

THE HOLY SPIRIT

**10 DAY
PRAYER
& FASTING
DEVOTIONAL**



**DAY 1
THURSDAY
30TH MAY**

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Taken from a message by Billy Graham:

Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to understand the Bible, Christian living, the church or our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is not an “it” but He is a person - He is not something but a Someone, He is God. The Holy Spirit comes to live within us when we accept Christ & helps us grow closer to God. He teaches us & takes us deeper into God’s truth. The Holy Spirit is called ‘holy’ & one of His ministries is to help make us holy - to become more like Christ.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, & of righteousness, & of judgment” (John 16:8). He works through people & situations to cause us realise that we are sinners who need to repent & receive a Saviour.

The Holy Spirit gives new life. The Bible says that we are dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1) - our sin means that we are dead toward God. The Holy Spirit, however, gives us new life in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “No one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again” (John 3:3). The Holy Spirit is the one who causes us to be born again; it is a divine & supernatural act (Titus 3:5).

The Holy Spirit lives in us. God says, “I will put my Spirit in you. I will come to live in you.” So let’s be careful what we allow into our bodies. He doesn’t want it polluted by fleshly lusts or harmful substances. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple & that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

The Holy Spirit gives you power to serve Christ. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; & you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Christ longs to make us a new person by the Holy Spirit, to empower you to live for Him, obey Him & to serve His purpose for your life.

**TODAY’S
READINGS:**

JOHN 3:1-21

JOHN 16:16-33

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Ephesians 1:15-23

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

‘Sweep the house
clean’ - confess sin, ask
God to forgive & cleanse

PRAYER @ CHURCH

7.30PM

‘SPIRITUAL GIFTS’

**DAY 2
FRIDAY
31ST MAY**

THIS INFILLING IS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Long ago, through the prophet Joel, God foretold that His very Spirit would be poured out on all mankind. Jesus alluded to this many times throughout His earthly life & ministry. He promised that when He ascended after His resurrection, that all the disciples & followers of Jesus would be 'baptised with the Holy Spirit'.

We must firstly realise, that this promise was not exclusive to the disciples, but for all who put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord & Saviour. God said through Joel that His Spirit would be poured out on all people; men, women, servants, kings, rulers & workers. It is not restricted or hindered by who you are or when you lived.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit, is not some strange mist flowing around us. The Holy Spirit is a person. He lives in us, to empower us to live for Jesus, He supernaturally reveals Jesus to us, He leads us, He guides us, He comforts us, He convicts us of our sins when we do wrong but also leads us to the grace & mercy found in Jesus' love. He helps us pray. He gives us supernatural gifts to extend God's Kingdom here on this earth. He produces Godly fruit in us, so that we might reflect Jesus in the world around us. He makes us brave & bold to share the Good news. He reveals God's word to us, helping us understand the mysteries of God's heart. This is who the Spirit is & He lives in us.

Let us thank Him for the work He does, & for the wonderful day of Pentecost when He poured Himself out for ALL of humanity!

TODAY'S READINGS:

**JOEL 2:28-32
ACTS 2**

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Ephesians 3:14-21

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that you, our
church & His wider
church would know the
infilling of God's Spirit

**PRAYER @ CHURCH
12.30-1.30PM**

DAY 3
SATURDAY
1ST JUNE

ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Charles Finney wrote about how God gave him mighty infillings of the Holy Spirit. He said, "[These infillings] went through me, as it seemed, body & soul. I immediately found myself endued with such power from on high that a few words dropped here & there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion. My words seemed to fasten like barbed arrows in the souls of men. They cut like a sword. They broke the heart like a hammer. Multitudes can attest to this. Sometimes I would find myself in a great measure empty of this power. I would go & visit, & find that I made no saving impression. I would exhort & pray with the same results. I would they set apart a day for private fasting & prayer; after humbling myself & crying out for help, the power would return upon me with all its freshness. This has been the experience of my life."

D.L Moody said, "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride & selfishness & ambition & everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride & conceit & ambition & the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

Let's get right with the Lord today. Set aside some time to get before Him & empty ourselves of the world's influences & our selfish ways. Ask God to highlight anything in your life that is offensive to Him; then confess & repent of it. Check your motives, that you are seeking God's glory & honour, then ask Him to fill you with His Spirit, that you might know His power & anointing to live for & serve Him.

TODAY'S READINGS:

LUKE 11:1-13
GALATIANS 5:13-26

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Colossians 1:9-14

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that the Holy Spirit
will work in & with you
continually producing
His fruit

PRAYER @ CHURCH
7.00-8.00AM

**DAY 4
SUNDAY
2ND JUNE**

THE SAME SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU!

**TODAY'S
READINGS:**

**JOHN 14:15-31
ROMANS 8:11**

Did you know that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead after His gruesome death, is the same power that lives in us if we have accepted the gift of salvation in our lives.

The book of Romans describes the power that sin had over our lives before the great exchange happened, when Jesus our Lord & Saviour, willingly gave His life as an exchange for our sin, & paid the debt that we owed. Before we accepted this outrageous act of love, Paul describes us as dead: dead in our sins (spiritually dead). Yet when we accepted Jesus into our lives, we agreed that the resurrection power of the Spirit of God would come & co-habit our lives. Yes, that same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us.

The One who made the very breath that we breathe has given us new life. We are alive in Christ because of the Holy Spirit's work in us! What an awesome opportunity to get to know the person of the Holy Spirit. Yet why does His power live in us? Is it just so we can have a happy life, see signs & wonders, or is it more than that?

Well the answer is all of the above. The Holy Spirit lives in us to open our hearts & minds to what Jesus did for us on the cross & help us to accept the gift of salvation that is freely presented to us, enabling us to have an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Yet salvation was never meant to be a secret. In fact you are not saved to be an individual locked inside a cushioned room. If the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us & resurrected you from your sin, then use that power to tell others. Show them that God is real & is longing for a relationship with them!

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Romans 15:5-6

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that God would
help us, as a church,
to maintain the unity
of the Spirit
(Ephesians 4:3)

**DAY 5
MONDAY
3RD JUNE**

EMPOWERED TO WITNESS

Jesus said many things to His disciples throughout His lifetime, but His final words in Acts 1 before His ascension, are arguably the most significant words He ever said to them. First, He spoke of the imminent baptism of the Holy Spirit, which would in fact change the dynamics of 'evangelism', then, He told them how the gospel would be spread across the world.

The most significant thing in sharing God's word with others is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us, guides us, reveals God's plan for ours & others lives & equips us with the tools (spiritual gifts) to share Jesus with others.

Well what do we share about Jesus? Answer: Everything.

Jesus showed us how to live, He showed us God on earth & His teachings changed, & continues to change, the world. His wisdom, His love, His grace & His life are a 'prototype' for our lives & an example we have to follow & teach others to follow too. Jesus' commission to the disciples was that they were to share about Him to everyone, everywhere.

So many today & in the past have committed to serving Jesus, following His teachings & making Him their God. The Holy Spirit's power in equipping people with the tools to share about Jesus with others is as real today as it was on the day of pentecost. Many have been saved but there are still many more people in the world who need to hear about Jesus. May we know today the empowering of the Holy Spirit to go & share Jesus with others!

TODAY'S READINGS:

**ACTS 1:8
JOHN 15:26-27
ACTS 5:32
JOHN 14:26**

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Romans 15:13

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that God would
help you to make & take
opportunities to share
Jesus today

**PRAYER @ CHURCH
12.30-1.30PM**

**DAY 6
TUESDAY
4TH JUNE**

HOW WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

Adapted from FB Meyer's book "The Secret of Guidance"

Nothing can compensate the church, or the individual Christian, for the lack of the Holy Spirit. What the full stream is to the mill wheel, the Holy Spirit is to the church. What the principle of life is to the body, the Holy Spirit is to the individual. We shall stand powerless in the presence of our difficulties & our foes until we learn what He can be, as a mighty tide of love & power in the hearts of His saints.

Although filled with the Holy Spirit from His birth, Jesus was afresh anointed at the waters of baptism. With marked emphasis it was said He was filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1), & returned in the power of the Spirit unto Galilee (Luke 4:14). His wondrous words & works are directly traced to the marvellous operation of the Holy Ghost upon His human life (Acts 10:38).

Do you lack *assurance*? True peace is found, first, in a clear apprehension of what Jesus has done for us & second, in the sealing of the Holy Spirit, who witnesses with our spirit that we are God's children.

Do you lack *victory over sin*? This will happen if you neglect the Holy Spirit. He is the blessed antidote to the risings & dominion of the flesh.

Do you lack the *fruits of holiness*? Some people are so evidently filled with the fruits of righteousness & we are instinctively drawn to them. Yet there is often so little in us to attract people to Christ. Why? Because we have not let the Holy Spirit have His way with our inner life.

"Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18) is a vital injunction. It is a positive command, which we must obey at our peril. In so doing, we enable God to make us what He tells us to become. On the day of Pentecost, Peter told the crowds that the fullness, which had suddenly come on them...was not for them only but for as many as were afar off, even for them whom the Lord God shall call.

**TODAY'S
READINGS:**
LUKE 4:1-14
ACTS 10:38
EPHESIANS 5:15-18

PRAYER

Pray in line with
1 Thessalonians
5:23-24

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that we would not
grieve or quench the
Holy Spirit (Ephesians
4:30 & 1 Thess 5:19)

PRAYER @ CHURCH
12.30-1.30PM

DAY 7
WEDNESDAY
5TH JUNE

DIVINE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

There is a process going on in us believers. Since the day the Holy Spirit came to dwell in us He has been at work with perfect wisdom & supernatural power to renew & transform us on the inside. Our outward man, this mortal body with its natural weakness & sinful ways was doomed to death & is "wasting away" even now. Yet a new life dwells within this clay jar, & that life is constantly at work within us to renew & produce the manifestation of God in and with us.

Property developers buy property that are value-less to the eye & reform it completely, from the inside out. They know what to keep, what to get rid of, what parts need renovation, refurbishing, or complete rebuilding. So it is with God & us. He knows everything that comprises our life from the moment of conception; our gifts, abilities, strengths, weaknesses, wounds, all the aspects of our personalities. And He wants to completely renovate us according to the vision He has for our lives, which is much greater than we can imagine. He has purchased the "property" of our lives, with His blood, & His Holy Spirit is powerfully & skilfully at work developing the Lord's 'property'!

Your life is in good hands. Your Developer knows exactly what He's doing with you. You might be a little tired or discouraged or run down, but soon, you will sense, once again that He is building, renovating, & renewing you in the best possible way - for eternity.

God's power is available to us because of his Holy Spirit in us. This is not 'our' power, but it's the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. There is a difference. When we do not truly know God or His word then we try to live out of their own strength & power. It is the Holy Spirit's power that is at work in us that enables us to live differently - to make changes in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS:

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16
EPHESIANS 3:16-20
2 THESS 2:13-17

PRAYER

Pray in line with
2 Thessalonians
1:11-12

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray for our church
family, for God to make
us all He wants us to be

PRAYER @ CHURCH
12.30-1.30PM

**DAY 8
THURSDAY
6TH JUNE**

GOD'S POWER TO CHANGE US

Today's reading tells us that the power of the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us because God's Spirit lives in us. This fact has huge implications for Christians who have struggled to make a behaviour change in their life.

We most often rely primarily on our own strength & willpower to make changes in our lives. However, as Christians, it is often as we rely less on our own abilities & strength, & rely more on the Holy Spirit, that true life change comes about.

Our human (sinful) nature tries to do all it can to be in control & manage our behaviour. If we try to change our behaviour by our own efforts then we leave God out of the picture. Most often this leads us to a place of defeat. However, as we lean on the Spirit of God who lives within us, we discover the path of victory that leads to life.

The apostle Paul reminds us that when we are weak, we are strong; that is, in acknowledging our own weakness & choosing dependence on God, we find true strength. Indeed, Romans 8:26 tells us that *"the Spirit helps us in our weakness."*

We are called to be intentionally sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to be obedient to what we sense Him telling us, & to learn dependence on Him.

Most of us will have made countless unsuccessful attempts at changing an unhealthy habit. Let's change tack, get on our knees & cry out to God, admitting dependence on Him.

TODAY'S READINGS:

**ROMANS 8
ROMANS 15:13
2 CORINTH 12:7-10**

PRAYER

Pray in line with
1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that we would be
led by & live according
to the Holy Spirit

**PRAYER @ CHURCH
7.30PM**

**'HEARING GOD &
PROPHECY'**

**DAY 9
FRIDAY
7TH JUNE**

HE'S GOT OUR BACK

The Lord gave us His promise to send us a helper - the Holy Spirit. The word for "helper" in the New Testament Greek is 'paraclete'. This word has more meaning than simply "helper" - it was also an ancient term used in warfare. When Greek warriors went onto the battle field, they went out in pairs, so when the enemy attacked they could stand back-to-back, covering each other's blind side. The battle partner in Greek was called a 'paraclete' - watching your back!

The Holy Spirit is more than our helper & comforter - He's our battle partner who covers our blind side & protects our well being.

You're not in this fight alone. The Lord has given you a 'paraclete' to go along with you. Don't grieve Him but let Him lead as you fight the good fight of faith, & don't worry about your blind side - He's got your back!

In the Galatians passage we see that the Holy Spirit causes the fruit of God's character to be borne in our lives. His work shapes & changes us on the inside, causing us to exhibit & produce the kind of fruit that reflects that righteous nature of God. We cannot produce this fruit by our own efforts, rather 'the helper' is at work to do this in us.

In 1 Corinthians 12 we see how 'the Helper' comes to release & develop gifts amongst the church. The purpose of these gifts is to benefit & build the Body of Christ, to bring us unto greater alignment with the Head of the Church (Jesus) as well as each other.

TODAY'S READINGS:

**JOHN 14:26
1 CORINTH 12:1-11**

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Philemon 1:4-6

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that you would
discover & grow in your
spiritual gifting

**PRAYER @ CHURCH
12.30-1.30PM**

**DAY 10
SATURDAY
8TH JUNE**

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Take some time to consider today's Bible verses. Understand the context of the passages in which they are found & prayerfully think about that it means to 'pray in the Spirit'.

Then consider whether it is possible to pray 'out of' the Spirit? What would this look like & how do we best make sure that our prayers are 'in' rather than 'out' of the Spirit?

Someone has said that "praying in the Spirit" is the passionate heartfelt seeking after God & the manifestation of deep spiritual concern for others, instilled by the Holy Spirit. It is the kind of prayer that can leap over oceans, speed across burning deserts, spring over mountains, bound through jungles, & carry the healing power of the Gospel to the object of prayer.

In Romans 8:26-27 we read that "the Spirit Himself makes intercession", indicating that when we pray 'in the Spirit' that God is active in fuelling, inspiring & enabling our pleadings & prayers. In this way, we become co-labourers with God, actual partners with Him; our lives are lifted from the low plane of selfishness to the high plane of creativeness with God.

Take time today to step away from your 'norm' in prayer, & seek to pray only 'in the Spirit'. Let the Spirit go God inspire & lead you in prayer. Take frequent pauses to listen to Him & let Him bring to mind what you should pray for & how you should pray. May we be those who learn each day to pray 'in the Spirit'.

TODAY'S READINGS:

**ROMANS 8:26-27
1 CORINTHIANS 14:15
EPHESIANS 6:18
JUDE 1:20**

PRAYER

Pray in line with
Matthew 9:35-38

Pray to be filled anew
with the Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13 Ephesians 5:18)

Pray that God would
cause your prayer life to
be increasingly Holy
Spirit led

**PRAYER @ CHURCH
7.00-8.00AM**