



How Can I Get the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:18: (NASB) *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*



How would you like access to power? This power can change your life, give you things, protect you and even heal diseases! This power is from a source that is unlimited, a source that is generous and a source that truly has your best interest in mind. Sound intriguing? For many Christians this power is the Holy Spirit, and these enticing claims come across as very real. But are they real? Is this what the Holy Spirit is about or does the truth of the matter look entirely different? Who "gets" the Holy Spirit? When you get it, what does that mean? What does it change? Can we, should we, be trying to have the Holy Spirit working in our lives?

How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit?

Here is the first scriptural look at the Spirit of God:

Genesis 1:1-5: (NASB) ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit <7307>** of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, let there be light; and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Spirit: Strong's #7307, xwr ruwach roo'-akh; wind; by resemblance breath, i.e. a sensible (or even violent) exhalation

New Testament: The phrase *Holy Spirit* (or *Holy Ghost* as used in some Bible translations) is ALWAYS derived from the following two words:

Holy: Strong's #40 hagios (hag'-ee-os); sacred physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated

When we think of holy, we think: Righteous, pure, being in tune with God; set aside in such a way God can use you to do things. When we say, "God is holy," that means God's purposes are so far above and beyond what we can see or imagine, we need to look up to Him with honor, praise and great reverence. Holiness should produce reverence.

Spirit: Strong's #4151 pneuma pneuma pnyoo'-mah; a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze

We can see the powerful effects of wind but not the wind itself.

The phrase *Holy Spirit* means "sacred breath" or "sacred power."

The root word for *Spirit*:

Spirit: Strong's #4154 pneu pneo pneh'-o; a primary word; to breathe hard, i.e. breeze: - blow, a root word

One of the seven uses of this root word:

Matthew 7:25: (KJV) *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds **blew <4154>**, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*



When we see the awesome power of wind, we often make it personal. We give it a character, i.e., "That was one mean and nasty storm!" We even name hurricanes and typhoons. It is easier to describe them in this format.

But when we look at God's Spirit and how it is described in Genesis, we see it was His power and influence. We will see this in the New Testament as well. The New Testament is built upon the foundation of the Old Testament.

By the definition of the words involved, we can see the Holy Spirit would be - in its most literal sense - a sacred blast or breath, an unseen, powerful moving force. Because we understand sacredness to be from God, it would not be unreasonable to label the Holy Spirit as the *sacred* power and influence of God. Just as the wind has power which itself is unseen but its results are obvious, so God's influence is also unseen, yet its results are undeniable.



Why is the Holy Spirit such a big part of Christian thinking and belief?

Jesus said it would be so! Let us trace the Spirit becoming a centerpiece of Christianity.

Jesus' words to Peter the night before his crucifixion would have left a mysterious little hint:

Luke 22:31-32: (KJV) ³¹And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ³²But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Was Peter not already a follower? Yes, but not fully.

When thou art converted - Something was yet going to happen to Peter. He would respond to it and then be in the place he was supposed to be. He did not yet have the ability to do what was in his heart to do. We can only assume Peter would not have understood what this meant.

Jesus before crucifixion unequivocally told his followers to wait for the Spirit:

John 16:5,7: (NASB) ⁵But now I am going to Him who sent me; and none of you asks me, where are you going? But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him (it) to you.

...for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you - Jesus knew his death would be painful for his followers, but without the sacrifice of Jesus being completed, the door could not be opened to have God's power and influence be a part of their lives. That sacrifice allowed him to be the *Advocate* described in 1 John 2:1.

But we know the Holy Spirit was around in the Old Testament, so why would this be different? More on this soon!



This prophecy of the Spirit's work described in the next few verses of John 16 (we did not have time to discuss) was fulfilled at Pentecost, and its fulfillment was directly related to Peter. (Please see the Bonus Material for more on this.)

Now we go to the risen Lord appearing to his disciples with further instructions before his ascension:

Luke 24:45-49: (KJV) ⁴⁵Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶And said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem - this would be their mission. They needed to be in the right place at the right time to be able to know the right action to take.

Power from on high - the Holy Spirit. They would receive the power and strength needed to carry forth the message of the Gospel. From this point on, the most important thing would be for them to remain in Jerusalem.

Opened he their understanding - He made sure they had the ability to understand something special was coming.

They obeyed and now it is Pentecost, right after the Spirit came and the Apostles spoke in tongues:

Acts 2:12-16: (KJV) ¹²And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ¹³Others mocking said, these men are full of new wine. ¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Here was the fulfillment from the Luke 24:45-49 we discussed. "When the power on high comes to you, now you can go to work, knowing what to do and how to do it." Peter spoke as a representative of God through Jesus. He spoke about Jesus, the ransom and following in Jesus' footsteps. He tied in the Old Testament prophecies proving Jesus was the Messiah. What an effect that would have had on the audience! Peter was never able to communicate like this before.

Peter transformed from follower to leader, from questioner to teacher, from human-mindedness to spirit-mindedness. This baptism of the Spirit at Pentecost was a one-time event, signifying the birth of the body of Christ. It would never again be repeated, as the Spirit would abide with, comfort and teach those chosen followers throughout the entire age of the Gospel.

Can all Christians have the Holy Spirit?



The Spirit is for followers of Jesus, but at what cost?

Hebrews 10:26,29,31: (NASB) ²⁶*For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins...* ²⁹*How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?...* ³¹*It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God - God's power and influence should not be taken lightly. This is life-altering power with consequences. The Spirit is for followers of Jesus, but not just casual followers.



What else should we be looking out for?

Being a follower of Christ is a life of serious dedication, not a life of ease. The fear would be: You have a relationship with the Heavenly Father and you believe in Jesus and his sacrifice. You are blessed and receive the power and influence of God, but then life gets challenging. There are too many distractions. You want to have more fun and you say, "Why did I make this commitment? I could have all these things and I don't think I really believe it now based on this book I just read." After all was good, something changed. We do not believe God arbitrarily gives His Spirit to just anyone who professes to believe in Jesus. A profession of belief is not necessarily belief that changes you, so there is mercy involved in God not making everyone liable to *falling into the hands of the living God* if they backpedal on their professions.

The Spirit of God entirely changes our direction and allegiance in life:

Galatians 5:16-21: (NASB) ¹⁶*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.* ¹⁷*For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.* ¹⁸*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*

If you have God's Spirit, you are no longer allowed to do whatever you want. That is harsh, but you have committed to doing HIS will and not your own. The world teaches we can do whatever we want if it feels good. This is contrary to our walk.



¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

There are 17 acts on this list, and there are at least a few of them we would say, "That could never apply to me!" But look closely - many of these could easily apply to us. We are called upon to live up to an extreme depth of character. God's Spirit changes what is important to us.

Why did Paul see a need to add such a nasty list? Because we are human and we can easily take that which is spiritual and lofty and apply it to that which is base and earthly. Unfortunately throughout much of Christianity, this is exactly what has happened with our claims to God's holy power and influence.

This list - *and things like these* - are to be avoided at all costs.

Be careful what you wish for. It may turn out that making the wish was the only good part.
— *Richelle E. Goodrich*

A lot of us wish we would have God's Spirit, but we have to know what we are wishing for.

The following account serves as an example of what can go wrong and has gone wrong within Christianity:

Acts 8:9-23: (NRSV) *⁹Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. ¹⁰All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, this man is the power of God that is called Great. ¹¹And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.*

Simon was an egotistical street performer and sorcerer set on appearing powerful and mysterious.

Things holy and sacred always come from God. Magic, be it "white" or "black," while they have a spiritual tint to them, is not holy and is instead satanic.

Simon's audience looked at him as a powerful man of God, but he was not. He had a really good thing going, but along came Philip, a baptized, Holy Spirit-filled believer in Jesus.

¹²But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

Now a baptized believer, Simon followed Philip because he saw REAL miracles and was himself amazed at what Philip was capable of doing. Philip could perform miracles but without the showmanship of Simon. Crowds began to form. Philip was purpose driven, while Simon was performance driven.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit... ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles'



hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon wanted the power of the Spirit for himself, because it would surely captivate the imaginations of the people in a way beyond his previous endeavors! We need to be careful not to get caught up in emotion and the desires of our own will. Simon was showing his true colors, and they were not the colors of holiness and sacredness.

²⁰But Peter said to him, may your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! (Sounds like a lot of Christianity today - trying to obtain God's gift with money! Money-based worship - asking you to pay for spiritual happiness - is contrary to what is correct.) ²¹You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. (Appearance and heart can be two VERY different things.) ²²Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. (Peter could see his heart was evil and dark. The abuse of Christian privilege requires repentance.) ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.

The gall of bitterness - numb to what the Spirit of God really is and bound to the wretchedness of sin.

The Holy Spirit does not put on a show, drawing crowds to raise money. It never has been and never will be.

Acts 8:24: (NASB) *But Simon answered and said, pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.*

Was this an act of repentance or was it just a fearful plea for help?



Observations so far:

- The Holy Spirit is God's power and influence, as first revealed in the process of creation.
- For his truest followers, Jesus made having access to the Holy Spirit a BIG DEAL.
- Because the Holy Spirit is so unique, mysterious and powerful, the temptation to want it for oneself as a tool to serve oneself is great. As with "magick," (occult/manipulation of spirits magic as opposed to performance/illusion magic) the appearance of having God's Spirit can be dangerous.

How does the working of God's influence change from the Old to the New Testament?



The Old Testament prophets could use God's Spirit as God directed them:



The Apostle Peter, comparing the Old Testament prophecies with his personal experience at the Mount of Transfiguration:

2 Peter 1:19-21: (Rotherham) ¹⁹And we have, more firm, the prophetic word; whereunto ye are doing, well, to take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dusky place, until, day, shall dawn, and, a day-star, shall arise in your hearts: ²⁰Of this, first, taking note that, no prophecy of Scripture, becometh, self-solving; ²¹For not, by will of man, was prophecy brought in, at any time, but, as, by Holy Spirit, they were borne along, spake, men, from God.

We have, more firm, the prophetic word - "Even more sure than what happened to me at the Mount of Transfiguration are the Old Testament prophecies." He explains those prophecies are not *self-solving* - you do not just decide you know what they mean. It involves a detailed study process.

They were borne along - carried along to write what they wrote - not because they had an idea or thought out the words - but because God was sending a message through their minds to their pen. This was how the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament. God's power and influence had the prophets say, do or write certain things to accomplish His will whenever a message was needed. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament worked in a more mechanical way.



The New Testament followers are given power and influence to have it dwell within them:



Cheryl from Florida writes: So, there are two parts and two parties involved. First, we have to be looking, searching and studying to know God. As we come to know Him, our love for Him grows and we desire to know more and to serve Him. We are willing to give up all our own hopes, ambitions and desire to do God's will. And reaching this point, we make a vow to God, consecrating our all to Him. Then, if God sees that our hearts are sincere, our understanding of what this consecration means is clear, THEN He will accept that consecration. In so doing, He gives us His Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us into deeper understanding of His Word, into a life of dedicated service sharing the precious truth He has entrusted to us with others and to develop us into the character likeness of Christ. Though much of this may be done through hardships, persecutions and sacrifices, there is a quiet joy, peace, comfort and strength knowing the sure promises that lay ahead. If we do our part, it is a certainty God will do His part helping us every step of the way through His power and influence, the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

There are many other Scriptures that corroborate that being a Christian at this time involves sacrifice and suffering to prove faithful and obedient to God and His principles of righteousness. This makes us worthy of being a part of the bride of Christ. It is God's Holy Spirit abiding in our heart and mind that helps us - and is necessary - for us to be successful.

The Old Testament prophets did not have God's Spirit dwelling within them like the Christians of the New Testament. They had mechanical use of the Spirit.

The operation of the Holy Spirit changed after Jesus died:

1 Corinthians 6:15,19-20: (Rotherham) ¹⁵*Know ye not that, your bodies, are, members of Christ? Shall I, then, take away the members of the Christ and make them members of a harlot? Far be it!...* ¹⁹*Or know ye not that, your body, is, a shrine (other translations call this a temple) of the Holy Spirit that is within you, which ye have from God? And ye are not your own;* ²⁰*For ye have been bought with a price! Therefore, glorify God in your body.*

The Holy Spirit dwells inside of us - our physical bodies are referred to as a temple.

For ye have been bought with a price! Therefore, glorify God in your body - Christians who have the Spirit are bound to keep themselves from sin wherever possible. We are to now to be about something higher.

Everyone who professes the name of Christ does not fit into this category, nor do they want to abide by its strict requirements of sacrificing the old will for the new will of God. There are many people who are Christians "in name only."

This experience with the Spirit was new and different from anything that had previously happened:

2 Corinthians 5:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶*Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him in this way no longer.* ¹⁷*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* ¹⁸*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...*

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature - There was nothing like this described in the Old Testament. The manifestation of God's Holy Spirit was totally different in the New Testament. It was now going to dwell in and with the individual as the power and influence of God. This would now be the true Christian's driving force every day and every moment.

Having the Spirit means you see differently, think differently, speak differently and act differently.

The Spirit is only for those who are called and have answered:

John 6:65: (NASB) *And he was saying, for this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to me unless it has been granted him from the Father.*

Having been called out and bought with a price, we can now be given comfort and direction:

Romans 8:26-28: (Rotherham) ²⁶*In the selfsame way moreover, even the Spirit, helpeth together in our weakness,--for, what we should pray for as we ought, we know not, but, the Spirit itself, maketh intercession with sighings unutterable,* ²⁷*And, he that searcheth the hearts, knoweth what is preferred by the Spirit - that, according to God, he maketh intercession in behalf of saints;* ²⁸*We know, further, that, unto them who love God, God causeth all things to work together for good,--unto them who, according to purpose, are such as he hath called;*

The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses by guiding us, even though we did not understand what was happening while we were going through an experience.



What does the Spirit do for the "called out" ones?

- God's Spirit teaches us what to do and shows us the way

Luke 12:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹*When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.*

Does this mean that we are miraculously infused with knowledge and understanding about spiritual things? No! Let us not confuse the early church's gifts of the Spirit (which were sporadic at best and are no longer a needed commodity) with the Gospel Age receiving of the Spirit, which is inclusive of all body members. Do NOT expect you will receive a miraculous understanding of something you never sought to understand. The Holy Spirit will not suddenly grant you the ability to speak fluent Spanish when you have never studied it. You will not suddenly know the Bible without having read and studied it.

2 Timothy 2:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness...*



Here the Apostle Paul speaks of Timothy, who was like a son to him. Paul is turning over a lot of the responsibilities of ministry for certain churches to Timothy. Timothy needed to grow into the teaching role to be able to pick up where Paul was leaving off. One of the admonitions was *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.* This was hard work. Timothy did not receive "all knowledge" automatically without any effort. He was to study the word, focus on it, pray on it and immerse himself in it over and over again. Even though Timothy lived in the time of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, he was told he had to go to work. This is a great example to us. We must do the same.

Having God's Spirit carries with it the sober responsibility for grasping the truth of Scripture. *This requires time, effort, humility and God's blessing.*

This responsibility is especially given to those who are teachers - they are supposed to know the Gospel:

1 Timothy 4:6-7: (NASB) ⁶*In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. ⁷But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;*

Immediately following the responsibility of what to do and what to know, there always seems to be a serious reminder of what *not* to pay attention to.

The rest of the body of Christ is certainly not without their share of responsibility for truth:



Hebrews 5:11-14: (NASB) *¹¹Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

The Hebrew Christians had become *dull of hearing*. They were like babies and knew only the basic things about Christianity. *Solid food is for the mature* - not because they had been zapped with some miracle and suddenly they knew everything. The mature studied and applied the Scriptures. This is what the Holy Spirit helps us with. Again, learning what the Scriptures truly teach with the enlightened mind brings us an ability to discern good from evil and truth from error.

Having God's Spirit is a tool for us to be able to do the work appropriate for self-sacrifice, to do the work of witnessing to others and to do the work of building each other up in the faith.

When we engage in all this work, the fruit of God's Spirit overseeing our development is thrilling!



Galatians 5:22-26: (NASB) *²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.*

This fruit produces a person with a strong character. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is not about glitz and glamor, but rather about living a quiet, Christ-like life. Jesus never drew attention to himself except when preaching the word. No singers and dancers introduced him. The work and the Gospel spoke for itself. He was driven by God's Spirit to present the pure message of the Gospel.

How do we use God's Spirit to maximize our own Christian life and the lives of those around us?

Ephesians 5:15-21: (NASB) *¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Making the most of your time - our world is about leisure, completely contradictory to what we are supposed to be doing.

Understand what the will of the Lord is - by studying. If you immerse yourself in Scripture and scriptural principles and fellowship with those of like faith, you will discern the will of God much easier. You will also see overruling providences and the Lord's direction in your life which builds faith. You will hear of providence working in others and will understand better how God communicates through that Spirit.



Do not get drunk with wine for that is dissipation but be filled with the Spirit - when something dissipates it gets smaller. By filling up with wine, you make yourself smaller. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. That is how you make yourself grow into a larger person in Christ.

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs - there should be a significant aspect of praise in what we do. The Good News is exciting! We should want to share it with others.

Be subject to one another - this has the thought of being accountable to one another in our spiritual family.

- **God's Spirit was and is a witness - a proof or record - of His plan being carried out**

Acts 5:32: (Rotherham) *And, we, are witnesses <3144> of these things, —also the Holy Spirit, which God hath given unto them who are yielding obedience unto him.*

Witnesses: Strong's #3144. martuv martus mar'-toos; of uncertain affinity; a witness martyr, record, witness

This does not mean we are a witness as a visual eyewitness, but instead our lives are a testament to His plan being actively carried out.

One other text as an example for the Spirit being a record or proof:

2 Corinthians 1:23: (KJV) *Moreover I call God for a record <3144> upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.*

The giving of the Spirit was a record that God's plan was unfolding. We should be used as a witness so others - now or later - can see God working in our lives.

Because God's Spirit is a record, a proof of truth, we should use fulfilled prophecy (like Israel being restored to their land) as a witness tool as well as the many other brilliant truths revealed in Scripture.

- **God's Spirit builds our hope**

Romans 5:5: (KJV) *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.*

Not only does God's Spirit build our hope for ourselves but our hope for all others. The calling to God is not just limited to the true Christians now. The Good News expands to everyone else in the future.

Peter quoted this prophecy at Pentecost:

Joel 2:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸*It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

God's Spirit is not just for now, it is not just for Christians; rather, it is a power and influence that is eternal in its affect and unshakable in its righteousness.

Just as the Spirit of God worked the creation of all things, so that same Spirit will work the restitution of all things:



Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

God's government will be established on earth.

God's Spirit is applied to very few at this time who are trying to live a life of sacrifice to follow after Jesus. If we have been *called according to His purpose*, we want to put ourselves in a position where we can be blessed with the indwelling of God's Spirit. His power and sacred influence help us "grow up" into Christ so we can be *faithful unto death* (Revelation 2:10) and part of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) who uses God's Spirit to *bless all the families of the earth* (Genesis 12:3). God's Spirit is about love, blessing and goodness.

*So, how can I get the Holy Spirit?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
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Asking for God's Spirit is a good thing:

Luke 11:5-13: (NASB) ⁵Then he said to them, Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him; ⁷and from inside he answers and says, Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything. ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. ⁹So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. ¹¹Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹²Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? ...if we are truly seeking the will of God and answering His call...

Matthew 7:13-14: (NASB) ¹³Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The result of having God's Spirit is transformational:

James 3:13-18: (NASB) ¹³Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is



first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Spirit fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus from John 16:

John 16:5-15: (NASB) ⁵But now I am going to Him who sent me; and none of you asks me, where are you going? ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And he, when he comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see me; ¹¹and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹²I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears, he will speak; and he will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for He will take of mine and will disclose it to you. ¹⁵All things that the Father has are mine; therefore, I said that He takes of mine and will disclose it to you.

John 16:8: (again, this time in Rotherham) And, having come, he, will reprove the world.

Back to our context of when the Spirit came - Pentecost!

Acts 2:14-43: (selected verses) (NKJV) ¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

These next verses show the Spirit reproofing (convicting) the world of sin because they do not believe:

²²Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
²³Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it.

These next verses show the Spirit reproofing (convicting) the world of righteousness by the raising of Jesus to power with the Father:

³²This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he poured out this which you now see and hear.

These next verses show the Spirit reproofing (convicting) this world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged:

³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, ³⁵till I make your enemies your footstool. ³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

How did the Spirit do these things? Through the words and explanations of the Apostle Peter regarding events and prophecies. This gives us a huge clue as to how the Spirit - the power and influence of God - was to work in the Christian age - *it would work through the hearts, minds, words and actions of the begotten*. THE SPIRIT DOES NOT HAVE AN EXTERNAL VOICE OF ITS OWN - IT IS THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF GOD EXPRESSED THROUGH PROPHECY OR A BEGOTTEN ONE.