

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

When we meet someone for the first time we often ask, “Where are you from?” In some ways, perhaps, this is an icebreaker, a tool we use to have something to say to a person we are just getting to know.

But, it may be also a way for us to identify certain traits about that person that help us to get to know them more quickly. Knowing where a person is from might help us to understand them better, or it might allow us to better connect with them.

As believers, the question of where we’re from takes on a different meaning. Paul tells us that we are not in the realm of the flesh but rather in that of the Spirit. We may think of a “realm” as a physical place, a literal kingdom, but the implication is that we are “in” and “of” someone—under their control—while we are somewhere else.

We are here, physically on earth; and as such, the realm of earthly things would seem to rule. We are not “in” that realm, but rather in the realm of the Spirit. Our worldview, our values, our hopes, our allegiance, and our obedience are in the Spirit of Christ who inhabits us. It is what we’re in—not where we’re from—that defines us.

The next time someone asks where you’re from, tell them who you’re in.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray that you might understand clearly that you are here on earth, but not under the control of the earthly realm.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you greater understanding that Christ defines you as a believer.
3. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to better understand that your obedience is to Christ and to the Spirit, not the worldly realm you inhabit.

» by Hazael Morell

CONVICTED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

JOHN 16:8-11

I love math. I love numbers and how they seemingly show up in everything. I can count my steps, cups of coffee, miles per gallon, activity time on my cell phone, and on and on. In college, I took a high-level math class and got behind, became discouraged, and just quit trying. We get behind, and we tend to give up.

The same seems to be true in our spiritual lives. We get behind in obedience, in maintaining spiritual disciplines, in our walk with Jesus, and we give up. We begin to live with a low-grade guilt that lurks around everything.

The good news is that Jesus tells us, through the apostle John, that we have a Helper—one who will “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” The very Spirit of Christ points to our wrong (sin), our thinking (righteousness), and our decisions (judgment).

Conviction can **expose** our sin, our righteousness, and our judgment. The Holy Spirit constantly sheds light in dark places to bring reconciliation with God when we get behind or feel like giving up.

Conviction can also **convince** us that God is pleased when we do not sin, when we think rightly, and make decisions to follow Him. The Spirit’s conviction, surprisingly, can be positive—God affirming us when we give into Him rather than giving up.

What a Savior!



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Is the Spirit exposing an action, pattern of thinking, or decision that needs changing? Ask Him to reveal it to you.
2. Pray that the Lord would bring to light areas of your life that are pleasing to Him.
3. Ask the Lord to reveal ways you can better serve Him.

» by David Smith

TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

JOHN 14:17; 16:13

One of the greatest challenges we face in the times we live in is the battle for truth. The world is constantly pushing us to believe the lie that truth is relative and self-determined. It is not hard to see the effect of this thinking in our culture—people clamoring for others to accept their “truth” no matter how contrary or different it may be from someone else’s.

Christ has revealed Himself as the Truth (John 14:6), and all who have recognized this have been forgiven and accepted as they are. In turn, the Spirit of Truth has come to dwell only in them.

By indwelling us, the Spirit constantly reveals our present condition, guides us into all truth, enlightens our hearts and minds, teaches us to know God, and helps us understand the depths of Christ and His Word—the truth, which sanctifies us (John 17:17).

The danger is that we might forget that our greatest teacher lives in us and longs for us to sit in His classroom. He has inspired the authors of the Bible and, in turn, helps us to understand, apply, live, and teach it to others. Yet, we continually face the temptation to rely only on our own understanding, searching for quick answers to our needs and questions in other books, places, or people, while forgetting that they are merely substitute teachers for a period in our life.

Jesus is calling us to a deeper life, to abide in Him. Knowing our limitations, the Father has given us everything we need to achieve it: His Word, His Church, and His Spirit, our guide and teacher in the journey.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray the Word—read Ephesians 1:17-19. Make this prayer your own.
2. Pray for the world—that they may know the truth of Christ.
3. Pray for yourself in the world—that you may respond in obedience to Christ’s calling and the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your life.

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

In the upper room during the final week of His life on earth, Jesus knew that His near departure would cause great distress to His disciples. He promised that He would not leave them alone in this world, but that He would send the Holy Spirit as the Helper to be with them forever.

Jesus fulfilled His promises, not only to His disciples but to all of us today.

The Holy Spirit gives wisdom, power, and boldness to God's children. Jesus also promised that the Helper would teach them and remind them what He has taught them.

The Messiah, according to the prophet Isaiah, was given wisdom, power, and boldness by the Spirit of the Lord God to carry out His ministry and bring great results. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom to God's servants and gives God's people the ability to boldly proclaim the gospel to the lost and fulfill the Great Commission with great results.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray that the Lord will remind you of the ways the Holy Spirit is within you.
2. Ask Him to continuously give you wisdom and boldness to proclaim the good news throughout the world.
3. Pray that God would give you strength to expand His Kingdom for His glory.

» by Ha Ho

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

We are here to testify for Jesus (John 15:27); however, Jesus made it clear that it will not be easy (John 15:18–25). The provision for our inability to testify for Jesus is the Advocate or Counselor—the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit is the one who can and will testify about Jesus because of who He is. Jesus said that He will send the Advocate from the Father, and He is going out from the Father to us. He is a part of the Trinity or triune God. He has full knowledge of Jesus and can best testify about Him.

Second, the Holy Spirit is the one who will testify about the work of Jesus and the role He plays in our lives and in this world. Jesus knew about our inability and weakness to testify about Him, so He promised to send us the Helper or Advocate—the Holy Spirit. He is the one who will make Jesus known to us and the world as Lord, Savior, and Messiah.

Therefore, let us be strong in our witness for Jesus because we are not alone. We have the Holy Spirit on our side who will help us in every way as we share Jesus with others. All we need is a heart of faith and obedience.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask that the Lord will help you grow in your understanding and willingness to yield to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your witness for Jesus.
2. Pray that He will make His presence known in your church through the Holy Spirit.
3. Ask that He will anoint your pastor and elders with the Holy Spirit so that they can lead your church in the testimony of Jesus to your community.

ENLIVENED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

ROMANS 8:11

As Christians, we are not called to a life of superhuman effort. We are called to a life that, humanly speaking, is impossible. Listen to the words of Jesus: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:44)—humanly impossible. Hear also the words of Paul: “Forgive one another just as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32)—once again, humanly impossible.

So where does this leave us? Are we destined for a life of discouragement? No. We are destined for and called to a life of dependence on the Holy Spirit who makes the impossible possible in the life of the believer.

Romans 8:11 says, “and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” The context of the verse is victory over sin for the believer through life in the Spirit. As we know, there is no victory over sin in the Christian’s life through human effort. God provides the victory that He desires for us through Himself, through the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives in the heart of every believer in Christ Jesus.

What challenges are you facing today? Where do we turn when the issues around us or the challenges within us overwhelm us? As Christians, we are called to a life of dependence on the Holy Spirit who makes possible the impossible. Praise be to God.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask the Lord to open your heart to the ways you need to lean on Him today.
2. Pray that He will open your eyes to what He wants you to see and experience.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of challenge. Pray for strength to lean on Him and not yourself.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

EPHESIANS 5:18

The story goes that when evangelist D.L. Moody was asked why he needed to keep being filled with the Spirit, he replied, “Because I leak!” Ephesians 5:18 reads that we are to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” as an ongoing need in our lives. At salvation, we receive all of the Holy Spirit, but He doesn’t receive all of us because there are still areas of our lives that need to be surrendered to His lordship. The leaking problem is not on God’s end. The leaking problem is that we are fallible human beings who get hungry, tired, and emotionally depleted.

We need the continual impartation of His Spirit to willingly choose to say no to sin and yes to Him. He lovingly points out areas of our lives that are taking up room that belong to Him—areas of fear, anger, pride, or self-righteousness. When these areas are surrendered to the Lord, we make room in our lives for more of Him. It is not just sin that needs to be surrendered, it is areas of pain, wounding, grief, disappointment, and loss that need a fresh touch of His Spirit. This is the process of sanctification.

Many people say that they want more of God and then try to qualify how He can come to them. Surrender means giving up control; so when we open ourselves to the filling of the Holy Spirit, we trust Him to choose the way He wants us to experience His presence. It is an act of intimate love to dare to give ourselves to the Lord; therefore, our yes to Him is the doorway to more of Him.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Give the Holy Spirit permission to come to you in any way that He chooses.
2. Pray that the Spirit will increase your heart’s capacity to receive more of Him.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you again and again.

» by Wanda Walborn