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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 three Persons of the Trinity, along with God the Father and God the Son, whose work of 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?He is a Person 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 of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10). Has will and interest: "When they came near to Mysia, 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, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, etc. There is no distinction in His attributes, only in the way He relates to one another and to creation. The Bible, the Holy Spirit, called God: The episode of Ananias and Sapphira provides clear evidence of divinity "... to lie to the Holy Spirit.... You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3-4). Co-Creator: The Spirit of God was involved in creation: Genesis 1:2. Intercessor for the church: 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; 13:30; 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 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 live with Jesus Christ and enjoy the blessings He offers through His work (John 16:8; 2 Timothy 1:14). When saved by Jesus Christ's redemptive work, new 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 4:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13). Conviction of Sin: The Holy Spirit convicts 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 fellowship and promotes unity in the church (Ephesians 4:3). Fruit of the Spirit: He produces His precious spiritual fruit in the lives of believers, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).The Holy Spirit in the BibleIn the Bible, the person of the Holy Spirit appears from Genesis to Revelation. He participates in creation, regeneration, and sanctification of God's children. The Holy Spirit is also called 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) The Spirit of the Lord God: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me..." (Isaiah 61:1) 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 in the Bible. 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 the concept of wind to the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in me. 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. 2 Timothy 1:14The Holy Spirit is also the wind that blows away the wind of unbelief. And He is also the one who keeps us alive every new day. This image of God who gives life is seen in Ezekiel's 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 SpiritAs He is a Person, we can relate personally to 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 up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in Gods love, as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 1:20-21Verses about the Holy SpiritSince we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.- Galatians 5:25Doesn't you know that you yourselves are Gods temple and that Gods Spirit dwells in your midst? - 1 Corinthians 3:16For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating 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 in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of 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 you. 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.- Matthew 28:19-20Want to learn more about the Holy Spirit? See also: Bibleaon'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 terms, not as an impersonal 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 in the Old Testament differed somewhat from His work in the New Testament. The possession 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]The Holy Spirit today plays a major role in the application of salvation to the individual. It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light.[12] 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 the Spirit of Christ, the church.[14] Also, the Holy Spirit is present during each stage of Christ's life. When the angel appeared to Mary, the mother of Jesus, he declared: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power 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 it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you (Jn 14:16-17). The Lord mentions two points: the Holy Spirit was already real and He was about to come. At that time, the Spirit dwelled 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 believers!The Holy Spirit is an important figure throughout the Bible. In Genesis 1:2, we find Him moving about the surface 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 emphatically states that the partakers were filled with the Holy Spirit. This was the experience of many: John the Baptist was empowered with the Holy Spirit and preached the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He was the one who baptized Jesus, and Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to preach the Gospel. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to write the New Testament. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to found the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to evangelize the world. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to build the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to lead the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to discipline the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to govern the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to teach the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to nurture the churches. The Holy Spirit was also the one who inspired the apostles to protect the churches. 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14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, idol-eat behavior, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, 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. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, lets follow the Spirit as well. 26 Lets not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.Sometimes life is equated with a beating heart and blinking eyes. But the Bible suggests over and over that real life is much more. Writing to the churches in Galatia, the Apostle Paul sets up a sharp contrast between walking by the Spirit and carrying out the desire of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). The first is about true human life; the latter is more like a dead person walking.When Paul writes about the flesh here, he is not talking about our physical bodies, but our selfish tendencies to choose whats right in our own eyes, or to give into harmful cravings of our flesh. This way of life produces bad fruit and broken relationships.But when were trusting the Holy Spirits guidance and allowing God to determine whats right, our lives begin to heal. We start producing good fruit, like loving words and actions that bring healing to our communities. We radiate joy in the midst of despair, create peace when conflicts arise, and show kindness even when people treat us harshly.When Paul says that we are not under the Law if we are led by the Spirit (5:18), he doesnt mean that Gods torah (Hebrew for law or instruction) is now invalid. Hes saying that people who are led by the Spirit are no longer compelled by fear of punishment but are compelled by the love of Christ.As God promised in Ezekiel 36:27, the Spirit works in us so that we can fulfill the heart of the torah. And we do this by taking care of one anotherby loving our neighbor as ourselves (Gal. 5:14).Imagine a community full of people engaging in the deeds of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. What would that look like? How would you envision a community marked by the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-23?The Holy Spirit is a complex topic, and you probably still have questions. Here are some of the ones we hear most often.What does the Holy Spirit do?The Holy Spirit created the world and all life within it (Gen. 1:2). And as Gods animating presence, sometimes referred to as God's breath, the Holy Spirit continues creating and sustaining life and everything that exists (Job 34:14-15, Ps. 33:6; Ps. 104:29-30).The Holy Spirit also energizes human work. In the Hebrew Bible, the Spirit empowers certain people to accomplish particular tasks (e.g., Gen. 41:37-40; Exod. 31:1-5). Then, in the New Testament, the Spirit joins with all Jesus followers to empower them (Acts 2:1-21), giving them spiritual gifts to be used for serving others (1 Cor. 12).Since human corruption has harmed our world, resulting in chaos and suffering, the life-giving presence of the Spirit is also at work to restore all of creations original beauty and goodness. In the Hebrew Bible, God promises that through the Spirit he will bring people back from the death of exile (Ezek. 37:1-14) and replace their hard, deadened hearts with soft, fleshy hearts (Ezek. 36:24-30).In the New Testament, the Spirit empowers Jesus to bring about new creation life (John 1:29-34; Luke 4:16-21). After his crucifixion, the Spirit is involved in raising Jesus from the dead, demonstrating the resurrection life that is available to all people (Rom. 8:11). The Spirit gives Jesus followers a new birth into new life (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5) so they can live the way God desires and build healthy, thriving communities (Gal. 5:13-26). And one day the Spirit will raise them from death and grant a renewed, indestructible life in the new Heaven and new Earth (1 Cor. 15).The Spirit also helps Jesus followers by reminding them about the things Jesus taught (John 14:26), by revealing Gods truth (John 16:5-15), by reminding them of their status as Gods children (Rom. 8:16), and by interceding for them with groanings too deep for words (Rom. 8:26, NASB).What does the Holy Spirit look like?The Holy Spirit is both invisible and, at times, seemingly visible. The Spirit is said to look like a dove descending from the sky during Jesus baptism (John 1:32), echoing the Spirits bird-like hovering over the chaotic waters at creation (Gen. 1:2). In other places, the Spirit is connected to life-giving water (Isa. 44:3; John 3:5; John 7:37-39) or the oil of anointing (1 Sam. 16:13). And during Pentecost, the Spirit appears to Jesus followers as tongues of fire (Acts 2:1-4), reflecting Gods fiery appearances in the Hebrew Bible (Exod. 3:1-5; Exod. 13:21-22; Exod. 19:16-18).But Jesus also describes the Spirit (Greek pneuma) as like the wind (also pneuma), which blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going (John 3:8, NASB). Often we dont see the Spirit, but instead we see the effects of the Spirits life-giving and empowering work.No image can completely capture the Spirits essence. Doves, water, oil, and fire each tell us something about the Spirit, but the Spirit is beyond all these things. And the Spirit is also beyond gender. Although people sometimes refer to the Holy Spirit as a he, the Hebrew word for Spirit (ruakh) is feminine and the Greek word (pneuma) is neuter.What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self controlthese qualities are the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23a, NASB). The Apostle Paul says that our lives will produce this fruit when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions and actions. When we show love to people around us, even if they dont love us in return, we are demonstrating the Spirits work in us. When were patient with others faults or with things that dont go the way we planned, were bearing spiritual fruit. When we display self-control instead of letting our desires control us, bringing harm to ourselves and others, spiritual fruit is growing in us. Together, these fruits are the natural produce of a life lived in the Spirit.What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?The gifts of the Holy Spirit, which the New Testament often calls spiritual gifts, are given to Jesus followers so they can care for one another and build each other up. These gifts include teaching, service, pastoring (which means shepherding people), giving, leading, healing, faith, prophecy, words of wisdom, and many more. The New Testament offers several lists of spiritual gifts that are overlapping, but not identical (1 Cor. 12:8-10; 1 Cor. 12:29-31; 1 Cor. 14:1-2; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). This suggests that the New Testament authors were not trying to be exhaustive about what kinds of gifts the Spirit gives, they focused on explaining the purpose of spiritual gifts and the ways people should use them. Spiritual gifts are designed to help individuals and communities flourish (Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:4-30; 1 Cor. 14:1-5). But they can fulfill that purpose only when theyre exercised in love (1 Cor. 13:1-3) and in an orderly way (1 Cor. 14:26-32; 1 Cor. 14:40).What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?Christian traditions hold different views about what it means to be filled with the Spirit (see Acts 2:4; Acts 9:17) and when such an event takes place in a persons life. Some see being filled with, baptized with (see Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5), and receiving (see John 20:22; Acts 8:17) the Holy Spirit as ways of referring to the same event, while others suggest distinctions.In any case, New Testament authors repeatedly teach that the Holy Spirit empowers people to live according to Gods ways by loving and caring for each other (e.g., Gal. 5:13-26). Jesus followers cooperate with the Spirits work in them when they walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16). The Apostle Pauls instruction to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) also suggests that people can choose to cooperate with the Spirit and allow the Spirits power to affect or fill every area of their life. This, Paul says, is the way to new life.Being filled with the Spirit can also be a way to talk about receiving spiritual gifts from God, so that through the Spirits strengthening power, people can offer healing and encouragement to one another (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-13) And at times the Spirit fills people with power to speak or act in particular ways (see Isa. 61:1; Judg. 3:10; Judg. 14:6; Acts 8:29; Acts 13:4; Acts 16:6).What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?In Matthew 12:31, Jesus says, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven (NASB). In this instance, Jesus is responding to some Pharisees who think hes using demonic power to cast out demons (Matt. 12:24; see also Mark 3:22-30). In other words, they dont recognize the Holy Spirits power when they see it.A similar saying in Luke 12 comes in a different context. Here Jesus explains that his followers will be persecuted and dragged before authorities, but he reassures them that the Holy Spirit will give them the words to faithfully represent him (Luke 12:12). And Jesus says that everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him (Luke 12:10, NASB).Jesus statements about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit are not intended to strike fear in the hearts of people who are genuinely seeking to follow God. Hes talking about an ongoing way of rejecting the Holy Spirit, not about a moment where you say or think something blasphemous.Jesus says that the Spirit shows people what is good and brings conviction (not condemnation) to human beings who have turned against God (John 16:8-9). The Apostle Paul also says that because of the Spirit, people can understand and accept that Jesus is the ruler, or Lord over all creation (1 Cor. 12:3). So when people are rejecting the work of the Spirit as bad or wrong, thereby blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, theyre also rejecting the forgiveness and life found in Jesus.What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit?Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30, NASB) comes right after a warning against destructive speech (Eph. 4:29) and before a call to avoid bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander (Eph. 4:31, NASB). So behaviors that harm oneself, others, or creation, and actions or attitudes that foster malice and create hostility or division all grieve the Holy Spirit.In fact, the passage begins by challenging Jesus followers to flourish as God intended by recognizing that God called them to be his partners in the work of restoring all things (Eph. 4:1). Living like this involves being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3, NASB). If Jesus followers tear each other down, theyre contributing to the worlds brokenness, which grieves the Holy Spirit. But when they seek to build each other up, they become loving signposts of the better way of life found in Gods Kingdom.Ephesians 4:30 may also allude to Isaiah 63:10, which says that the Israelites grieved the Holy Spirit when they turned away from God. Though God called them to reflect his justice and righteousness, they chose oppression and violence instead (Isa. 5:7). The Scriptures suggest that the Spirit experiences suffering and real sorrow when people are wounded and relationships fractured. 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: A Scripture and Prayer Guide HERE. Download and print this e-book to discover the works and 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 and he himself fought 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 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 treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and 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 their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.- Nehemiah 9:20When the Advocatecomes, whom I will send to you 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 helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but 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 8:26-27I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. - Romans 15:30All these are the work of one and the same 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 Prayersa 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: UnsplashThe 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 it doesnt see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you (Jn 14:16-17). The Lord mentions two points: the Holy Spirit was already real and He was about to come. At that time, the Spirit dwelled withthe disciples, but they lacked having Him in them. If the Spirit of God was so important to the life of Jesus, how much more so for the lives of the believers!The Holy Spirit is an important figure throughout the Bible. In Genesis 1:2, we find Him moving about the surface 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 emphatically states that the partakers were filled with the Holy Spirit. This was the experience of many: John the Baptist 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 Holy Spirit, was led by the same Spirit into the desert (Lk 4:1). The disciples were 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, saw the glory of God when he was stoned (Ac 7:55-56); and Paul, inspired by 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, convines 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 end of 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 disciples to the primary concern at hand: they would receive power. However, this depended on 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 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 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. He knows that, without the plant, there will be no fruit. The disciples also desired 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, wait in Him and form a relationship with Him.Photo Credit: Thinkstock Acts clearly states how to recognize someone that is full of 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 3:2I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive 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 based on what they do. We experience salvation freely; there is no reason to relate to God differently in our experience with the Holy Spirit. It is also a grace-based experience. In the same way that we receive 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 to those who ask him? (Lk 11:13).Reprinted from theCSB 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

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