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your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Created and reviewed by our editors The Holy Spirit is God. He is one of the Trinity, along with God the Father and God the Son, whose work is to manifest the active presence of God in the world and
especially in the Church. The Bible says that God is "spirit," so the Holy Spirit is fully God, exists eternally, and has all the attributes of the Divine Being. The Holy Spirit is much more than a force. He is the divine, invisible, personal Being with specific characteristics, wills, and feelings. When a person believes in Jesus Christ and receives His Word, the
Holy Spirit begins to dwell in their heart and works to ensure that God's work in this life is complete, with salvation, transformation, and sanctification. Who is the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. As a divine person, He speaks, hears, teaches, loves, sees, intercedes, convinces, guides, helps, etc. Besides these
personal characteristics, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit: Speaks: "So, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be grieved: "Today, if you hear his voice...'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a). Can be gr
they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." (Acts 16:7). He is Divine This means that the Holy Spirit is God, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son, and has the same essence. He is eternal, omnipotent, omnipo
and to creation. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is: Called God: The episode of Ananias and Sapphira provides clear evidence of divinity "... to lie to the Holy Spirit intercedes with
groans that cannot be expressed, so that all believers live according to God's will (Romans 8:26-27). He is Sovereign, more than a force or power The Holy Spirit is not merely a force, nor an expression of God's power, but a divine Being. He is a powerful and sovereign Person, acting in accordance with the Father and the Son, working, completing,
 filling, and giving life to God's new creations. He inspired the writing of the Bible (2 Peter 1:20-21) and helps us understand it (John 16:13). He bears witness about Jesus Christ (John 15:26). He loves and acts as the bond of love (Romans 5:5; 15:30; 1 John 4:13). The Holy Spirit is also a gift, given by the Father and the Son. He is the presence of God
among His people. The Holy Spirit unites Christians to God and to one another. The same Spirit that unites God the Father and God the Father and God the Son, making Them one, also unites Christians, making them one people, one Church. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one
Spirit to drink.- 1 Corinthians 12:13How the Holy Spirit Works, What He DoesThe Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit functions as the life-giving agent of creation and new creation. He is often described as the presence of God that dwells in believers and plays various roles in the Christian life. Some of these special roles are: Salvation: The Holy Spirit
cooperates with Jesus' role as Savior. He causes those chosen by God to unite with Jesus Christ and enjoy the blessings He offers through His work (John 16:8; 2 Timothy 1:14). When saved by Jesus Christ and enjoy the blessings He offers through His work (John 16:8) are converts are sealed (baptized) with the Holy Spirit. Thus, they enjoy God's continuous presence until the end.
Regeneration: The Spirit of God creates in us a new spiritual nature. He is responsible for regenerating and renewing the hearts of believers, making them new creations in Christ Jesus (Titus 3:5). Consolation and Help: The Holy Spirit is the one who consoles and helps believers in their difficulties and weaknesses (John 14:16, 26). Teaching: He
teaches believers and guides them in understanding the Scriptures and God's will (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13). Conviction of Sin: The Holy Spirit convinces people of sin, righteousness, and God's judgment (John 16:8). Empowerment and Spiritual Gifts: He grants spiritual gifts to believers to empower them to serve and build up the church (1
Corinthians 12:4-11). Guidance in Decisions: He guides believers in their decisions and directs their lives according to God's will (Romans 8:14). Unity and Fellowship: The Holy Spirit unites believers in their decisions and directs their lives according to God's will (Romans 8:14). Unity and Fellowship: The Holy Spirit unites believers in their decisions and directs their lives according to God's will (Romans 8:14).
including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit in the Bible in the Scriptures by
other names or titles: Spirit of God: "... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2) Spirit of truth. "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth..." (John 16:13) Spirit of Life: "Because through Christ Jesus the law of the
Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2) Advocate: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..." (John 14:26)Holy Spirit of GodThe word "Spirit" in Hebrew 'Ruach' and Greek 'Pneuma' can be translated into English as three words: "wind," "breath," and
"some invisible moving force (spirit)."Considering these three possible senses of the term "spirit" in light of the Bible, we can more easily understand the appearances and manifestations of the Holy Spirit as Wind: The Wind that blew over the face of the waters, in the beginning, was the same that, with power, dynamism, and
wonders, freed Israel from Egypt. This wind parted the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21) and is the same that brings refreshment and comfort to man's spiritual needs. The idea is not to associate the person of God with a natural force or mere power or dynamic action. As we have seen, the Holy Spirit is a person with personal characteristics. But we can draw
a parallel between the idea of the power of God, which acts invisibly but powerfully, as and where He wants. The Holy Spirit as Breath: The idea of the spirit is also associated with the notion of life. God is the one who gives and sustains life. He breathed the breath of life at the moment of the spirit as Breath: The idea of the spirit is also associated with the notion of life.
is also the one who keeps us alive every new day. This image of God who gives life is seen in Ezekiels vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:9-10). When Gods spirit breathed on them, His breath gave life to the bones. Similarly, Jesus breathed on His disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). The Spirit as Giver of Grace and Favor: When
someone receives the Spirit of God in their life, they receive from Him the empowerment to accomplish things that otherwise would never be possible. The divine presence interacts with the person's spirit, teaching, convincing, and interceding for their salvation and personal transformation. More than an influence, the presence of the Spirit of God
grants gifts and fruits of His own for the good of man, the Church, and the needs of the world in general. Getting to Know the Holy Spirit. In prayer, reading, study, and meditation on the Word, we can get to know Him better. He is the main agent of revelation, illumination, and biblical
persuasion. He also brings conviction of faith, regenerates our minds, and transforms the hearts of sinners. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves in Gods love, as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.- Jude 1:20-21 Verses about the
Holy SpiritSince we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit, et us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25Dont you know that you yourselves are Gods temple and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17But you will
receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and to the earth. Acts 1:8After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31Guard the good deposit that was
entrusted to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. - 2 Timothy 1:14But 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 14:26But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate
will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:- John 16:7-8We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.- Acts 5:32And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were
sealed for the day of redemption.- Ephesians 4:30They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.- Acts 2:3-4Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.- 2
Corinthians 3:17Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.- Ephesians 5:18-20Peter
Mark 13:11And hope does not put us to shame, because Gods love has been given to us.- Romans 5:5While they were worshiping the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.- Romans 5:5While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.- Acts 13:2But after he had
considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.- Matthew 1:20When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit
descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.- Luke 3:21-22Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Son and of the Son and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely leased.- Luke 3:21-22Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them in the name of the Holy Spirit, and teaching the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit, 
am with you always, to the very end of the age.- Matthew 28:19-20Want to learn more about the Holy Spirit? See also: Bibliaon's Editorial Team consists of mature Christians with several years of experience in Bible teaching and in writing, all with a genuine commitment to Jesus and the Word of God. We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-equal with
God the Father and God the Son and is of the same essence. Yet He is also distinct from them. Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in personal force, when it says that He teaches, guides, comforts and intercedes. [1] He possesses emotions, intellect and will. [2] The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and gave counsel to the church at
Jerusalem.[3] He was sinned against and lied to.[4]The Scriptures also attest to the deity of the Holy Spirit. He is spoken of as God and is identified with the title of Jehovah.[5] The Christian who is indwelt by the Spirit is indwelt by God.[6] The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of deity, such as omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence and
eternality.[7] He does works only God can do, such as creating, regenerating and sanctifying.[8] He is equally associated with the other members of the Trinity.[9]The work of the Holy Spirit by the believer was not permanent in every case
[10] The Spirit had a ministry of restraining sin and in the creation of the world. [11] Those who respond to this conviction and place their faith
in Jesus Christ receive eternal life and a new nature.[13] The Holy Spirit unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, the church.[14] He also unites the believer who yields to God and submits himself to God's Word.[16]
When these conditions are met, the believer lives in the power of the Spirit and produces the fruit of the Spirit indwells the believer permanently.[18] While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit will never leave the true believer permanently.[18] While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit indwells the believer permanently.[18] While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit will never leave the true believer.[19] Absence of the Holy Spirit is the mark of the unsaved.[20] The Holy Spirit seals
the believer.[21] This ministry guarantees the security of the believer "until the day of redemption."[22] He will continue to be present in the earth. In the tribulation period the
Spirit will be involved in salvation and filling.[25] In the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Spirit will be in God's people and the Spirit will be upon the King.[26] Invisible, perhaps, but real. The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood person of the Trinity. Among the myths and the mistaken concepts that are shared, He has been described as a
force, a ghost, and a second-class or replacement god. He is confused with the manifestations themselves, and has even been presented as an incidental figure that appears momentarily. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is vital for the church to know the Spirit, learn to relate to Him, and understand how He manifests Himself.Let's take a
look at who the Holy Spirit is. For further study, get your FREE copy of The Power of the Holy Spirit in your own life. 1. The Holy Spirit is a person. 1. Being a person, the Holy Spirit has feelings. He can become sad or angry, and
others can insult Him and blaspheme against Him (Is 63:10; Mt 12:31; Ac 7:51; Eph 4:30; Heb 10:29). Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy against them. - Isaiah 63:10And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be
forgiven. - Matthew 12:31You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Acts 7:51And do not grieve the Holy Spirit! Acts 7:51And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealedfor the day of redemption. - Ephesians 4:30How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be
punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has insulted the Spirit of grace?- Hebrews 10:292. He has intentions, shows willfulness and discretion, loves, communicates, testifies, teaches, and prays (Neh 9:20; Jn 15:26; Ac 13:2; Rm 8:26,27; 15:30
1Co 12:11). These are qualities that distinguish Him as a person. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from the Fatherthe Spirit of truthwho goes out from the Fatherhe will testify
about me. - John 15:26While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.- Acts 13:2In the same way, the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he
who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for Gods people in accordance with the will of God. - Romans 15:30All these are the work of one and the same the same the work of one and the work o
Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. - 1 Corinthians 12:11Related Resource: Trusting God with Tomorrow's UnknownsThe unknowns of tomorrow can weigh heavy on our hearts, but Jesus reminds us to trust in Gods care and surrender our worries to Him. - Rachel Wojo. Your Nightly Prayeris a daily Christian prayer
podcast from the LifeAudio Podcast Network and Crosswalk.com. Each night, the team behind Crosswalk.com brings you a devotional and prayer to help you end your day in conversation with God. May these nightly prayers help you find the words to pray and focus your heart and mind on the love of God as you end your day. If you like what you
hear, subscribe on Apple or Spotify so you never miss an episode! Photo Credit: Unsplash The Holy Spirit was present during each stage of Christs life. When the angel appeared to Mary, the mother of Jesus, he declared: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be
called the Son of God (Lk 1:35). Later on, at the baptism of Jesus, which marked the beginning of His public ministry, the Holy Spirit was present and, on this occasion, could be seen in material form. When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a
dove and coming down on him (Mt 3:16). During His ministry, Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit and had a relationship with Him. Furthermore, He urged His disciples to receive Him in their lives. Photo Credit: Thinkstock Jesus put a lot of emphasis on the Holy Spirit. He was the subject of intense prayer: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because he remains with you do know him, because he rema
withthe disciples, but they lacked having Him inthem. If the Spirit of God was so important to the life of Jesus, how much more so for the lives of the waters, and in Revelation 22:17, He and the bride cry with one voice
From beginning to end, the Holy Spirit has always been active: In the beginning, creating, and at the end of the story, tending to us. He comforts us, helps us, guides us, reminds us, teaches us, comes along side us, counsels us, and intercedes and advocates for us. There is no area of life in which the believer does not need the help of the Holy
Spirit. "Without a life full of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to build the body of Christ." A gospel with no emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat. In certain moments, when there was a special manifestation of God, the New Testament emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat. In certain moments, when there was a special manifestation of God, the New Testament emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat. In certain moments, when there was a special manifestation of God, the New Testament emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat. In certain moments, when there was a special manifestation of God, the New Testament emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat. In certain moments, when there was a special manifestation of God, the New Testament emphasis on the Holy Spirit is flat.
was full of the Spirit in his mothers womb (Lk 1:15); Elizabeth, when Mary greeted her (Lk 1:41); and Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, when he prophesied (Lk 1:67). Jesus, filled with the Spirit in the upper room, and Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit
stood up to preach on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:14). The young Stephen, full of the Spirit, rebuked a sorcerer (Ac 13:9-11). There is no doubt that in the church a life filled with the Holy Spirit should be the norm. The filling of the Holy Spirit was even a
requirement for serving in the church. Without a life full of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to build the body of Christ, and we end up limiting Gods work in our lives. Photo Credit: Unsplash Referring to the Holy Spirit, Jesus affirmed in John 16:8: When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Lord used the legal
term convict in order to highlight that, even if man can point out an error, it is the Spirit that brings conviction of sin. He shows the offense, reveals the foolishness of the sin, points out the consequences, convinces of guilt, and leads the sinner to repentance. He is the churchs greatest ally in its evangelizing effort. Without the help and the filling of
the Spirit, the evangelistic task of the church will fail. The emphasis on the Holy Spirit does not come from any religious organization in particular, but from Christ Himself. When the disciples asked the Lord about the future, Christs answer was emphatic: He said to them, It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own
authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the earth (Ac 1:7-8)."In order to receive the power of God, one does not need a religious formula, but rather a relationship with a person."In Acts 1:7, Jesus points out what the disciples are
not to know, but in verse 8, the emphasis is placed on what they areto know. With the adversative word but, Jesus brings the off-track attention of the Holy Spirits coming to them. Perhaps they did not know this person of the Trinity very well, but the
idea of receiving power must have caught all of their attention. For over three years, these men had been witnesses of the continual manifestation of Gods power that they had so admired. In order to receive the power of God, one does not need a religious formula, but a continual manifestation of Gods power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power that they had so admired. In order to receive the power of God, one does not need a religious formula, but a continual manifestation of Gods power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for them to access this power through Jesus, and now the doors were being opened for the power through Jesus, and the power through Jesus a
rather a relationship with a person. When a farmer grows crops, his desire is to receive its fruit, but his relationship is with the plant. It is the plant that the farmer sows, waters, and takes care of, even though he is waiting for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but for
that, it was necessary for them to relate to Him as a person. Before seeing the divine manifestation, the believer will learn to love, serve, adore, and respect the Spirit; You will be My witnesses (1:8). Love is a
distinguishing mark of the disciples, while being a witness distinguishes those who are full of the Spirit. It does not matter how many spiritual experiences one may have, whoever does not testify of Christ does not show evidence of being filled by the Spirit. If we analyze what Paul says in Galatians 3:21 only want to learn this from you: Did you received the Spirit is does not the Spir
the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? we realize that this is a rhetorical question; no one receives the Holy Spirit. It is also a grace-based experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on what they do. We experience with the Holy Spirit based on the Holy Spirit based o
Christ without doubting whether He will enter our lives or not, we should receive the Holy Spirit by faith and believe that He will respond to our requests without delay. Jesus skillfully expresses the essence of this experience: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit by faith and believe that He will respond to our requests without delay. Jesus skillfully expresses the essence of this experience: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit by faith and believe that He will respond to our requests without delay. Jesus skillfully expresses the essence of this experience.
Spirit to those who ask him? (Lk 11:13). Reprinted from the CSB Fisher of Men Bible (copyright 2018 byLuis ngel Daz-Pabn) with permission of Holman Bible Publishers. Luis ngel Daz-Pabn serves as president of the Global Missionary Society, Pastor of La Capilla del Rey (The Kings Chapel) in Miami, Florida, and General Editor for The Fisher of Men
Bible (Holman Bibles). Photo Credit: Thinkstock Question AnswerThe Bible is quite clear that the Holy Spirit is active in our world. The book of Acts, which sometimes goes by the longer title of The Acts of the Apostles. After the apostolic age, there have been some
changesthe Spirit does not inspire further Scripture, for example but He continues to do His work in the believers and seals them until the day of redemptionthis indicates that the Holy Spirits presence in the believer is
irreversible. He guards and guarantees the salvation of the ones He indwells (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). The Holy Spirit assists believer (Titus 3:5). At the moment of salvation, the Spirit baptizes
the believer into the Body of Christ (Romans 6:3). Believers with fellowship and joy as they go through a hostile world (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Spirit, in His mighty power, fills believers with all joy and peace as they trust the Lord, causing
believers to overflow with hope (Romans 15:13). Sanctification is another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The Spirit sets Himself against the desires of the flesh become less evident, and the fruit of the Spirit becomes more evident (Galatians 5:1926).
Believers are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), which means they are to yield themselves to the Spirit as He determines
in His wisdom (verse 11). The Holy Spirit also does work among unbelievers. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8, ESV). The Spirit to convict the world concerning sin and combatting
the secret power of lawlessness in the world. This action keeps the rise of the Antichrist at bay (2 Thessalonians 2:610). The Holy Spirit has one other important role, and that is to give believers wisdom by which we can understand God. These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of
God. For who knows a persons thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit inside ourselves, we can comprehend the thoughts of God, as revealed in the Scripture. The Spirit helps us
understand. This is wisdom from God, rather than wisdom from man. No amount of human knowledge can ever replace the Holy Spirit do? As Gods personal, animating presence, the Holy Spirit works in creation to bring life, beauty, and order out of
chaos. Humanity then re-introduces chaos into Gods good world, causing corruption and death. But through Israels prophets, God reveals that the Spirit is renewing creation and transforming human hearts. This is so people can return to true life, know real love, and be free to love God and others. Here, we will not attempt to engage with all of the
important Holy Spirit content in the Bible. Instead, well trace the biblical theme along key points in the rarrative to see how the Holy Spirit shows up in the storyline. The Holy Spirit is one of the trinity, alongside the Father and the Son (or Word). As the invisible, personal presence of the creator God, the Holy Spirit animates and
sustains all creation, embodying God's active presence in the world. If we want to understand the Holy Spirit, we have to start on page one of the Bible. Here, the uncreated world is depicted as a dark, chaotic place. But above the chaos, Gods Spirit hovers, ready to bring about life and order and beauty. The Hebrew word for Spirit is ruakh, and its how
the biblical authors talk about Gods personal presence. Ruakh can refer to a number of different things, but what they all have in common is energy. Think of the invisible energy that makes the clouds move or the tree branches sway. Or the vitality we feel in our bodies when we take a deep breath. All of that is
ruakhand this is the same word used in the Bible to describe Gods Spirit is powerful. And just as breath keeps us alive, Gods Spirit is invisible. Wind is powerful and Gods Spirit is powerful and Gods Spirit is powerful and Fods Spirit is powerful. And just as breath keeps us alive, Gods Spirit is invisible.
continue in the story of the Bible, we see Gods ruakh giving special empowerment to people for specific tasks. First, Gods Spirit enables Joseph to understand and interpret dreams. Then the artist Bezalel is empowered by Gods Spirit enables Joseph to understand and interpret dreams. Then the tabernacle. New Chaos to New Creation Gods Spirit enables Joseph to understand and interpret dreams.
Spirit also empowers the prophets to see whats happening in history from Gods point of view. And the prophets see a problem: While Gods ruakh created a really good world, humans unleashed chaos into it through evil and injustice. But thats not the end of the story as the prophets see it. The Spirit will act again, just like in Genesis 1, but now to
transform the human heart, to empower people to truly love God and others. Empowering Jesus to Begin New CreationHow will this new act of Gods Spirit happen? Centuries after the prophets, we are introduced to Jesus. The Bible depicts a scene where Jesus is baptized in the waters of the Jordan River; the sky opens up and Gods Spirit comes and Gods Spirit happen?
rests on Jesus like a bird. And in this event we are meant to see Gods Spirit empowering Jesus to begin the new creation. After this moment, whenever he heals people or forgives their sins, Jesus is creating life where there once was death. Now Israels religious leaders oppose Jesus, and they eventually have him killed. But still, Gods Spirit is at work.
The earliest disciples of Jesus, who see him alive from the dead, say it is Gods energizing Spirit that raises Jesus. This is the beginning of new creation. And its still going! When Jesus appears to his closest followers, he breathes on them and says, Receive the Holy Spirit. Soon after that, the Spirit powerfully comes to rest upon and to fill all of his
disciples, so they can become part of this new creation, share the good news, and learn how to live by the energy and influence of Gods Spirit. New Creation to love God and others. And the Christian hope is that Gods Spirit will finish the job
The story of the Bible ends with a vision of a new humanity living in a new world thats permeated with Gods love and life-giving Spirit. Why do you think God's Spirit partners with regular people to bring about new creation? So far weve just skimmed the surface. Explore these studies to take a deeper dive into how this theme contributes to the whole
story of the Bible. Hovering, Designing, and Creating LifeGenesis 1:1-5, 2:7; Job 34:14-15At creation, Gods Spirit brings beauty and life out of chaos. 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over
the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and there was horning, one day. 7 Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground, and
breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. 14 If He were to determine to do so, If He were to gather His spirit and His breath to Himself, 15 Humanity would perish together, And mankind would return to dust. In Genesis 1:2, the earth is covered with water, which is a symbol of chaos in the ancient world. Gods
Spirit hovers over the waters like a bird, preparing to bring order out of the chaos. For the Spirit, chaos presents not a threat but an opportunity. God simply speaks, and light emerges from the darkness, land from the water, and creatures from the ground (see Gen. 1:6-31). Through his Spirit, God creates a beautiful world thats teeming with life. The
Hebrew word for spirit is ruakh. It refers to an invisible energy that can take the form of wind (Gen. 3:8), breath (Job 27:3), or spiritthat is, the personal presence of God (Ezek. 37:1) or of a person (Ps. 32:2). When God forms a human from the dust, he breathes into him the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). Although the Hebrew word in this case is neshaman
Job 34:14-15 uses ruakh and neshamah as synonyms to describe the life-force God gives humans. In other words, Gods ruakh animates people and is the source of all life. What does Gods Spirit do in Genesis 1:1-5? What does this tell us about how the Spirit approaches situations of chaos? Genesis 41:37-40; Exodus 31:1-5; Judges 3:9-10; Micah
3:8Some people in the Hebrew Bible are infused with the Spirit to accomplish unique tasks. 37 Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants, Can we find a man like this, in whom there is a divine spirit? 39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as
discerning and wise as you are. 40 You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people shall be obedient to you; only regarding the throne will I be greater than you. 31 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in
wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, 4 to create artistic designs for work in all kinds of craftsmanship. 9 But the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up a deliverer for the
sons of Israel to set them free, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Calebs younger brother. 10 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went to war, the Lord handed over to him Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. 8 On the other hand, I am filled with power With the Spirit of
the Lord And with justice and courage To make known to Jacob his rebellious act, And to Israel his sin. God breathes his life-sustaining ruakh (breath or spirit) into all people to do specific tasks. In Genesis 41, Pharaoh has dreams that puzzle all the wise men of Egypt
God first created humans, his aim was for them to continue his creative work by being fruitful and multiplying life, which included cultivating the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15). So, as God first acted through his Spirit to create the world, Gods Spirit now acts through being fruitful and multiplying life, which included cultivating the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15).
Eden. Gods Spirit also empowers judges like Othniel to deliver the Israelites from their enemies (Judg. 3:9-10). And the Spirit empowers prophets like Micah (Mic. 3:8) to hear Gods words of judgment and hope and speak them to the people. What kinds of things did Gods Spirit empowers prophets like Micah (Mic. 3:8) to hear Gods words of judgment and hope and speak them to the people. What kinds of things did Gods Spirit empowers prophets like Micah (Mic. 3:8) to hear Gods words of judgment and hope and speak them to the people. What kinds of things did Gods Spirit empowers prophets like Micah (Mic. 3:8) to hear Gods words of judgment and hope and speak them to the people. What kinds of things did Gods Spirit empowers prophets like Micah (Mic. 3:8) to hear Gods words of judgment and hope and speak them to the people which is a speak them to the peop
themes? Do you see ways that the Spirit does or does not seem to work? Why do you think people needed Gods Spirit to accomplish these tasks? God promises that the Spirit does or does not seem to work? Why do you into your own land. 25 Then I will sprinkle
clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will give you a new spirit within you; and I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and give you a new heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and give you a new heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My Spirit within you; and I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and give you a new heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and form all your filthiness and from all your fil
are careful and follow My ordinances. 28 And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will not bring a famine on you. 30 Instead, I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of
the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. The Israelites end up in Babylonian exile because they do not honor the terms of their agreement with them, giving instructions designed to bring loving order and flourishing
life to Israel. Instead, the people choose violence and injustice, unleashing chaos throughout their land. But God doesnt give up on them. Exile isnt the end. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises to bring his people back from exile and give them a new spirit. What does that mean? God says he will replace their stony hearts with
soft, fleshy hearts that will respond to his voice. And the new spirit he will give them is his Spirit. Gods Spirit will no longer empower only certain people to understand and follow his teaching. The Spirit will transform the human heart so that people can truly love God and
others.Imagine yourself as a hurting Israelite in exile. The Babylonian army has destroyed the temple where you encounter God. Youve been torn from your homeland and forced to live under enemy control in a distant land. How might you feel when you hear the promise from God in Ezekiel 36:24-30?Through Jesus, Gods Spirit begins a work of new
creation. 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being that has come into being that has come into being that has come into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into bei
darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it. 29 The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him, and *said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He in behalf of whom I said, After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me. 31 And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be
revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water. 32 And John testified, saying, I have seen the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in
the Holy Spirit. 34 And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God. Like Genesis, the Gospel of John starts with the words: In the beginning. John identifies Jesus as the Word through whom God spoke the world into
being, and we know from Genesis 1:2 that the Spirit was also part of the original creation, hovering over the waters. At Jesus baptism, the Holy Spirit is hovering like a bird over the waters, preparing to bring order from chaos so that life can flourish. Gods Spirit is
empowering Jesus to begin the new creation. The Spirit is doing what the Spirit always doesgiving and sustaining lifebut in a new way. Light is once again entering the world, overcoming the darkness. The dove-like Spirit resting on Jesus also anoints him as someone who will baptize others, but in the Holy Spirit rather than in water. John the Baptizer
explains that Iesus will cleanse people from sin and give them the Holy Spirit, as Ezekiel promised (Ezek, 36:24-30). This will enable them to follow Gods ways, which lead to life. What connections do you see when you compare Genesis 1:1-5 with John 1:1-5, 29-34? How does this help you understand the Spirits work through Jesus? Restoration Through
the SpiritIsaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-21Empowered by the Spirit, Jesus starts restoring the world, as Israels prophets predicted. 61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord anointed me To bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim release to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To
proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of adhes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise instead of mourning in Zion, The cloak of mourning in Zion, The cloak of praise in Zion, The cloak of mourning in Zion, The cloak of mourning in Zion, The cloak of mournin
He may be glorified. 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and found the place where it was written: 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He
anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. 20 And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue were intently
directed at Him. 21 Now He began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. Isaiah 61:1-3 describes a prophetic figure whos empowered by Gods Spirit to bring restoration. He declares the good news of Gods coming kingdom to the poor, liberates the oppressed, announces the favorable year of the LORD, and comforts
those who are grieving. The phrase favorable year of the LORD refers to the restorative Year of Jubilee. God told the Israelites that every 50th year they were to free slaves and return any land that had been sold to its original owner, breaking the cycle of generational poverty (see Lev. 25). In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus reads part of that passage from the
scroll of Isaiah. And then he declares that hes bringing this prophetic promise to fulfillment right then, in their midst. The Spirit is empowering him to restore those who are weighed down by poverty, trapped by injustice, and bowed down in suffering and grief. So Jesus heals the sick and oppressed, brings freedom from evil spirits, and calls people to
lives of radical generosity so that all will have what they need. Jesus is creating life where there once was death. He is renewing all of creation, which means hes working in union with the life-giving Holy Spirit. How does Isaiah 61:1-3 provide a framework for understanding Jesus ministry? What are some ways he fulfills these verses? John 14:16-17,
25-27; 15:26-27; 16:5-15 Jesus unites and guides his followers by sending the Spirit as an effective helper. 16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He
remains with you and will be in you. 25 These things I have spoken to you while remaining with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be
troubled, nor fearful. 26 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the beginning. 5 But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, Where are You going? 6
But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: 9 regarding sin, because
they do not believe in Me; 10 and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; 11 and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will
guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you. Before Jesus arrest,
he explains to his closest followers that it is better for them that hes going away. But why? He says that when he leaves, hell send the Holy Spirit to them. The Spirit will be another Helper (Greek parakletos, John 14:16), like Jesus (see 1 John 2:1). But unlike Jesus, who was with them only for a season, this helper will live in them and will be with them
continuously, forever. As Jesus prepares his followers for his death, he refers three times to the Spirit of truth (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13). He does this to emphasize the Spirit is not only the life-giver, but also the truth-teller. Jesus willingness to be crucified
without fighting back might suggest his weakness before greater ruling powers. But the Spirit unveils a deeper truth. Jesus death and resurrection actually show the world (16:11). And since Jesus return to heaven suggests that he represents and is
inseparably connected to the Father, the Spirit helps people see that rejecting Jesus is also a rejection of God and, therefore, of true life itself. The Spirit will remind Jesus followers of his words, teaching them everything they need to know and preparing them for whats coming. Through the Spirit, they will live in unity, despite their different
backgrounds and ways of life, so that the world may know Jesus through them (17:22-23; see Eph. 4:3). In what ways does the Holy Spirit help Jesus followers? God dwells within physical human beings through his divine Spirit. 2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind
came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out. 5 Now there
were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together and they were amazed and astonished, saying, Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it
that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, and Elamites, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs we hear them speaking in our
own tongues of the mighty deeds of God. 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, What does this mean? 13 But others were jeering and saying, They are full of sweet wine! 14 But Peter, taking his stand with the other eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: Men of Judea and all you who live in
Jerusalem, know this, and pay attention to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you assume, since it is only the third hour of the day; 16 but this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 And it shall be in the last days, God says, That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, And
your young men will see visions, And your old men will have dreams; 18 And even on My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, And they will prophesy. 19 And I will display wonders in the sky above And signs on the earth below, Blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into
blood, Before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. 21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In Genesis 11:1-9 God separates people by confusing their languages and ending their arrogant plans to build a tower that reaches Heaven. Centuries later, when the Spirit arrives at Pentecost, God brings
separated peoples back together andthrough the Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of Joels prophecy that in the last days God would send his Spirit on
all fleshyoung and old, men and women, rich and poor (Joel 2:28-32, BibleProject translation). Through the Spirit, all people will be able to know and communicate Gods appearances in the Hebrew Bible (see Exod. 3:2, 19:18), which often
include a visible fire that doesnt consume or harm anything. Previously, Gods presence had settled in the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kgs. 8:10-11), but now God will dwell in his people through his Spirit. Their bodies will become living temples, where Heaven meets Earth (1 Cor. 3:16-17). And they will become the presence of God to the world around
them. Often we consider physical and spiritual realities as separate from, or even opposed to, one another. But passages like this reveal a story about God and his relationship with creation? 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 12:27-13:3The Spirit
gives unique gifts so people can love and care for each other well.1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NASB 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 7 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts, but the same Lord. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of gifts. 8 There are varieties of gifts are varieties of 
for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit, and to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirits,
to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually parts of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets,
third teachers, then miracles, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do
they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And yet, I am going to show you a far better way. 13 If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but
do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good. In the Hebrew Bible, the Holy Spirit empowers all of Jesus followers by giving them each spiritual gifts in order to care
for each other. For example, some have a tenacious faith, others are agents of healing, while still others are compelling teachers. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Paul develops the metaphor of a body to describe the gathering of Christs people, or the church. Every follower of Christ is a body part, and each part functions differently. Just as individuals need
all of their body parts working together for personal health, so the body of Christ needs all of its parts (its people) to use their different Spirit-enhanced gifts so the community can flourish. Most importantly, Paul explains that these gifts only truly function when people exercise them from a heart of genuine love for others. Even the most powerful and
effective gifts are, at best, worthless and, at worst, harmful (like a clanging cymbal) if they are not exercised in love. Paul repeats this point three times in three tim
being helpful for community life and flourishing? Why is love for others so crucial when using spiritual gifts? While following the Spirit, our lives produce good fruit, such as love, joy, and peace. 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.
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