



# COME HOLY SPIRIT

LIVING OUR LIVES GUIDED BY GOD'S PRESENCE

———— **KINGDOM OF GOD RESOURCES™** ————  
EMBRACE THE KINGDOM. ENGAGE THE WORLD.

THE PRAYER,  
“COME, HOLY SPIRIT”  
IS AN INVITATION FOR THE  
SPIRIT OF GOD TO MOVE IN  
ANY WAY HE CHOOSES – IN  
US, IN OUR CHURCH, AND IN  
THE WORLD AROUND US.

IT IS ALSO A POWERFUL,  
SOMETIMES DANGEROUS  
PRAYER THAT HAS BEEN  
PRAYED FROM ANCIENT  
TIMES TO TODAY.

# COME, HOLY SPIRIT

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WHEN THE DAY OF  
PENTECOST CAME, THEY  
WERE ALL TOGETHER IN  
ONE PLACE. SUDDENLY A  
SOUND LIKE THE BLOWING  
OF A VIOLENT WIND CAME  
FROM HEAVEN AND FILLED  
THE WHOLE HOUSE WHERE  
THEY WERE SITTING. THEY  
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.

ACTS 2:1-4A

# INTRODUCTION:

## THE STORY BEHIND THE PRAYER

Sometimes, the simplest prayers are the best prayers. One prayer that has been prayed in many forms by the Church over the past 2000 years can inspire us in our pursuit of the Holy Spirit's presence in our churches and lives.

It is the prayer *"Come, Holy Spirit."*

The prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" is an invitation for the Spirit of God to move in any way He chooses – in us, in our church, and in the world around us. It is also a powerful, sometimes dangerous prayer that has been prayed from ancient times to today.

*"But 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: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."*

*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the*

*Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you"* (John 16:7-15).

In this amazing passage about the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John, spoken by Jesus Himself, the Spirit is described as our *Advocate* – the God who backs us, supports us, and carries us.

Learning to pray the simple prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" opens us up to a life where Jesus is in the lead, carrying us forward in faith. This simple invitation is a true spiritual game-changer.

Most Christians would say we want to live a life led and guided by the Holy Spirit. But sometimes the Spirit's leadership means doing things in a way that can make us reluctant to be led – we have to slow down, speed up, choose what seems unnatural to us, or do things that involve risk and faith.

Keeping in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25) means we are "locked in" to the Spirit's life and ways. We don't resist, but rather welcome the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps. And when we are locked in to the Spirit's direction and pace in our lives, we are on the path to living a fruitful life, full of the character traits of Christ emerging in us as the Spirit changes us inwardly, more completely, into Jesus' likeness.

With the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, we can do the works of Jesus. We can join him in the advancing of the kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. *"Come, Holy Spirit."*



# THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

## Who Is The Holy Spirit?

Who is the Holy Spirit? The truth is that the Holy Spirit may be the least understood Person of what church history calls the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the *Holy Spirit*.

The Spirit is mentioned at least 88 times in the Old Testament, across 23 books, and is often referred to as the “Spirit of God.” We first meet the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:2, hovering over the waters of chaos (the great void) at the beginning of time. Here, the Spirit is the “ruach Elohim” – the *breath* of God.

In Isaiah we see the Spirit spoken of as the *Spirit of God*, the *Spirit of Wisdom*, the *Spirit of Counsel*, the *Spirit of Power*, and the *Spirit of Knowledge* (Isa. 11:2). Wherever the Spirit appears in the Old Testament, words like creativity, insight, power, wisdom, and joy mark His presence and activity.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned at least 264 times in the New Testament, and more than 60 of those references are in the Gospels!

The Spirit descends like a dove on Jesus as He is baptized, affirming Jesus’ identity, place in the Father’s heart, and pleasure to God (Luke 3:21-22; Matt. 3:16). Then the Spirit fills Jesus as He is led into the desert to face – and resist – the powerful temptations of the evil one (Luke 4:1; Matt. 4:1). When Jesus returns from the wilderness, He returns “in the power of the Holy Spirit” (Luke 4:14-15) and begins to preach the message of the Kingdom of God.

## Recognizing The Person Of The Spirit

According to church history, the Holy Spirit is God, and as such, shapes our lives as God

indwells us, by his Spirit through the work of Christ (Col. 1:27).

The Holy Spirit is called by many names, including the Comforter (Jn. 14:26), the Advocate (Jn. 14:16), and the Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2). The Spirit is given to us as a deposit guaranteeing God’s goodness to come (2 Cor. 5:5), to assure us of Christ’s presence within (1 Jn. 4:13), to speak through us to one another (1 Cor. 12:18), to guide us in our understanding of God’s gifts to us (1 Cor. 2:12), to empower us to impact non-believers (Mk. 1:11), and to give us rest (Is. 63:14).

## Jesus And The Spirit

It is by the power of the Spirit of God that Jesus ministered:

*“...And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick”* (Luke 5:17).

The Spirit also empowered Paul and the other disciples to do the works of Jesus, and touched those to whom they ministered:

*“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”* (Acts 11:15-17).

The Holy Spirit, likewise, distributes gifts among us, his Church today. These gifts of healing, prophecy, prayer languages, miracles and many other gifts enable us to experience God’s presence personally and corporately.

These gifts enable us to minister to the world around us imbued with the power of God.



“COME, HOLY SPIRIT”  
IS A DIRECT, BOLD  
REQUEST FOR THE  
SPIRIT TO DO THE  
WORK THE FATHER  
WANTS TO DO IN US,  
AND TO BE THE FIRE  
THAT PROPELS US OUT  
TO DO THE WORK THE  
FATHER WANTS TO DO  
THROUGH US.



## REFLECTION

“‘Come, Holy Spirit.’ We remember the first time those words were used by us as a conscious invitation to the Spirit to come, with an expectation that we might see evidences of the Spirit’s presence. It was at our young church’s annual dinner-come-slide-show-come-worship celebration. Everyone was standing. There was a deep, unnerving, very long silence.

Then in the cavernous acoustics of a church gym, the sound of a metal folding chair flipping over and the unmistakable wail of a man whose emotional pain had just gotten uncorked by God. More flipping chairs, more crying, laughing, shouting, people shaking, people ending up under folding chairs, and all through the room, such a sense of purposefulness to it all, of God doing things and saying things, as though we had finally opened the door and let Him in. Which we had!

‘Come, Holy Spirit’ is a prayer that has its roots in the earliest prayers of the first Church Fathers and Mothers, the first generation after the apostles to carry the flame of the gospel forward. This prayer is not just some oddity of 21st century Western Christianity. It is part and parcel of Trinitarian theology, a beloved prayer of every generation of believers before us. You are in

very good company when you pray, ‘Come, Holy Spirit.’

‘Come, Holy Spirit’ is a direct, bold request for the Spirit to do the work the Father wants to do in us, and to be the fire that propels us out to do the work the Father wants to do through us. The words are not magic (oh, how many times have we found that out the hard way!); we have to actually expect the Spirit to accept our invitation! Otherwise it’s a bit like standing inside our home saying ‘Come on in!’ to someone standing outside, but never actually opening the door.

‘Come, Holy Spirit’ is a prayer best prayed with willingness to welcome surprise and unpredictability. When we pray this prayer, we never know what will happen next! Most of us love the image of Aslan, in the C.S. Lewis Narnia books, as ‘good but not tame.’ It’s another thing entirely to be met by this not-tame Holy Spirit in real life! But nothing beats the joy of seeing the Spirit come and do what we are powerless to do in our own strength.

Go ahead – pray this prayer. Your life will never be dull again.”

-STEVE & CINDY NICHOLSON,  
PASTORS



# ALLOWING GOD TO ACT IN OUR MIDST

## Learning To Live By The Spirit

Because the Holy Spirit is active in speaking to his people, to his Church, and to the world he loves all around us, our job as Christians is to give the Holy Spirit permission to move in our lives and gatherings. This is the first step in learning to live “life in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16-25).

The apostle Paul, in writing these words in the book of Galatians, is reminding the Church that the coming of the Spirit is the coming of God’s presence to his people. To live “in the Spirit” is to live aware of God’s presence – at all times, in all places.

The Bible reveals to us that when we are aware of, and responsive to, God’s presence in our lives, he will begin to change us from the inside out. As the Spirit shows us the love of the Father (Rom. 5:5), we learn to serve the Spirit of God rather than our own cravings and desires. Powerful drives within us toward money, sex, and power are put in their proper perspective by the Spirit of God as we learn how to walk in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

When we keep an open heart to the Spirit changing us, things *happen* in our life. The “fruits of the Spirit” above are ways the Spirit empowers us to live, contrary to our natural patterns, preferences, and prejudices.

And why do we need to learn how to live in a way that goes against what we grew up with, have learned from experience, or even prefer?

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” In other words, what got us *here* (bitterness, impatience, anger, white lies, harshness, and lack of self-control) won’t get us *there* (Christ- likeness, wholeness, joy, and peace). The Spirit gets us *there* – to Jesus.

## Creating Space For The Spirit

Corporate worship experiences seek to create an intimate place of encounter with God where his Spirit can touch us and speak to us. We need not be in a “rush” to simply perform before God; we can value the moments where the Spirit speaks to us and changes us in profound ways.

Catalyzed by times of Spirit-led, non-hyped prayer ministry to one another, churches have been planted, bodies have been healed, broken minds have been set free, innovative business ideas have been inspired, and thousands around the world have been empowered to live like Jesus.

God works from the inside out, shaping new moral character in us over time, gripping our hearts and changing our desires to his own. For this reason, we both can and should create ample space in many of our church gatherings for the Spirit of God to speak to individuals – and to change us in ways we cannot change ourselves!

## Why We Pray “Come, Holy Spirit”

When we pray “Come, Holy Spirit” in a time of corporate ministry or personal prayer, it is not because we don’t believe the Holy Spirit is already present and active among us. This prayer is a petitioning of God, a crying out for him to have his way in our gathering. We also work to neither hype up a time of ministry, nor be afraid of how people respond in their humanity to the Spirit’s activity in their lives.

Without the Holy Spirit active in our churches, and without our willingness to allow the Spirit to work in various ways in the contexts of our local churches, we have nothing to offer to the world.

As one leader has said, “...The Church of God needs the power of God to fulfill the mandate of God in the world.”

THIS PRECIOUS,  
POWERFUL  
HOLY SPIRIT  
FILLS ME EVERY DAY  
WITH HIS NATURE  
AND CHARACTER,  
EMPOWERING ME  
TO REFLECT JESUS  
WHEREVER I GO,  
WHATEVER I DO.

## REFLECTION

“Simply put, I love the Holy Spirit! I am grateful every day for His empowering presence living in me. I was first introduced to the Spirit in 1977, five years after becoming a disciple of Jesus.

The Spirit swept all across the U.S. during the Charismatic Renewal, touching us here in Central Illinois. Of course, He had been active in my life long before I met Him, but I barely knew a thing about Him. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit radically – and I mean *radically* – changed my life. He made the Word come alive, showed me Jesus is a Healer, and gave me fresh confidence to pray. And now, over 37 years later, He continues to bring miraculous transformation in and through me. So much of my growth in the Spirit is due to my Vineyard family, who I discovered in 1982. The Vineyard showed me I could be filled again and again (not just one time), having a true river of living water flowing out of me at all times.

The Vineyard equipped me to naturally, supernaturally share the Gospel and freely ask, ‘Can I pray for you right now?’ putting my trust in the Holy Spirit to bring just the right gifts needed for the person I am praying for at that moment.

The Vineyard taught me to welcome

the Spirit as my Teacher, my Helper, my Comforter and my Advocate, every single day of my life. And the Vineyard gave me courage to pray unashamedly for thousands of people over the years to be filled with the Spirit, speak in an unknown language, and move in His gifts.

But, more than all of the above, the Vineyard encourages me to intimately know the triune God through the Spirit. The Spirit reveals my Abba, Father, and teaches me to worship Him in spirit and in truth. The Spirit pours deep love for Jesus into my heart and makes known His grace in my life. The Spirit prays for me when I do not know how to pray, aligning my life with the Father’s perfect will, causing all to work together for my good.

And, this precious, powerful Holy Spirit fills me every day with His nature and character, empowering me to reflect Jesus wherever I go, whatever I do. Jesus did not leave us as orphans but he has come to live permanently inside us. It baffles me that people still debate about and reject the Holy Spirit. I, for one, cannot live without Him. Come, Holy Spirit. I love you!”

- DI LEMAN, PASTOR



# LEARNING TO RESPOND TO THE SPIRIT

## Putting The Spirit At The Center

As Christians, we can cultivate an awareness that we call “looking for what the Father is doing.” When we see Jesus at work in someone’s life, whether it be a neighbor whose heart is becoming soft to God during a painful divorce, or a child beginning to lead his or her peers in faith, we want to be quick to partner with the Spirit in that work in the person’s life.

One story of healing illustrates this well. The late John Wimber recounted how he was praying for a woman after a service who had arthritis and some problems with her digestive tract. As John began to pray, he had a sense from the Lord that the woman was angry with someone. When he asked her about it, she definitively said she was not angry with someone.

John, listening to the Holy Spirit and the impressions forming in him, asked her if she was angry with her sister. The woman was shocked. “How did you know about that?” she asked. She went on to share the bitterness she was holding toward her sister. John prayed with her, encouraging her to forgive her sister. The woman went away and later wrote a letter to her sister. When the letter hit the mailbox, “her pain began to subside. Within three days, all the symptoms of her illnesses had disappeared.” (Wimber, *Kingdom Mercy*, p. 33-34)

## Becoming Sensitive To The Spirit

As we grow in listening and looking for what the Father is doing, we can become increasingly more sensitive to the Spirit’s activity. If we believe that the Father is always at work, we as Christians can learn to perceive what God is doing and to join him in his work.

This takes practice. During encounters like the one described above, God uses our local church communities to reach people through these kinds of signs and wonders. One woman in a church committed to learning together how to become sensitive to the Holy Spirit had a picture show up in her mind of a part of someone’s body that needed healing. When she risked in faith, and shared that impression publicly in a time of prayer

ministry, another woman in the room had that exact ailment and received prayer. And as the woman was being prayed for, she was healed! When people allow God to use them in others’ lives, Hope enters the room.

Learning to respond to the Spirit doesn’t just happen in church settings. As we cultivate a life of personal prayer, purity, and worship, our hearts are sensitized to the whispers of the Holy Spirit everywhere we go.

When we go out in public, in our neighborhoods, schools, grocery stores, and workplaces, God often has gifts he wants to give to those who don’t yet know him. This is one of the great privileges of learning to hear the Spirit’s voice. We can join him in touching someone’s life in a dramatic way.

The Holy Spirit can speak a very specific word of insight to a person, who then shares what the Lord has spoken to them with a non-Christian. Often, the insight is exactly applicable to that person’s situation, and they are so touched that God would care about them that much, they come to faith in Jesus. Sometimes people come to faith in Jesus when a believer, with a sense that they are to pray for an unbeliever’s illness, asks God to heal them. In many cases, they are completely healed! After someone is healed, they are very open to God’s leadership in their lives, and they often come to faith in Christ! We call these “power encounters,” and often God uses local church communities to reach people through these kinds of “signs and wonders.”

## We Can All Welcome The Spirit

These average people in the stories above aren’t spiritual super heroes. They are just everyday Christians taking Jesus at his word. They are mothers, children, mechanics, business people, medical professionals and more – who are learning to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said he would send power from on high to equip his Church, and he was faithful to follow through. Now we, as the Body of Christ, can become people led by his Spirit in all of life. In our worship, in our prayers, we can be aware of God’s presence in us and with us.





## REFLECTION

“I first became a Christian in a Pentecostal chapel service. It was loud, lively and very expressive. Coming from a quiet Roman Catholic background, this Pentecostal style took some getting used to. Particularly strange was the way they prayed. Folks shouted, waved their hands and jumped around! I was told this was what it looked like when the Spirit showed up and did his thing.

At first, this boisterousness didn't matter to me. I was desperate for whatever contact with the Spirit I could get, and if it meant getting a little weird, so be it. And God did meet me and began changing my life. But as time went on I grew more uncomfortable with what seemed to be showy, strange and sometimes manipulative behavior. I loved Jesus and the people in the church, but I didn't like the package. It wasn't me. Eventually, I became gun shy and avoided the Spirit and anything that might smack of weirdness – like prophesying, praying for the sick or casting out demons. I may have been more comfortable – but I lost something.

When I ran into John Wimber, I saw something different. John wasn't interested in wowing the crowd. There was no hype, weirdness or manipulation. When he ministered, he was relaxed, comfortable, real. I was impressed with how he remained normal while worshipping and praying. John called it being 'naturally supernatural.'

John was the same person during ministry time that he was during dinnertime. I learned that I didn't have to put on some spiritual persona, change the tone of my voice when I

prayed, or get frenzied in order for the Spirit to move. And the most significant and liberating discovery was that I could just be myself and God would still show up! I could respond to the promptings of the Spirit in my own, authentic way. That was huge! My response to this freedom was, 'I can do that! I want to do that!' I was off and running, 'doing the stuff' of the kingdom, and I haven't stopped since.

Being naturally supernatural:

- It means everyone gets to play. You can be uniquely yourself, and God can still use you.
- It relieves the pressure to perform. You can act normal, and God will still show up.
- It opens up ministry opportunities out in the marketplace of life, not just inside the Church.
- Outsiders don't feel intimidated or put off by prayer because there's no weirdness, hype or manipulation. Receptivity to God increases dramatically.
- And finally, being naturally supernatural paves the way for people to actually experience God's loving and healing presence in a way that feels neither threatening nor embarrassing.

In our secular world, where often a person's only reference for the supernatural is Hollywood fantasy and reality TV weirdness, the comfort of God's Spirit being exhibited in naturally supernatural ways is for many the start of a faith journey of their own.”

-MIKE TURRIGIANO,  
TEACHER

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OR MANIPULATION.  
WHEN HE MINISTERED,  
HE WAS RELAXED,  
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JOHN CALLED IT  
BEING “NATURALLY  
SUPERNATURAL.”

# BECOMING PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT

As was said at the beginning, Christians are a “people of the presence of God.” We see our lives as Christians built on the Holy Spirit guiding us in life and ministry. The presence and activity of the Spirit is always pointing us toward the day when disease will be gone, lives will be restored, and God’s purposes for the world will be fulfilled. When we build our lives on the Spirit’s work in and through us, we are building our lives on God’s future kingdom.

Because of this reality, intractable issues in individual lives, such as disease or mental oppression, we see as opportunities to partner with the Holy Spirit in kingdom ministry. In social issues such as poverty, injustice, and sex trafficking, we address these with confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit empowers us to work with him in humanizing and dignifying our fellow human beings.

As Christians, we value the Word of God, the Bible, as our guide in character, life, and practice. We also value the Spirit of God, the third Person of the Trinity, in our ministry and kingdom activity. As an old adage says, *“The Word without the Spirit – we dry up. The Spirit without the Word – we blow up. The Word and the Spirit together – we grow up.”*

When we then pray, “Come, Holy Spirit,” we become sensitive to the Spirit’s presence – ready to be used by God in beautiful, and often miraculous, ways.

Did you ever wish that you could hear the Lord’s voice better? Know His will more clearly? Learning to hear the voice of God, and to respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading, does not begin in our moment of need. Rather, it begins in the mundane daily activity of welcoming the Spirit into all the little corners of our life. We learn to listen one moment at a time. We practice stopping to hear the still small voice of the Spirit prompting our thinking, opening our eyes to new details, and turning our minds to thoughts that come from the mind of God.

Try getting up, every morning this week, and saying, “Good morning, Holy Spirit. I love You. My life is yours. Come, lead my life again today. I want to hear Your voice, see what You’re doing around me, and think your thoughts after You. I am ready to become who You intend me to become, and I am ready to be used today for Your glory. Lead me now, Holy Spirit.”

Then, practice saying “Yes” when the Holy Spirit prompts you to pray for others. You’ll be glad you did!



THE HOLY SPIRIT IS  
MY FRIEND AND  
IN HIS PRESENCE,  
THERE IS PEACE.  
PEACE IS A STATE OF  
TRANQUILITY, FREEDOM  
FROM DISTURBANCE,  
A STATE OF SECURITY,  
AND FREEDOM FROM  
OPPRESSIVE THOUGHTS  
OR EMOTIONS.

## REFLECTION

“My journey with the Holy Spirit began a little over 26 years ago when I discovered that God was passionate about me experiencing a personal, meaningful, authentic, and genuine relationship with him. In my first Vineyard church, I began to hear that God wanted me to experience his presence through a friendship with the Holy Spirit. Today, I relate to him daily and nurture a friendship with him. Here are my favorite things about having the Holy Spirit in my life:

*1. He is the one who makes it possible for me to experience and relate to God the Father.*

Romans 5:5 says, ‘God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.’ Without the Spirit, we find our relationship with God becomes dry, distant, cold, and a religious ritual. The Spirit is the experienced reality of God and he makes it possible for my relationship with God to come alive. The Spirit helps us experience all the benefits of being God’s children. He makes the Father become my *Abba* Father. Without the Holy Spirit, we would not experience God’s presence. Psalm 51:11 sums it up: ‘Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.’

*2. He is the one who makes it possible to be transformed and changed from the inside out.*

He’s the one who begins to change me and eventually makes me start to look and sound like Jesus. Galatians 6:7,8 says, ‘Don’t be misled – you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.’ He’s the one who deposits supernatural healing and help from God in me and brings wholeness and freedom to me. That results in my life beginning to show evidence of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, and patience (Gal. 5:22-23).

He’s the one who begins to flow through me so that Jesus Christ is reflected in my life instead of my flesh.

*3. He is the one who makes it possible to receive Spiritual gifts and do things that Jesus did.*

He releases the gifts in me, nurtures the gifts in me, and breathes on the gifts in me. If there is not a release of spiritual gifts, then I have no real authentic expression of God’s heart and am lacking in kingdom fruit. The Spirit allows me to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the people that Jesus wants to touch through me. As I learn to receive his Spirit, my gifts are nurtured and I can become who God meant for me to be. I can express God’s heart to others freely giving what he’s given me.

*4. He is absolutely all-inclusive, available, and accessible to anyone who acknowledges their need for him.*

To experience his presence all we have to do is acknowledge our need for him and turn towards him (this often includes repenting and renouncing pride). A simple and humble prayer of ‘Holy Spirit come, I welcome you here now’ ushers us immediately into God’s presence. This is what Jesus meant when he said, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand.’ Humbly walking with our God means we are learning to be intimate and dependent on his Spirit by turning toward him, and dwelling in his presence.

*5. The Holy Spirit is my friend and in his presence, there is peace.*

Peace is a state of tranquility, freedom from disturbance, a state of security, and freedom from oppressive thoughts or emotions. Our spirits are starved for the gift of peace. It’s restful and there is no other place to find true peace outside of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:6 says, ‘For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.’”

-BRENDA GATLIN, PASTOR



## REFLECTION

“It is better for you that I go away”  
(John 16:7).

What do you think must it have been like for Jesus’ disciples to hear him say these words? For years, they had given up their whole lives to follow him, to learn from him, to watch him work. Jesus was the most compelling, ingenious, compassionate, free person they had ever known. He was what they wanted – there was no one else like him. ‘Where else can we go, Lord?’ said the apostle Peter, ‘You have the words of life.’

And yet now, Jesus said he was leaving them. How could that possibly be ‘better’?

Jesus tried to explain: ‘If I go, God the Father will send you a Helper in my place, the Holy Spirit. He will come to live inside each of you, giving you peace, creative power and discernment about what the Father wants to do. He will teach you things you don’t know yet, and help you to do greater things than I have done. But for the Holy Spirit to come, I have to go’ (from Jn. 16:7-15).

Hmm. Who knows what the disciples were thinking? I’d bet it wasn’t peaceful, happy thoughts, especially as things quickly went from bad to worse. You know the story: Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. The disciples were scattered, terrified.

Then, it quickly got really weird. Jesus came back to life, and came to find them – just as they were on the brink of giving up on him. He ate with them,

fished with them, let them touch his wounds to prove that he was really alive, forgave them for abandoning him. Mind-blowing stuff.

After a few days together, he left them again, returning to his Father in heaven. But just before he did, he reminded them of the plan: Stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.

So they obeyed. They waited. They prayed by faith – ‘Come, Holy Spirit.’ Some among them were afraid. Some were confused. Some were hopeful. Some doubted. Some were exhausted. All believed somewhat, but some didn’t know what to believe. They were a ragtag bunch, knocked sideways by history; hardly a perfect team of spiritual giants.

But what they did do was show up, obedient, with their battered, uneven faith, to wait for what Jesus had promised. Bringing whatever they had – coming just as they were. And, the Holy Spirit came, the Church was born, and giants they became. (If you want to know the rest, read the book of Acts.)

I love that ‘Come, Holy Spirit’ is not a prayer by which strong people give orders to God, calling him to act in endorsement of their ministry or mission. It is the opposite, actually. It comes to us as the cry of a desperate Church, undone by the love and power of Jesus and eager to serve him as the King. Without the Holy Spirit, they were utterly bereft. But with the Holy Spirit, they changed the world forever. Come, Holy Spirit.”

-CALEB MASKELL, EDUCATOR



SO THEY OBEYED.  
THEY WAITED.  
WHAT THEY DID WAS  
SHOW UP, OBEDIENT,  
WITH THEIR  
BATTERED, UNEVEN  
FAITH, TO WAIT FOR  
WHAT JESUS HAD  
PROMISED. AND, THE  
HOLY SPIRIT CAME.

# COME HOLY SPIRIT

LIVING OUR LIVES GUIDED BY GOD'S PRESENCE

The Vineyard Movement, since birth, has valued seeing individual Christians experience God in their daily lives. Through spiritual practices such as worship, fellowship, mission, the reading and application of Scripture, soul care, family care, healing of the broken, cultural influence, the compassionate ministry of the Holy Spirit, and loving our neighbors, the Vineyard community of churches seeks to be intentional about nurturing the lives of those who call us their family.

To find out more about the Vineyard, visit [www.vineyardusa.org](http://www.vineyardusa.org).  
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