of superiority, only based on the place of worship, but not on the nature of worship.

The woman appeared on the scene as a lonely person, full of fear and shame, to be exposed to the public because of her questionable status in life. Through this encounter, she received the greatest message of spiritual awakening, and in turn she became a channel of blessing for the whole community. That was a sign of great freedom in her life and through her, to the whole village. We see Jesus, the anointed by the Holy Spirit, identifying with an oppressed community and setting them free, through the transformative experience of an individual, a woman, who faced social and religious discrimination. God is Spirit and is present in and around us. May the Holy Spirit set us free from our blindness, ignorance and unwillingness to learn that God is not confined to the boundaries that we have erected, but is present in the most unexpected places.

The Holy Spirit, A Blessing – Count Your Blessings – Dr A Stephen

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:” – Psalm 103:1-2

Count Your Blessings is a beloved 1897 hymn by Johnson Oatman Jr., with music by Edwin O. Excell. Oatman was a Methodist minister, author, and writer of a hefty number of hymns who wanted to spur Christians on to be grateful and count their blessings instead of focusing on the difficulties of life. Excell put a happy and encouraging tune to the hymn, which has contributed to the hymn gaining widespread acceptance in churches. The



hymn was composed during a time of difficulty for the U.S., both economically and socially. The famous words in the chorus of the hymn, “Count your blessings, name them one by one”, encourage believers to evaluate God’s faithfulness. While it may not mention the Holy Spirit specifically, this article comes very close to communicating the message of the Spirit of God regarding recognising the goodness of God and being thankful (Ephesians 5:18-20); identifying joy in all circumstances. The Holy Spirit comforts and reminds us of the blessing of God and, therefore, turns our trials into testimonies. Through the Spirit’s work, “Count Your Blessings” inspires hearts toward gratitude, hope, and worship.

The hymn echoes several biblical themes outlined in the following verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 103:2 and Philippians 4:6-7. One of the Holy Spirit’s key roles is to open our spiritual eyes to recognise God’s grace at work. Without the Spirit, we can become blind to God’s blessings, focusing only on hardships or what we lack.

“Count your many blessings, name them one by one...” This act of spiritual mindfulness is guided by the Holy Spirit, who brings to our remembrance all that God has done (John 14:26).

Gratitude is not just a feeling but a fruit of a Spirit-filled life. The Spirit helps us cultivate joy and thanksgiving even in difficulty (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:18-20). When the hymn says:

“And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done,” It reflects the Spirit’s gentle working of turning our hearts from complaining to giving praise.

In times of discouragement, the Holy Spirit gives us comfort and reminds us of the nature of God. He bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16). He reassures us that God will continue providing for us and looking after us.

Just as the hymn urges believers to reflect on God’s past faithfulness, the Spirit helps us remember and trust in God’s promises for the future.

The hymn speaks directly to the reality of suffering: “When upon life’s billows you are tempest-tossed...” The Spirit empowers us to see how even trials can be used for our growth and God’s glory (Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4).

“Count Your Blessings” is more than a cheerful song; it is a Spirit-led call to gratitude. One can recognise, remember, and rejoice in God’s daily mercies through the Holy Spirit’s work. In a world of worry and want, the Spirit empowers us to live with thankful hearts and hopeful faith.

Source: Internet

Come Holy Spirit And Free Us

– Dr Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh

Bible Texts: Genesis 1:2; St. Luke 3:21-22. St John 3:5; Acts 1: 8; 1st Corinthians 2:13, Ephesians 4:30, etc.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons in the Triune Godhead -God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In the Godhead or the Holy Trinity, we see love, respect, unity, understanding, equality, humility, mutual sharing-caring-concern-trust earnestness, endurance, affirmation, interdependence, power and reciprocity. The Holy Spirit is affirmed in the Bible - God’s Word. The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament. To cite a few examples from the Old Testament - Job 26:13, Psalm 104:30, Isaiah 32:15 and Ezekiel 36:26. Likewise, a few examples from the New Testament - St Matthew 3:11, St John 14:26, Acts 2:1-4 and Romans 8:9.

Significance of the Holy Spirit: The significance of the Holy Spirit is seen in the story of creation as described in Genesis 1: 2 and in other references, too, as cited above.

The Holy Spirit is often referred to as a dove. According to the Gospel writer, St. Luke 3:21-22, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus Christ, in the form of a dove. God declared that Jesus Christ as God’s beloved Son. God was pleased in Jesus Christ- and at the beginning of His ministry the Holy Spirit empowered the second person in the Holy Trinity. This person- is the only Redeemer of the world who fulfilled God’s Mission- declaring, “I AM THE WAY- THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE”. The Lord Jesus Christ accepted the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit with love and humility. What a beautiful example for us to emulate today in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit and free us now; we cry unto the Spirit of the living God to fall afresh on us, as often as possible. We even sing unto the Spirit to break us, melt us, mould us, fill us, free us and use us for God’s glory, as well as for the expansion of God’s Kingdom, alone. We need the Holy Spirit every moment, every day, every week, every month, every year and all through our life’s journey. The Holy Spirit alone is able to set us free from negativity, selfish ambitions, arrogance, pride, party spirit, unfaithfulness, unforgiveness, resentment, hatred, envy, mistrust, misunderstandings etc that become barriers to lead a Spirit-led and Spirit-filled life.



Salome, the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John was an ambitious woman. She was the aunt of Jesus Christ. When the Lord refused to consider her selfish request to give a prominent position to her two sons, she accepted the correction and understood the concept of service first and position next.

She embraced the Lord’s ministry extended to her. Today, when we allow the Holy Spirit to free us from wrong attitudes, unkind thoughts, selfish ambition, destructive action plans and deeds that are not pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit delights in us and delivers us from all forms of evils. We begin to realise that we have sinned against God and one another, as well as come short of the glory of God. We repent and confess our sins to the Lord as well as to one another. God forgives us and sets us free from all unrighteousness. To God be the glory. Amen.

The Holy Spirit: Our Power And Guidance – Hephziba Paul

*Spirit of the living God,
Surround my dreary world today
and set my feet to dancing.
The silent song of days gone grey
A heart, that's heavy laden
won't have the last, final say.
I know a song of dancing leaves,
They swell and twirl despite the grey.
Spirit of the living, God
Set my feet to dancing.*

I am convinced that God's Holy Spirit orchestrates our lives to touch others, strangers, friends, work related people, service industry, workers, and more if we would just open up and be ourselves.

How? Be free to be in love with Jesus in front of people be Ambassadors through whom He can introduce Himself.

There is a world out there, hungry and searching for Jesus and His love. Don't keep Him to yourself.

Would you reject a friendly caring individual, especially if you happen to be needy, hurting, lonely, dissatisfied with life or actually searching for God?



House Groups Pentecost Sunday Musical Evening – “Come, Holy Spirit, Set Us Free”



"So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." - 1 Corinthians 14:12



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