

Ps 104; Ac 2:1-21; Ro 8:14-17; Jn 14:8-27
Life Giver, Teacher and Friend

If you want to press in and encounter and understand the Holy Spirit, your assignment is to read the whole Bible. Even with that, you and I don't comprehend all that the Spirit does. For example, listen to this story from **Kerry Davidson in Liberia:**

"Here in Liberia, most of life is lived outside of the four walls of the home. Daily tasks such as cooking, laundry, and washing dishes are accomplished in the yard. When we moved to Liberia, we would sit on our front porch and watch fights break out between neighbors. We witnessed everything from yelling to physical fights and even some more violent fights during which police were called.

I began to stand on our porch and pray for Jesus to bring peace to our neighbors, to mend relationships, and to transform hearts. The Holy Spirit moved in our community and we have not witnessed a fight since I started praying. There is no other explanation but God moving among us and bringing His peace.

And this testimony from **Beth Tatum in Costa Rica**: “For the past five years, I have served on a ministry team in a local women’s prison in Costa Rica. These women have been through a variety of tragedies and have seen evil face-to-face. Many want to make a change in their lives and are determined to choose a better path. However, living in an over-crowded and oppressed environment can harden anyone’s heart. Seeing true transformation in these women would be nearly impossible without the work of the Holy Spirit.

When women first come to our group, they have hardened faces and attitudes full of hate. But, as our team leads Bible studies, mentors them, and teaches about the love of Christ, you can see physical and spiritual transformations take place. Their faces soften, they smile again, and their hearts begin to experience joy.

These women discover that they are not defined by their past, and that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they forge a new path in life. They learn how to accept responsibility for their sins and to move forward as new women in Christ.”

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The Holy Spirit launched creation: 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 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. (Gen 1:1-5)

The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed: The **Spirit of the Lord God** is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners...(Is 61:1)

Later, the Angel Gabriel spoke to the Virgin of Nazareth: “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord

God will give Him the throne of His father David;
³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:30-35)

Creation of the universe, anointing and the beginning of life! God the Holy Spirit makes it all happen! Today, we celebrate the presence of this Person – the Holy Spirit. As Jesus returned to the heavenly New Jerusalem, the Spirit was dispatched to settle upon the initiators of the Church. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem. He means don't get ahead of yourself. Especially don't get ahead of God. God will provide. God will anoint. He will strengthen you to stand at the coming of the kingdom.

In our stories from the mission field, we find that the Holy Spirit brings peace and unity out of strife

and antagonism like in the neighborhood in Liberia. The Holy Spirit can soften hearts and open minds to new possibilities like in the women's prison in Costa Rica. God the Holy Spirit moves sovereignly in the lives of those dedicated to God to bring the prophetic word – the word that heals shattered lives and brings freedom to those imprisoned in darkness and sin. He worked in the prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.

The Holy Spirit brings life into places where no life is possible: In the valley of dry bones, in the womb of an elderly woman (Sarah), or a barren woman (Rachel and Hannah) or even a virgin who has never known a man (Mary of Nazareth). The Holy Spirit can do anything!

After the tongues of flame appeared on each disciple in the upper room the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke boldly in front of the temple in Jerusalem. Three thousand people who heard the Word preached in the Spirit of God came to believe in Jesus Christ – Pentecost Day. The Church was born! The confusion of language that happened at the Tower of Babel (Gen 11)

was reversed on Pentecost Day. Those people from all over the known world could understand what the disciples were saying. Holy Spirit work.

Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit before He left this world. That promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit of Truth came down to be with us – He came to stay forever.

The Spirit brings peace in the midst of chaos. He gives supernatural understanding – boldness to speak about the Gospel good news – and the wondrous inner ability to put fear aside. In Him we understand that we are the children of God.

The Holy Spirit is our life-giver, our Teacher and our very good Friend now and forever. Amen.