

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10, RSV)

Brief Outline

- A. The Father offers new life to all. Jesus came into the world to bring life. Jesus surrendered to the Spirit during his baptism in the Jordan, and gives the Holy Spirit, as the source of new life for his disciples.
- B. Jesus is the model for accepting the Holy Spirit, who is our helper and our strength. When we accept life in the Spirit, we are given the power to follow Christ and serve as members of the body of Christ.
- C. There is always more of God's life and Spirit. We are constantly invited to experience a new and more vital contact with God. We have been baptized both in water and in the Spirit. Baptism in the Spirit may be a new idea for some of us. It means a lifetime of graces, fruits, gifts and charisms rooted in our sacramental Baptism and Confirmation. We will say more about this next week.
- D. You will have an opportunity for individual prayer for the release of the Holy Spirit two weeks from now. Your table leader and other members will help you discern what this would mean for you.

Questions to Consider:

1. What do you think it was like to see Jesus baptized in the Jordan, and later to see him heal the blind and the deaf?
2. What does it mean to have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit?
3. Do you need Breath, Fire, Wind, A Helper or an Advocate in your life? Why?

Prayer: See the handout the Novena to the Holy Spirit.

Study: This week the two chapters we will read are about turning to the Lord in faith and repentance.

John 4, Acts 13

Daily Words of Life

Day 1 - throughout the ages, prophets predicted that the day would come when God would give his Spirit freely to men. Those who turned to him and received his Spirit would be changed. They would be new men with a new life.

The Lord God says this... "I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed... I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from our bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you... You shall be my people and I will be your God."

(adapted from Ezekiel 36:22-28, JB)

Day 2 - Jesus promised before he died that he would give his followers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will live in you and give you new life. The promise of Jesus is for everyone. Jesus says:

If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans. (John 14:15-18, JB)

Day 3 - On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in one room in prayer, and the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised, came on them. From that moment on, they were changed men.



Life in the
Spirit
Seminar

WEEK 3
NEW LIFE

When Pentecost day came round... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

(adapted from Acts 2:1-4, JB)

and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:19-22, NASB)

Day 4 - You can experience the Holy Spirit the same way the first disciples did. Whether you have been a Christian for a while or have never believed in Christ before, you can receive whatever is missing in your experience of the life of the Spirit. What happened to the disciples at Ephesus can happen to you.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy. There were about twelve of these men. (Acts 19:5-7, JB)

Day 5 - When the Holy Spirit is released in you will begin to experience a new kind of life. You will know god in a new way. That new life will grown in you until you become a changed person. Paul describes the result by saying:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23, RSV)

Day 6 - As you grow in faith in the Holy Spirit in you, you will begin to experience him working in you in new ways so that you can serve others. He will equip you with spiritual gifts, gifts which will give you a new power to do his work. Paul talks about some of these gifts in this way:

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

(1 Corinthians 12:7-11, NASB)

Day 7 - God gives the Holy Spirit so that we can be joined to the body of Christ (the Church, the Christian community). The new life in the Spirit will allow you to be more closely united with other Christians in the Church and to experience a communion with them in the Spirit. God word teaches:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles

Commitment Prayer
<p>Jesus, I know now that I am Yours and You are mine forever. Thank You for sending Your spirit to me that I might have the power to live this new life with You. Stir up Your Spirit in me. Release Your Spirit in me. Baptize me with the fullness of Your Spirit that I may experience Your presence and power in my life. That I may find new meaning in your Scriptures. That I may find new meaning in the sacraments. That I may find delight and comfort in prayer. That I may be able to love as you love and forgive as You forgive That I may discover and use the gifts you give me for the life of the Church. That I may experience the peace and the joy that you have promised us. Fill me with Your Spirit, Jesus. I wish to receive all that You have to give me.</p> <p>Amen</p>
Resources:
<p><i>Devotions to the Holy Spirit</i> by Fr. Brian Moore, SJ (Pauline Books and Media, 1976.</p> <p><i>Favorite Novenas to the Holy Spirit</i> by Fr. Lawrence Lovasik</p> <p>Songs:</p> <p>Holy Spirit—Francesca Battistelli https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zARVp3420I</p> <p>10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord o my soul) Matt Redman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnlaN0A</p> <p>Set A Fire by Jesus Culture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqq4B8H2Q&t=41s</p> <p>Talks from the Pentecostal Renewal version of Life in the Spirit are on our website at: https://www.stmva.org/lits.html (Talk 3 New Life)</p>
Helpful Passages