

Scriptural References:

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Matthew 5:8
Matthew 7:13-23
Matthew 19:26
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Luke 11:13
John 4:24
John 6:63
John 7:37-39
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John 14:15-31
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Ephesians 2:8-10,18
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Philippians 1:9-11
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2 Timothy 1:9
2 Timothy 2:15
Titus 1:10-16
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Hebrews 2:6-9
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Holy Spirit: God's Infinite & Transforming Power



What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit? How can you receive the Holy Spirit? How can it transform your life?

1) What is the Holy Spirit? There are many scriptures which refer to the Holy Spirit as the divine power and energy of God Zech 4:6; Mic 3:8. It is the very nature, life and mind of God. Jesus Christ began His ministry "in the power of the Spirit," as Lk 4:14 records. Jesus told His followers that after His death, they would receive the Holy Spirit—"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit is connected with the power by which God the Father was with Jesus—the very power through which innumerable miracles and healings were performed during His physical, earthly ministry Ac 10:38. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the divine power through which God acts in 2 Ti 1:7. The Holy Spirit is the very supreme power of God that created, sustains and rules the entire universe Neh 9:6; Ps 66:7; Heb 1:2-3. Scriptures describe the Holy Spirit as the manifestation of God's awesome and divine power within His creation, especially in His called, chosen and converted people—the saints of God, and transforming them into His sons and daughters, enabling them to "grow up in all things into Him who is the head—"Christ" Eph 4:15. It is described as "the power of the Highest" Lk 1:35. The key to receiving spiritual power from God, is to strengthen the bond in our relationship with Him—through prayer, fasting, and obedience to His commandments. In the Old Testament, only Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Joseph, and a few others, who were specifically called by God to spiritual salvation, to perform a special mission in service to God, received the Holy Spirit Nu 14:24; 27:18; Dt 34:9; Neh 9:20; Heb 11; 1 Pe 1:10-11; 2 Pe 1:20-21. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of truth," and "Comforter," that "proceeds from the Father" Jn 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7. Parakletos is the Greek word translated "Helper." When translated "Comforter" or "Helper," it refers to the Holy Spirit. However, in one particular passage where it is translated "Advocate," it refers to Jesus as our Advocate with the Father.

2) Why do we need the Holy Spirit? The most important reason why Jesus came to earth was to reveal how to receive God's gift of eternal life. Jesus came to make the precious gift of God's Holy Spirit available to those whom God would call to repentance. Human beings are incomplete without God's Holy Spirit. The spiritual things of God are beyond the comprehension of the human mind alone. In other words, no human mind can understand spiritual truths without the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the average person, is hostile and unresponsive to the Word of God. Unbelievers, or the unconverted, consider spiritual matters "foolishness" 1 Cor 2:14. The Holy Spirit, added to one's mind, gives one the capacity to understand the spiritually revealed truth of God, as revealed in His Word. Only after conversion, when God the Father, draws His begotten children to Christ, can they understand the Bible and His way of life Jn 6:44. God leads His children to the knowledge and comprehension of true repentance. Spiritual life, growth and maturity is only possible through the Holy Spirit. It imparts spiritual strength and understanding. Only through the Holy Spirit, can we truly begin to obey God, because it imparts the spiritual faith, love and power needed to submit to God, and do His will. Spiritual development is vital. Only through God's Holy Spirit, is it possible for us to develop righteous character in this life, and be resurrected to inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Also, we will be prepared to assist Christ in ruling over the nations at His glorious return! (Read Tracts - 'Glorious and Imminent Return Of Christ Jesus!' & 'Will You Go To Heaven?' & 'Will You Inherit The Kingdom Of God?'). An awesome inheritance is in store for God's children Mt 25:34; Ro 8:16-18. Those who are overcomers, will inherit all things Rev 21:7. This priceless knowledge of God's master plan should inspire us to purify our hearts and minds, and motivate us to live lives worthy of God, His Kingdom, and our calling Mt 5:8; 1 Th 2:12; Jas 3:17; 1 Jn 3:3.

It's important to understand what it means to be "led by the Spirit of God." The Holy Spirit doesn't push, or force us to do anything that is against our will; it leads us. It doesn't prevent us from sinning, nor force us to do good. It leads us, but we must be willing to follow God, and His right way of life. The Holy Spirit leads, guides and directs us to live a life of obedience to God. According to Ro 8:14-17, those who are "led by the Spirit of God, are sons of God." In other words, we must be led by the Holy Spirit, to be considered the children of God. Paul continues and states bluntly in V9, that "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Therefore, only those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, belong to Christ. This is why it is crucial that we genuinely repent, and are baptized, so that we can receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit, and fully surrender our lives to God, to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us. This is how we allow Christ to live in us. Upon receipt of the Holy Spirit, we no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ. We have crucified the sinful, fleshly nature Gal 2:20. This is how we please God, and emulate Christ. Paul urged Christians to imitate Christ 1 Cor 11:1; Php 2:5. God helps us to humbly obey Him, through His Spirit, so that we can reflect Jesus' life, thoughts, actions and attitudes, and bring them in accordance with His. God predetermined in His master plan, that we be conformed to the image of Christ, who is the image of the invisible God Col 1:15. Therefore, if we are "in Christ," we are being "conformed" to His image. When we are born again, we will be like the glorified Jesus Christ 1 Jn 3:2. (Read Tract - 'Are You Born Again?').

The Holy Spirit is the key to the spiritual blessings of God, including love, joy and peace, thus making it possible for man to truly live meaningful and fulfilling lives. God has called us to holy living 1 Th 2:12; 2 Ti 1:9. Living upright, holy and godly lives is only made possible through the Holy Spirit, which is the very awesome power of God actively working in His servants Ps 51:11; 139:7. God's Holy Spirit empowers Christians to live a life of growing, maturing and overcoming spiritually Ro 8:26. The Holy Spirit helps us to live righteously Ro 6:12-13. If we respond and submit to God, then more of His divine nature and character will be instilled in us. God's Spirit renews our hearts, minds and thoughts, and transforms our lives, so that we can become more like Christ, developing His righteous character Ro 12:1-2; Php 2:5; 2 Pe 1:3-11. The Holy Spirit is God's infinite and transforming power that makes it possible for our lives to be radically transformed from the "old person" to the "new person," that is created in true righteousness and holiness. A person that is "renewed in knowledge" and "growing in grace and in knowledge" of God 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:9-10; 2 Pe 3:18. We don't conform to the philosophies and customs of this world. We submit to God's highest standards for our lives, and live in conformity with His will, as revealed in the Holy Bible Ro 12:1-2. The more we submit to God and His commandments, the greater our spiritual knowledge and understanding becomes Ps 111:10. The Holy Spirit positively influences us to obey God and His commandments. It inspires and helps us to come to a deeper knowledge and understanding of God's divinely expressed Word, will and purpose for our lives 1 Cor 2:9-11,14. It will strengthen us both spiritually and physically to do God's will. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, and makes us strong Php 4:13. Jesus promised that He would send the apostles the Holy Spirit, which would "guide them into all truth" Jn 16:13. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit helps us to understand precious spiritual truths because they are spiritually discerned Mt 19:26; Mk 10:27; Lk 1:37; 1 Cor 2:14. Spiritual discernment is one of

the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 12:8-10 (Read Tract—'Supernatural Gifts Of The Holy Spirit'). Jesus said that the Holy Spirit which was promised to be given to Christ's followers after His death and resurrection, would convict the world of sin Jn 16:8. God's Spirit works with our conscience, and helps us to recognize sin, to see sin as it really is, and avoid it. Holy Spirit produces good fruit in the life of a Christian. According to Gal 5:22-23, nine specific fruits are evident in the lives of those who are led by the Spirit of God, and are growing to spiritual maturity 2 Pe 1:3-11. True reassurance during trials comes from the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. God's Spirit provides the hope, comfort and assurance that whatever happens will work out for the good Ro 8:28. Holy Spirit is God's seal of ownership on faithful Christians 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13; 2:18; 4:30. True Christians are baptized with the Holy Spirit Ac 11:16.

3) How do we receive the Holy Spirit? Acceptance of Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins, with genuine, heartfelt repentance, and full-immersion baptism are crucial steps to receiving God's gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a serious commitment and demonstrates our willingness to obey God, and commit our lives to Him. Full-immersion is the only correct method of baptism. Being immersed in water, symbolizes the death and burial of Christ, and of our old sinful life. Coming up out of the water, symbolizes Christ's resurrection, and our commitment to obey God and His Laws—walking in "newness of life" in Christ. After baptism, we are dead to sin, but alive in Christ Ro 6:11. We no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ Gal 2:20. Therefore, baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Read Tracts - 'Repent Or Perish!' & 'Baptism—Requirement For Salvation?'). Water baptism, symbolically expresses our faith in, and acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Savior—our belief in His death, burial and resurrection. It also symbolically expresses our genuine repentance from sin, and that we truly are surrendering our lives to God, His will and authority.

4) What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit? After baptism, it's important that we begin to develop the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The fruits that God's spirit produces in us are listed in Gal 5:22-23. God's nature and character is one of goodness, faithfulness, justice and righteousness, which must be reflected in our lives. It takes time for one to grow spiritually and manifest the "fruit of the Spirit." Christ's true servants will bear good fruit; while those who are still of this world will bear bad fruit Mt 7:15-20. The love of God is the chief character trait of God. It is the foundation of His character, manifested in a child of God through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Ro 5:5; 8:16. Scriptures teach us "not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good" Ro 12:21. Love does good to all. Love means outgoing concern for others. Love helps, encourages and strengthens others in the faith. Love means not keeping company with evildoers, nor partaking in their evil deeds Ps 26:5; 92:9; 119:115; Lk 13:27; 1 Cor 13.

5) How do we stir up God's Spirit? The Spirit-begotten Christian must take in spiritual nourishment, in order to grow spiritually. This spiritual food is received mainly through: 1) Personal, intimate, daily contact with God in prayer Eph 6:18-20. 2) Reading, studying and meditating on God's Word. The ability to persevere in the faith, and remain spiritually strong and active, depends on how much we trust in God. Prayer is the main line of communication that we must keep open between God and us, for the help that we need to live spiritually strong, active, productive and fruitful lives, bearing fruit in every good work Col 1:9-12. We must never quench or resist the Spirit of God. Obeying God's Word, means that we do not counteract the Holy Spirit's influence by living ungodly lives, or refuse to be led by the Spirit 1 Th 5:19; Titus 2:12. God's Spirit fills us with power, love and self-discipline 2 Ti 1:6-7. The armor of God, in Eph 6:10-18, helps us to resist Satan's schemes, such as: deception, temptation, doubt and discouragement. It helps us to hold fast to God's Word, which is truth. The Word of God is described as living, active, powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword Heb 4:12. It cuts through all deception, so that we can grow in the knowledge of God and His right way of life. We must remain steadfast in the faith, and persevere in living holy and righteous lives for God, and be actively involved in helping to preach the true gospel throughout the world, regardless of trials or persecutions we may face. It requires faith, patience, endurance and perseverance on all occasions and under any circumstances 2 Ti 2:3. We must make it a habit to pray not only for ourselves, but for others Eph 6:18. Prayer demonstrates our passion for, devotion and commitment to God Col 4:2-4. To keep God's Spirit actively stirred up and working in our lives, we must keep our minds focused on God who has started a good work in us, and will carry it onto completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is crucial that we focus on God's marvelous plan being fulfilled in our lives Php 1:3-6. Our confidence in God must be alive and active. Daily prayer with regular fasting, helps to stir up zeal and rekindles our commitment, devotion and dedication to God. This will help us to maintain our passion for God, and enthusiasm to serve Him. Fasting is a form of abstinence and self-discipline. It helps us to resist temptations, and avoid all ungodly passions, such as: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery. Fasting is a great act of worship, and helps us to submit to, and draw closer to God Jas 4:7-8; Titus 2:12. This act of self-denial, helps us to focus on our relationship with God, and His great and mighty purpose for our lives. Fasting teaches us dependence upon God. It helps us to realize that we depend on Him to sustain us in our lives (Read Tract - 'Power Of Fasting'). Jesus' instructions on fasting are found in Mt 6:16-18. Examples of great men of faith, who fasted to draw closer to God, as recorded in the Bible, include: Jesus, Moses, Daniel and Elijah Ex 34:28; 1 Ki 19:8; Da 9:3; 10:2-3; Mt 4:2; 2 Cor 11:27 (Read Tract - 'Who Through Faith!').

One can begin to truly obey God through God's Spirit, which imparts the spiritual faith, love and power needed to do God's will, and resist the devil. Developing righteous character is an ongoing, lifetime process. It is not developed suddenly and completely, when someone is begotten by God's Spirit. God's character is developed by: 1) Practicing obedience to God, and serving Him. 2) Teaching others about God's Word. 3) Helping to further the work of preaching the gospel throughout the world. The Holy Spirit is a dynamic moving force. The supply of the Holy Spirit from Jesus must be renewed in us daily, to produce spiritual "fruit." In believing prayer, we must ask God for more of His Spirit daily. The more we receive of God's Spirit, the more "spiritual light" we emit in the form of "good works." The Holy Spirit flows into us, and flows out from us. One does not receive enough of the Spirit all at once, to last as long as he lives. It's important to remember, that a spiritually-begotten Christian is not guaranteed eternal life, no matter what he does. One must draw on—use—the Spirit from Christ to produce the results of the "mind of Christ." It is possible for a spiritually-begotten Christian to lose the Holy Spirit by deliberate choice, or continued neglect. We must be very careful that we do not neglect the gift of God's Spirit. To inherit the Kingdom of God, we must receive and retain the Holy Spirit. God gave His Holy Spirit to beget those whom He would call into His Church at Pentecost Ac 2:1-13. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes one a true Christian—Ro 8:9. Make it your practice to stir up and rekindle the Spirit of God within you! For more information about the Holy Spirit as the awesome and divine power of Almighty God, please proceed to the tract entitled: 'Trinity - Is It Biblical?'