



UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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PREAMBLE

After this discussion, we should be able to answer the following questions:

- **What is the Holy Spirit**
- **Who is the Holy Spirit**
- **The functions of the Holy Spirit**
- **How the Holy Spirit influenced the life of Jesus and Mary**
- **Where we get the evidence about the existence of the Holy Spirit**



PREAMBLE

- **How the Apostles received the Holy and what the Holy Spirit did in their lives**
- **How we as Christians receive the Holy Spirit**
- **What are the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives**
- **The Eight ways in which the Holy Spirit provides us with the experience of God**



DEFINITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **The word “Spirit”, comes from both the Hebrew and Greek words which originally means “breadth,” or “air”, or “wind”**
- **Spirit is understood to be the source of inspiration, life and movement within God’s people.**
- **Some of the images of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures are fire, cloud and light, seal, hand, finger of God and dove(CCC, no 696-701)**



DEFINITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- *“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life. Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Together, they are worshipped and glorified.”* (The Nicene Creed)
- To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity.
- Thus, the Holy Spirit is God, co-eternal, to the Father and the Son.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is the creative spirit of life.
- The Holy Spirit animates all life.
- The Holy Spirit binds everything together.
- The Holy Spirit guides all towards everlasting salvation.
- Jesus says in John 14:16-17: *“I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete to be with you always. The spirit of truth whom the world can not accept since it neither sees him nor recognizes him; but you can recognize him, because he remains with you and will be within you.”*



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LIFE OF JESUS

- The Holy Spirit is active in the life of Jesus Christ; It was there in his conception, in his baptism, in his public ministry, in his death and resurrection.
- That is why Jesus says in Luke 4:18: “*The Spirit of God is upon me.*”
- Peter again says about Jesus in Acts. 10:38: “*And the way God anointed him with Holy Spirit and power; He went about doing good works and healing all whom were in his grip of the devil and God was with him.*”



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LIFE OF MARY

- **We can also see the impact of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus.**
- **She was transformed by the Holy Spirit into a luminous witness of grace from the moment of her conception.**
- **The Angel Gabriel rightly addressed her as “full of grace.”(Luke 1:13). It is also by the power of the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived Jesus, the Son of God.**



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The essential task of the Holy Spirit is to sanctify and make each one of us Holy.
- The Holy Spirit provides us with new power to do what is right and effect changes in our nature.
- The Holy Spirit brings us the presence of God so that we can pray, hear His voice and experience his intervention in our daily lives.



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit comes to us as a teacher of the meaning and depth of Revelation.
- The Holy Spirit fills us with power, the grace to understand the Church's teaching and the wisdom to see how they apply to our lives.
- The Holy Spirit puts courage into our hearts so that we can witness what we believe to believer and unbeliever alike.



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is dynamic and transforms our bodies into the temples of God and our souls into dwelling places of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit is called advocate and consoler. What that means is that the Holy Spirit fills us with inspiration and encouragement.
- The Holy Spirit is essentially Love. Love can change those we meet and change ourselves in each encounter.
- Because of the Holy Spirit our whole being, mind, heart, soul, and body can be permeated with love.



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **The Holy Spirit builds up, animates, and sanctifies the Church.**
- **The Holy Spirit prepares us to go out and bring others to Christ.**
- **The Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand Christ's death and Resurrection.**



THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit makes present for us the mystery of Christ, especially in the Eucharist, and brings us to communion with God that we may bear much fruit.(CCC, no. 737).
- That is why the Scriptures say “God is love”. Love is the first gift, containing all others. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (CCC, no. 733, citing 1 John 4:8, 16 and Romans 5:5)



WHERE DO WE GET EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We get proofs of the existence of the Holy from the Scriptures.

The Old Testament does not say much of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is hidden but it is at work. When the Church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, ‘who has spoken through the prophets,’ wants to tell us about Christ”(CCC, no.702



WHERE DO WE GET EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is in the New Testament especially the Gospels that we see the dynamic action of the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit that Jesus is conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove over Jesus at his Baptism in the Jordan.



WHERE DO WE GET EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the desert before he started his public ministry.

In his Last Supper with his Apostles, Jesus speaks at length about the promised revelation and sending of the Holy Spirit to his Apostles.

The Holy Spirit is again revealed at Pentecost, when the seven weeks after Easter have concluded. Christ, Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.”(CCC, no.731)



HOW THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

- On a Pentecost day, which is a Jewish feast. The Apostles and some of the disciples had gathered together in prayer awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, when suddenly a noise like a strong wind was heard and tongues of fire appeared and rested on each one present. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign tongues, and boldly proclaimed as the spirit prompted them. (Acts 2:1-4)



HOW THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Pentecost Day, Peter announced Jesus Christ crucified as Lord and Messiah. His hearers asked him what they were to do. Peter answered: “You must reform and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that your sin may be forgiven-then you will receive the Holy Spirit.” Acts2:37-38**



WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DID FOR THE APOSTLES

- The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles to become dynamic missionaries.
- The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles courage so that nothing stopped them from proclaiming the love of Christ for all people.
- The Holy Spirit dispelled fear in the hearts of the Apostles and they confronted their persecutors and said they will obey God rather than men.
- The Acts of the Apostles and the various epistles of the New Testament give us further evidence of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the first-century Church.



AS CHRISTIANS WHEN DO WE RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **We receive the Holy Spirit first at our baptism. At our baptism, the Spirit works through the waters which take away Original Sin and actual sins and give us new life with the Triune God.**
- **Secondly, we receive the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation. At Confirmation, the Holy Spirit is conferred by the anointing with the oil of Chrism, by which the Bishop seals us so that the Holy Spirit can strengthen us to pursue the mission of Christ to transform the world.**
- **Thirdly, we receive the Holy Spirit when we actively participate at Mass. At every Mass, the Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ by the ministry of the priest.**



THE CATECHISM SETS OUT EIGHT WAYS IN WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES US WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD

- 1) When we pray and study the Scripture which the Holy Spirit inspired, we can sense his presence in the biblical words.**
- 2) When we read the lives of the saints, their teachings and witnesses, we can be motivated to holiness by their example which was shaped by the Holy Spirit.**
- 3) When we assent with obedience to the teachings of the Magisterium, we are guided by the Holy Spirit. His presence is uniquely experienced at Ecumenical councils.**
- 4) When we actively participate in the liturgies and Sacraments of the Church, we enter into a sacred moment when the Holy Spirit opens us to experience of God, especially in the Eucharist.**



THE CATECHISM SETS OUT EIGHT WAYS IN WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES US WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD

When we give ourselves to prayer, whether that of the Rosary or the Liturgy of Hours or meditation or other prayers, the Holy spirit prays within us and intercede for us.

6. When we offer ourselves to the various missionary or apostolic efforts of the Church or see signs of those efforts, we can sense the Holy Spirit at work in the world.

7. When we recognize the charisms and ministries which help build the Church, we also understand that it is the Holy Spirit providing us with the leadership we need.

8. When we dwell on the great Tradition of the Church, its marvelous history and its host of saintly witnesses, we sense the Holy Spirit's sustaining power through it.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **THE FEAR OF THE LORD(REVERENCE):** The Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will supply us with grace that we need in order to keep from offending him.
- This arises out of love, not just duty.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **PIETY:** It is the perfection of the virtue of religion where religion is regarded as external elements of our faith, it really means the willingness to worship and to serve God.
- It takes the willingness beyond the sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and serve Him out of love, the way that we deserve to honor our parents and do what they wish.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **KNOWLEDGE:** Knowledge is often confused with both wisdom and understanding.
- Like wisdom, knowledge is the perfection of faith.
- Wisdom gives us the desire to judge all things according to the truth of the catholic faith. But Knowledge is the actual ability to do so.
- Like counsel, it is aimed at our actions in this life.
- In a way, knowledge allows us to see the circumstances of our life the way that God sees them.
- Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **FORTITUDE(COURAGE):** Both gift of the Holy Spirit are cardinal virtue.
- It gives us the strength to follow through on the actions suggested by the gift of counsel.
- While fortitude is also called courage, it goes beyond what we normally think of as courage.
- The virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer death rather than to renounce the Christian faith.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **COUNSEL OR RIGHT JUDGEMENT:** The perfection of the cardinal virtue of prudence. Prudence can be practiced by anyone but counsel is supernatural.
- Through this, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition.
- Because of the gift, Christians need not fear to stand for the truths of their faith because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **UNDERSTANDING:** This differs from wisdom.
- Wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us grasp it, at least in a limited way, the very essence of truths of the Catholic faith.
- Through understanding we gain a



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **WISDOM:** Wisdom is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit, the perfection of the theological virtue of faith.
- Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The truths of Christian belief are more important than the things of this world.
- Wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake.



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Message of wisdom**
- **Message of Knowledge**
- **Gift of faith**
- **Gift of Healing**
- **Power to do miracles**
- **Ability to prophesy**
- **Ability to tell the spirits apart**
- **Ability to speak in tongues(languages not known before)**
- **Ability to explain / interpret tongues.**



THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS)

- **LOVE:** Seeks the highest good of others
- **JOY:** Gladness that is not based on circumstances
- **PEACE:** Contentment and unity between people
- **PATIENCE:** Slow to speak and slow to anger
- **KINDNESS:** Generous and open-hearted
- **FAITHFULNESS:** Dependable, loyal and full of trust
- **GENTLENESS:** Humble, calm and non-threatening
- **SELF-CONTROL:** Behaving well.



CONCLUSION

- In the journey of our Christian faith, it is important for us to understand that there two movements in our lives.
- The first is that God is always in search of us. And He sends His Spirit to find us.
- The second is our own search for God. God has stamped in our souls a longing for him. We are born with a longing for the divine that cannot be satisfied by anyone or anything short of God. It is the mission of the Holy Spirit to help us draw near to God.



CONCLUSION

- “Do you know that you are God’s Temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you” (1 Cor 3:16)
- I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes careful to observe my decrees (Ez 36: 26-27)



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- **Which of the gifts of the Holy Spirit do you think you possess more?**