

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 3

REAWAKENING TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

Jesus did not leave us as orphans; rather, He sent His Holy Spirit to indwell and fill those who put their trust in Him. This week, we will explore various aspects of the Spirit's ministry to us. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be present and to open up your eyes and heart.

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INHABITED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

ROMANS 8:9

Do you have a favorite spot in your home? Maybe it's your bedroom or a quiet little spot away from everyone else. Maybe it's in the kitchen around the table with family and friends or in the backyard. Wherever it is, what makes it your favorite spot? I'm guessing that it's in that spot where you feel the most peace, the most security, the most at rest . . . like you belong there.

In Romans 8:9, Paul talks about being inhabited by the Spirit of Christ. When you belong to Christ, His Spirit takes up residence in you. You are His home, and you belong to Him—just like you live in your house, and your house belongs to you. If a person visits your home, they are a guest there, but they don't live there, and the house doesn't belong to them because they're not part of the family. In the same way, if a person does not belong to Christ, if they are not part of His family, then the Spirit does not live in them. If we don't have a relationship with God, then we aren't truly home; we are not at rest, we don't belong!



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Go to that favorite place in your home now. Just be still and quiet there for a few minutes and allow that feeling of rest and belonging to wash over you. Ask the Lord to be present.
2. Pray and ask God to come and make His home in you. Ask Him to reveal to you whether or not you are truly welcoming Him.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to live in you in such a way that brings peace, rest, and a sense of belonging.

» by Stacy Hall

CONVICTED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

JOHN 16:8-11

Have you ever seen the movie *The Emperor's New Groove*? There are a few scenes where Kronk has an angel and a demon appear on each of his shoulders. When Kronk is faced with moral decisions, they manifest to represent and express different ideas about what he should do. While our reality may not contain these visual representations, that does not mean there are not voices actively speaking into our lives and persuading our choices.

When we place our faith in Christ, we become heirs of God and receive a down payment on our inheritance in the form of the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew we would need help to navigate the increasing darkness of the world, and thus He promised His Spirit.

When the Spirit dwells in us, He encourages us in the truth yet convicts us when we have strayed. When we receive the Spirit, we may think that He will be as easy to hear and understand as the angel on Kronk's shoulder. However, due to the brokenness in our world, the voice that convicts us can sometimes be intermixed and overpowered by the voice of our enemy. It is only when we take the time to practice listening and learn to distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to accurately hear the truth of these convictions and respond in the way the Spirit is guiding us.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of areas in your life where you are doing something that is apart from what God's will is for you.
2. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. While it may not be audible, when we ask in faith, we can expect a response.
3. Pray that the Lord will reveal to you ways in which you can turn your eyes back to Him.

» by Andrea Wageman

TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

JOHN 14:17; 16:13

Have you ever had a good teacher or coach before—someone who knows the right way to explain a difficult lesson or who understands you and wants to see you grow? A good teacher can take subjects that are difficult to understand and teach them in a way that is understandable. Good teachers care about their students, and if you have a good teacher, you can tell that teaching is not just their job, it's part of caring for your life.

Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is the best teacher who teaches us all things and guides us to truth. He wants us to know Him more, and He teaches us as we listen to Him. Today, let's take the time to listen to the Holy Spirit and hear what He wants to teach us.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Let the Spirit of Christ teach you as you read His Word. God inspired Scripture (see 2 Timothy 3:16), so why don't we let Him help us read it? Take a passage today and ask God's Spirit what He wants to teach you through this passage.
2. Try to practice listening to the Holy Spirit and see how He might teach you or guide you. Perhaps He wants to remind you that He loves you. Maybe He wants to challenge you to pray for that friend or enemy. Maybe He wants to teach you something about creation as you learn in class.
3. Ask the Lord to open up your eyes and heart to really experience Him and His goodness today.

» by Sam Sexton

HELPED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF CHRIST JOHN 14:16, 26; 16:17

Everyone loses someone or something meaningful to them at some point. There will come a time when you will experience some of life's most challenging events. Where will you draw your strength from? Jesus promises that He will not leave you as an orphan, but that He sent His Holy Spirit to be with those who put their trust in Him.

In the winter of 2019, I received a call that a close family member had passed away unexpectedly. I had just lost one of the greatest advisors in my life, and I felt very sad, confused, and angry. I didn't know what I could do to overcome my overwhelming grief, but I whispered, "Lord, please help me." I was reminded of the time when Jesus had to go away from His disciples.

They grieved when they learned Jesus would only be with them for a little longer. Their hearts were troubled, but Jesus assured them that He would send them the Holy Spirit so that they would not be alone (see John 14:26). The Holy Spirit would be their Counselor and Helper in every situation. Some of the disciples would even go on to accomplish greater things with the help of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. In the midst of life's most challenging and troubling times, know that you are not alone. The Helper is with you! Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal Himself to you in a new way today.
2. As you navigate through school or work, lean on the Holy Spirit to release peace in all of the areas that seem out of your control. Ask the Lord to give you strength and knowledge on how to best lean on Him.
3. Surrender to Him all of the areas of your life where you need the Spirit to move. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit so that you will always be reminded of His presence in your life.

POINTED TO JESUS BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST JOHN 15:26

Jesus told us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. He also said that living in this world as a believer is going to be difficult—people will hate you, persecute you, and won't always desire the truth. But Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would come—the Comforter. You never have to do anything on your own, and you can't anyway.

When we have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, He promises to send the Holy Spirit to give comfort, guidance, and power.

The Holy Spirit testifies of the truth of Jesus. Scripture does not say that He will testify about Himself or about you or your opinions or scientific evidence of creation. It simply states that He will testify about Jesus.

You have the Holy Spirit in your life to give you hope, strength, boldness, power, and assurance. You are not alone. The Holy Spirit is also at work in you as you model the love of Jesus and share the truth of Jesus. And the great news is that He has already gone ahead of you preparing the hearts and minds of those that you can share this truth with.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Thank God that He has sent Jesus to die for you so that you can be forgiven. Praise Him knowing that He has sent the Holy Spirit so that you can have hope, strength, boldness, power, and assurance in your life.
2. As you are at school, at practice, rehearsal, etc., pray that you will be attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and that you will follow His guidance.
3. Pray that you will be able to share the truth of the gospel to your friends by allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you words to say.

ENLIVENED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

ROMANS 8:11

The apostle Paul begins this section of Scripture by speaking of a great truth. In chapter 7, he spoke of the struggle between our flesh, that is our sinful nature, and our desire to obey and follow God. We often want to honor Christ, and yet we fail to—we do the opposite. Paul reminds us that there is no condemnation for us who are in Christ (see Romans 8:1). Why is that?

Christ was condemned on our behalf so that we could be justified and made right with God! This is something that we can take much comfort in. Paul brings up this contrast between the flesh and the Spirit. The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. Those of us who are in Christ have the Spirit dwelling inside of us. We are now the temple of God. Paul is trying to emphasize something here—we are different now.

We have died with Christ and have been risen with Christ. Our old self is dead. Now, the Spirit lives within us. In fact, the Spirit raised Christ from the dead, and the same Spirit now lives in you—think about that for a minute or two. Paul wants us to see that the Spirit enables us to destroy sin. It is not our own works but the work of the Spirit in us who gives life to us!



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Before you leave for school, ask the Lord to remind you of your identity in Christ.
2. During lunch, ask God to help you kill sin in your life—whether it be pride, envy, status, etc.—by the power of the Spirit and to empower you to submit to Him.
3. Before you put your head on your pillow, reflect on how the day went, repent of any sin, and thank God for Christ who stood condemned in your place.

» by Dwayne Sommersell

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

EPHESIANS 5:18

If you are anything like me, you like food. I love to eat everything from saucy Italian pastas to rich West African stews to spicy, “melt your face off” Thai soups—I’ll take it all! Good food gives me a warm and satisfying feeling that is good and pleasing to my soul, and it gives me energy to accomplish the good things that God has prepared in advance for me to do.

Throughout our day, we might take in a lot of things that have the potential of being good but might not always be good for our souls—things that give us a temporary high to mask feelings of loneliness, depression, and anxiety or just to break up the mundane rhythms of normal teenage life.

Take a moment now and read Ephesians 5:18. The apostle Paul tells us that we shouldn’t get drunk with alcohol because it makes us compromise our will, lose control of our bodies, and clouds our minds (that’s what debauchery is). Instead, Paul encourages us to be filled with the Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Spirit can reintegrate the aspects of our soul (will, body, and mind) that are torn apart by sin. All we need to do is ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and then choose to walk with Him in daily surrender. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to fill you? If not, ask Him today. If you have asked the Holy Spirit to fill you before, ask Him again. Lean into Him.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind anything in your life that has kept you from experiencing His fullness. Confess those things to Him.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit will come and fill you with His presence, His power, and His peace.
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to truly surrender all aspects of your life to Him.