



**42 DAYS WITH  
THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DEVOTIONAL**

Finding power in the  
everyday life with the Holy Spirit

Written by Pastor Jordan Gehlhar

Dear Reader,

Each of us has places in our lives where we need God to work. In the midst of life's crazy circumstances, God tells us we will never be alone. It is the Holy Spirit that is with us, leading, guiding, and directing us. The Holy Spirit is far too often neglected in our lives. We live in a world where we have instant access to almost everything. But do you realize that you have instantaneous access to God every single day? How many of you tap into that?

When Jesus was on earth, He could only be in one place at one time. The Holy Spirit opens up a whole new reality for us as believers because He is with all of us all the time. This is not only true for the early church; it is true for us today as well. As a believer, you have the Holy Spirit in you, but many of us try to keep Him bottled up with the cap on for our own comfort. Have you taken off the cap and let Him guide and direct your life?

The hope is that as you make your way through these devotions, you would take time each day to ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and speak to you. I pray that your hunger for God grows each day. Get ready for an adventure of a lifetime getting to know and resting with your friend, the Holy Spirit. He is welcoming you into a closer relationship with Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Jordan Gehlhar

## **Day 1. Monday: Where is the Holy Spirit?**

I remember reading a devotional by A. W. Tozer; in it he shared that in many churches, the Holy Spirit is not even mentioned. Maybe at the beginning and end of the service, the Spirit gets an honorable mention. But where is He throughout the rest of the service? The same can be true in our lives. There is often a huge disparity in our lives when considering the attention we give to the Holy Spirit and the attention given to Him in the Holy Scriptures. In the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is necessary.

“Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless.” Charles Spurgeon.

In John 14, Jesus tells His disciples about the Holy Spirit. He tells them that the Spirit is coming and He is going to dwell with you, teach you and remind you of everything Jesus has taught you.

How is the Holy Spirit working in your life? Are you aware of what He is doing?

We need the Holy Spirit active in our lives to step into where God is calling each of us; otherwise we are ships without wind.

Read John 14:15-31.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, today I give you praise and honor. I acknowledge your work in my life. Teach me and show me where you are active. Amen.

Spend five minutes in prayer today; everyone has 5 minutes.

## **Day 2. Tuesday: The Holy Spirit is a Person.**

One of the most important truths we can learn about the Holy Spirit is that He is a person. Paul even closes one of his letters with “*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*”<sup>1</sup> For 2000 years, the teaching of the Trinity has been part of Church doctrine. But

1. 2 Corinthians 13:14

we often miss out on the personal nature of the Holy Spirit.

If we don't relate to Him as a person, we will never experience Him personally. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "He" in John 14 and John 16. Just as Jesus walked with the 12 disciples for three years, the Holy Spirit walks with us. Even though He is invisible to us, the Holy Spirit is a real person.

Peter points out in his first letter that we haven't seen Jesus, yet we have experienced Him.<sup>2</sup> When you experience the Holy Spirit, you know it. His joy is inexpressible.

Pray to the Holy Spirit today. Talk to Him like a person, asking Him to reveal Himself personally to you today in your life.

Read Hebrews 3:7-11

Spend five minutes in prayer today, engaging with the Holy Spirit as a person.

### **Day 3. Wednesday: The Holy Spirit is God.**

Not only is the Holy Spirit a person, He is God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are revealed together in Scripture. "The Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father. They are distinct persons, yet they enjoy unity that is for us mortals incomprehensible. The complexity should not discourage us. Rather it shows us that God is not on our level. That is very good news."<sup>3</sup>

The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the second verse of Genesis and the last chapter of Revelation; He is active in the world even today. He was there at the beginning and will be there at the end. The Spirit is not some add-on that we can choose; He is God.

You can worship the Holy Spirit, you can pray to the Holy Spirit, and you can sing to the Holy Spirit. He is God and He wants to work in your life.

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<sup>2,1</sup> Peter 3:8

<sup>3</sup> Grady, J. Lee. (2016). The Holy Spirit is not an "IT". In *Set My Heart on Fire* (pp.19). Charisma House.

Read 1 Peter 1:10-11 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

Pray for at least five minutes today. Start with five and go from there.

#### **Day 4. Thursday: The Holy Spirit Brings Fellowship with God.**

The greatest adventure in my life has been my journey with God. The fellowship I experienced as a new believer in college changed the trajectory of my life, and it's all because of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit reveals the thoughts of God to us as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:11.

The Holy Spirit wants fellowship with you.

He's the one who helps us understand that God is not some far off deity that we can't connect with. It's the Holy Spirit that brings the personal dynamic in our relationship. This has always been God's desire, always been His plan. It's evident in creation, it was evident on the Cross, and it's evident in Him creating a place for us in eternity.

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit involves us sharing our lives in communion with Him. It's all about us opening the deepest parts of our lives to him: our thoughts, our motives, our attitudes, our fears, and our passions. Then, we listen for how He wants to speak into those situations.

Read Psalm 63

Pray for five minutes, and listen for five minutes. Building intimacy is more than a one-way conversation.

## **Day 5. Friday: The Holy Spirit Works to Glorify Jesus.**

It is all about Jesus! In John 16:13-14, Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit would glorify Him. In John 15:26, Jesus shares that the Holy Spirit will testify about Him. Even though the Holy Spirit is awesome in all that He does, He doesn't want the credit. He wants it all to honor and exalt Jesus.

Growing up on a farm, we often had a wide variety of tasks. One of those was often fixing the electric fence. When off on the far reaches of the pasture and finding a broken fence, we had two options: go back and turn off the fence or find a way to ground out the fence in order to repair it. I often opted to ground out the fence and try to tie it together. One time, this idea was going great until the fence became ungrounded and sent the shock of electricity through me sending me to the ground. The Holy Spirit is a powerful force in the Church, but He always makes sure that His power is completely connected to Jesus. Matthew Henry said it this way, "The Spirit came not to erect a new kingdom, but to advance and establish the same kingdom that Christ had erected, to maintain the same interest and pursue the same design."<sup>4</sup>

Read John 16:1-15

Pray for five minutes today to ask the Holy Spirit to help glorify Jesus through you.

## **Day 6. Saturday: Wait for the Holy Spirit.**

The book of Acts gives us an amazing glimpse into what was going on in the early Church. Before the Church even began, Jesus gave His last words: "And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Verses 7–15 - Matthew Henry's commentary - bible gateway. Retrieved March 5, 2022, from <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/John.16.7-John.16.15>

<sup>5</sup> Acts 1:4-5

Jesus didn't want His followers to hold onto Him here on this earth; He was preparing them to embrace the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself could only be in one place at one time, but the Holy Spirit would be with them no matter where they went.

Too often in this world, the Holy Spirit is trying to speak to us, but we are in such a hurry that we tune out what He is saying. Or perhaps we dismiss it as our own internal self-talk. We need our Jerusalem moment where we wait on God. There are always places to go and things to do, but Jesus says to wait for the promise of the Father.

Read Acts 1:4-8

Today take a moment and wait on God. Ask Him to give you His Holy Spirit, or to pour Him out on you again.

### **Day 7: Sunday: The Best Day of the Week.**

Join in worship today. I mean actually participate. This is the day where you get to join in with other believers, people from different walks of life and experiences. You are all coming to do the same thing: lift high the name of Jesus. It is a beautiful thing.

Today join in worship, lift your hands and sing. You actually sound better when you raise your hands. It's science. When we participate in worship, we are saying, "God I'm here to join my spirit with yours. Fill me up. Fill me to overflowing." Leave everything behind from the past week, and be present.

### **Day 8. Monday: Seek the Holy Spirit.**

In Jeremiah 29:13 it tells us, "You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all of your heart."

I remember when I was first introduced to who the Holy Spirit is. I didn't really know Him, but I wanted to. So, I set out on a journey of seeking. I pressed into the Word of God, asked questions to trusted leaders, and sought through prayer. What resulted was an

amazing experience that has forever changed the trajectory of my life. It all started with seeking.

Focus on Spirit-inspired scriptures. John 6:63 says, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” The Word of God is life.

In the midst of that desire are the Spirit and His work in you. Jesus wants you to have His Holy Spirit and to seek Him. He tells us in John 7:38 that out of our hearts would flow living water. Do you desire a refreshing of your heart? Seek the Holy Spirit!

Read John 7:37-39, Psalm 63:1-8

Today take time and pray for 10 minutes, asking the Lord to increase your desire for His Spirit.

### **Day 9. Tuesday: Ask!**

Do you remember asking for something specific as a kid? I remember asking my dad for a tool kit I saw at our local MAC’s. It was really cool; all the tools were in a box that looked like a racecar. I used those tools to build and fix all sorts of things on the farm. It was a good gift.

Our Father in Heaven wants to give you good gifts. Jesus is teaching His disciples about prayer in Luke 11 and wants them to know this too. He shares how imperfect fathers know how to give good gifts, not scary things like snakes and scorpions (unless you are into those things I guess). He goes on to say that if imperfect fathers know how to give good gifts, “how much more will your Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”<sup>6</sup>

Have you ever asked God for the Holy Spirit? We make it a habit of asking God for many things in our prayer lives, but Jesus wants us to know that the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift we can receive.

Spend 10 minutes in prayer today and ask God for His Holy Spirit to fill you today. Ask with an eagerness and a desire to know Him more.

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<sup>6</sup> Luke 11:13b

## **Day 10. Wednesday: Expect the Holy Spirit**

The uncertainty of life often traps us in our own heads. I like to consider myself a realist, but to be honest, that realism is often influenced by the world. I don't expect God to do as much as I should, and I rely on my own wisdom far too often.

When life gets stressful, where do you turn? Do you rely on yourself, or do you expect the Holy Spirit to speak to you?

In John 14, Jesus is telling His disciples that He is going to go away, but in the midst of that, He is saying they will never be alone and that the Spirit is with them along with His power. Life can be scary and unpredictable, but when we spend time with God, He renews our minds. When our minds are renewed, we are guided into what it means to expect Him to move.

So, we can realistically expect the Spirit to meet us in all of life's situations. The Spirit is our helper and our advocate. He intercedes on our behalf, He teaches, and He brings peace. Does that sound like something you want more of in your life?

Read John 14:15-31

Spend 10 minutes in prayer today asking the Holy Spirit to meet you in your life situations. Wait on Him to speak and expect Him to move.

## **Day 11. Thursday: Receive the Holy Spirit**

When Peter first receives the Holy Spirit, he is immediately thrust into ministry. It is as he is speaking in Jerusalem empowered by the Holy Spirit that he gives us an example to follow in receiving the Holy Spirit:

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the

Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”<sup>7</sup>

Repent and receive. Oftentimes, one of the things that gets in the way of us stepping into the fullness of the Holy Spirit is us. Peter says repent, take to the Lord those things that have been separating you from God and turn them over to Him. He says be baptized. If you have never been baptized, Peter says that’s your next step. And finally, he says, “receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is a gift for all people who believe in Jesus. It is a gift for you.

Pray for 10 minutes today, turning things over to God and asking Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit and receive that free gift. Sometimes, this gift manifests itself as speaking in tongues. Sometimes, it is a word of wisdom, knowledge, praise, or prophecy, or even a deep spiritual peace.

## **Day 12. Friday: Speaking in Tongues**

Speaking in tongues is for everyone, but speaking in tongues does not mean you are spiritually superior to anyone. It is a gift from God that allows us to pray in the perfect will of God. I remember my first Sunday at North Heights, I met a woman named Elsie Fuhrman. She asked me a series of questions.

“Are you a Christian?”

Do you believe in Jesus?

Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Do you speak in tongues?”

If you are wondering, the answer to all of those is yes. When I received the Holy Spirit, I received the gift of speaking in tongues, which is simply speaking in a different language. I would also like to share that the Bible talks about two different kinds of speaking in tongues. One is a private prayer language and one is a known

language. One is for building up and praying in the Spirit of God as He directs. The other is speaking a language that someone has an interpretation for.

Praying in tongues is part of my daily walk with the Lord, a uniting of my human and God's divine. Paul says when we pray in the Spirit, our minds are not actively involved, so we engage our minds in tandem with our mouth.<sup>8</sup>

Pray today and ask God for His gift of speaking in tongues. Be ready to let go control of your mouth, and speak what He gives you (do this out loud). If you have a prayer language, use that today for 10 minutes. For more information on a personal prayer language, turn to the end of this booklet.

### **Day 13. Saturday: Surrender to the Holy Spirit**

I have to be honest that in my life, I dislike surrender. It feels like defeat. Having served in the military, I have the warrior ethos drilled into me. I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. But in walking with Jesus since I was a freshman in college, I learned that I will never quit surrendering to God. Yes, at times my own stubborn nature gets in the way. But every time I enter into worship, I think of Paul writing to Timothy, a young Christian, "Therefore I want men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."<sup>9</sup>

Every time I lift my hands in worship, or personal prayer time, I am reminding myself of where my heart should be before God. This posture in prayer or worship is the outward reflection of what is happening inward. J. Lee Grady says, "God asks us to lift our hands to Him because it prods us toward full surrender."<sup>10</sup>

Today pray for 10 minutes and get warmed up for Sunday by practicing worship. Whether you are in your car or at home, turn on worship music and raise your hands surrendering to God (if driving, maybe only lift one hand; keep the other on the wheel).

8. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

9. 1 Timothy 2:8

10 Grady J. Lee. (2016) (pp 10.)

## **Day 14. Sunday: Worship**

Wherever you are today, it is a good time to worship God. I found that really participating in worship is to participate with the Holy Spirit. Something happens when our hearts are lifted in song where our Spirit is tied with God's. Paul tells us in Romans 8 that God's Spirit testifies with our Spirit that we are God's children.<sup>11</sup>

As you enter into worship today, sing and think about the words you are singing. Let the songs become part of your heart and your prayer to see God move. If you have never raised your hands, raise them today as an act of surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Read Psalm 68:4-5.

## **Day 15. Monday: Learning to Walk in the Spirit.**

We have been on this journey together of spending each day with the Holy Spirit, but we also need to walk with the Him. Galatians 5:25 says, "If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit."

Learning to walk with the Holy Spirit is a tall and sometimes intimidating call. I remember as a kid learning to take direction from my dad on the farm. When it came to fixing things, it started with watching, then participating, and finally doing it on my own. There were times I thought I could cut corners, and the voice of my dad would say, "Don't reinvent the wheel."

Walking with the Holy Spirit is about spending time with God: watching what He is doing and joining Him on those things. Jesus demonstrated this for us in John chapter 5. He shared with those around Him that "... the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the father doing..."<sup>12</sup>

If you want to know how to walk in the Spirit today, ask the Father to show you what He is doing. When we attempt it on our own, we often miss it. The Father is always at work, and the Holy Spirit is

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 8:15

<sup>12</sup> John 5:19

our guide to see and be sensitive to those things.

Read John 5:19-26

Pray for 15 minutes today, ask the Father to show you what He is doing and the Holy Spirit to empower you to join in. If you have a prayer language, use that during your prayer time.

### **Day 16. Tuesday: Hear the Spirit.**

Do you have trouble hearing? Physically, I do. After years on the farm and in the military, I have noticeable hearing loss. In a spiritual sense, many of us have lost or confused our ability to hear God. The Prophet Isaiah writes, “And your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, ‘This is the way walk in it,’ when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”<sup>13</sup>

We all want the audible voice of God to speak to us, but the truth is that it is often a small whisper. The world has trained us that this whisper is just our own self-talk. Or we have become so distracted by all the noises around us that we don’t even pay attention to those whispers.

Take time today to listen during your prayer time; don’t dismiss those small whispers, but compare them to the Word of God. I have had several occasions where I was driving somewhere and heard that small whisper of “stop here” or “go in there,” and the Lord opens up a ministry opportunity I wasn’t even thinking of. But each time I stopped for those whispers, I have been able to discern what the voice of God sounds like.

Read 1 Kings 19:5-16

Pray for 15 minutes today. In that time, sit in silence, listening for that whisper of God. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit uses a whisper; sometimes it’s a picture or vision. Take them, write them down, and if they require action, act.

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<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 30:21

## Day 17. Wednesday: Pressing into the Quiet Place

Almost every morning, I sit with the Lord. I wish it was every morning, but to be honest, I need to work on my discipline of clearing my morning calendar. Most mornings I get into the church, fill a cup of coffee, and grab my journaling Bible and a pen. I spend time worshiping, reading, and writing what the Lord is revealing to me through His word. Then I wait; I wait in the quiet, listening to the Lord.

Throughout the New Testament, we get example after example of Jesus going away to pray. We don't get a full picture of what Jesus was praying in these moments. I believe it was in this time that the Father was telling and showing Jesus what to do. In John chapter 5, Jesus said He only does what He sees the Father doing and that He only does the Father's will.<sup>14</sup>

When we get alone in the quiet, we are giving the Holy Spirit space to speak. Wayne Cordeiro says, "This is the University of the Holy Spirit. The curriculum is a process of lifelong learning, coaching, and on-the-job training. Graduation will commence when we walk through heaven's gates."<sup>15</sup>

Today, sit in the University of the Holy Spirit as you study Scripture.

Read Romans 8:9-17

Pray for 15 minutes today and give space to your teacher, the Holy Spirit, to speak.

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<sup>14</sup> John 5:19-30

<sup>15</sup> Cordeiro, W. (2007). The University of the Holy Spirit. In *The Divine Mentor* (pp. 185–186). Bethany House Publishers.

## **Day 18. Thursday: Where is the Spirit in Your Life?**

A.W. Tozer penned an indictment of the church's lack of anointing: "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."<sup>16</sup>

Look at your own life. If the Holy Spirit wasn't there, would people know the difference? When we settle for a faith that is devoid of the supernatural, we never get anything supernatural. The truth is we need the gifts of the Spirit in our lives and in our churches today. Does your life demonstrate that?

For me, this is convicting; how often do I go about my day and neglect the voice of the Holy Spirit and miss out on a supernatural opportunity to see God move?

Today take time to do an inventory of the Holy Spirit in your life. Live in dependence on Him just like the early church did. The early church had persecution, riots, torture, and poverty, but none of that could stop it. Why? The Holy Spirit!

Read Acts 6:1-7

Pray today for 15 minutes, asking the Holy Spirit to supernaturally empower you and reveal to you where you are called to serve. Remember to use your prayer language if you have one.

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<sup>16</sup> Goodreads. (n.d.). *A quote by A.W. Tozer*. Goodreads. Retrieved March 15, 2022, from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/964813-if-the-holy-spirit-was-withdrawn-from-the-church-today>

## **Day 19. Friday: Know the Father through the Spirit**

In John Chapter 5, Jesus shares with us the source of His confidence in operating in the Holy Spirit. It is the intimacy that He has with the Father.

“For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.”<sup>17</sup>

The more that you spend time with someone, the more you get to know him or her. Spending time with the Father, in His Word and in prayer, the more you know His heart. Growing up on a farm and watching my father work among the cattle, I saw my dad’s heart. It was not to simply produce a profit but to care for what God had entrusted to him.

When we spend time with our Heavenly Father, that intimacy helps us to determine what the Spirit wants to do and shows us the heart of Jesus. When you are alone with the Father, He will give you revelation about how to reach your neighbors, your family, and your friends. It is the Father’s heart that all would come to know Him. The confidence for walking in the Spirit is knowing the Father. It is the love of the Father that reminds us who we are in Him and the greater works He longs to do.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7, John 5:19-30

Pray today for 15 minutes (if you have a prayer language, use that) asking the Father to show you His love and what He wants the Holy Spirit to do in you and through you.

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<sup>17</sup> John 5:20

## **Day 20. Saturday: Rest**

True rest comes from the Holy Spirit. When that sense of rest is gone, we need to seek the Spirit of God to find it again. Oftentimes, when we are in need of rest, we need to evaluate if we have abandoned the Spirit's influence in our lives.

“Where is the one who led them through the bottom of the sea? They were like fine stallions racing through the desert, never stumbling. As with cattle going down into a peaceful valley, the spirit of the Lord gave them rest. You led your people, Lord, and gained a magnificent reputation.”<sup>18</sup>

Every year, I take time to get away. There is a special place in Minnesota called Pacem in Terris; it means peace on earth. It is where I go when I need to get away with the Lord and find rest. I often find that I sleep most of the first day in the quiet cabin in the woods. The whole time, the Spirit is restoring my soul. True rest comes from the Spirit, just as He sustained and gave rest to the Israelites traveling from Egypt.

Take time today to rest in the presence of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to restore your soul. Clear some of your to do list and rest with the Holy Spirit.

## **Day 21. Sunday: Worship in Spirit and Truth**

It's the best day of the week. The day where we get to gather together and worship. Many of us are familiar with the encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4. But what did Jesus mean when He said the Father is seeking people who will worship Him “in spirit and truth”?<sup>19</sup>

When we worship God “in spirit,” it means that it is originating from within, from our heart. It means our worship is true, genuine, and motivated by our love for God. It is so easy to let worship just become ritualistic and routine. Worshiping in Spirit

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<sup>18</sup> Isaiah 63:13-14

<sup>19</sup> John 4:23

also means that we “worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”<sup>20</sup>

The Spirit opens and awakens us to the beauty and glory of God. It is the same Spirit that allows us to rest in the promise of Jesus and see all that He has for us in Him.

As you worship today, allow the Spirit to speak to you and position your heart to worship God “in spirit and truth.”

## **Day 22. Monday: The Role of Regenerator**

Many of us have different roles that we operate in every single day. The Holy Spirit does too. Over the next couple days, we will look at these roles and how the Spirit works in our lives.

When we come to faith in Jesus, it is the most supernatural thing we can experience. We are taken from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the kingdom of light. The Holy Spirit works in this, and when Jesus told Nicodemus “unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God,” this is what He was talking about.<sup>21</sup> “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”<sup>22</sup> When we put our faith in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit enters us, giving us confidence that we are now a part of God’s family. None of us would be Christians today without the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. We are made new, made whole, and adopted into the family.

Wherever you are today, think about how the Spirit has regenerated you. Remember where you came from and where Jesus has taken you.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Pray today to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Pray for 20 minutes, and use your prayer language to press in.

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<sup>20</sup> Philippians 3:3

<sup>21</sup> John 3:5

<sup>22</sup>. 1 Corinthians 12:3

## **Day 23. Tuesday: The Role of Empowerer**

Not only does the Holy Spirit regenerate us, He empowers us too. Jesus told His disciples that they would be “clothed with power from on high.”<sup>23</sup> This became a reality at Pentecost where the disciples were filled with power. They were given strength, boldness, and the ability to operate in spiritual power they had only seen in Jesus.

Too often in our lives, we try to limit or box in the Holy Spirit. If we are honest, this is true for all of us. We get comfortable and begin to play our easy version of faith. Our lives do not often resemble that of early Christians, who boldly proclaimed the Gospel, worked miracles, and even gave up their lives for the sake of their faith.

I fear that too often we have asked the Holy Spirit to stay away from us, and we try to steer clear of the Holy Spirit’s interruptions. God’s promise is still here for us. And if you are daring enough to invite Him to empower you, you can experience all the power that filled the early church.

Read Luke 24:36-49

Pray today for 20 minutes, asking the Spirit to empower you. Don’t dismiss those interruptions the Holy Spirit may bring to your mind as you pray, but press into them, seeking His power to see them through.

## **Day 24. Wednesday: The Role of Guide and Uniter**

We all need a guide. When we would run a mission in the National Guard, we would have different people responsible. Typically, in a Platoon we would have someone toward the front making sure we were going the right direction and another in the back verifying and calling up that we have passed checkpoints.

The Holy Spirit is our guide. He is like our internal GPS except

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<sup>23</sup> Luke 24:49

He never says “rerouting” or gives wrong information. The Bible promises that the Spirit will guide us, but we still find it difficult to hear His voice. We can hear God’s voice in a variety of ways: reading our Bible; supernatural inspiration such as dreams, visions, and warnings; convictions; and that still small voice. Other people can speak to us in the power of the Holy Spirit through wise counsel, prophetic words, and even rebuke.

How have you noticed the Holy Spirit guiding you?

The Holy Spirit also unites us. In Acts 2:42, we see that the first disciples were “continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” It is that fellowship that is the secret sauce. Where else can people of all different backgrounds, ethnicities, gender, age, and class all gather together, but the Church? There is a supernatural fellowship that takes place as a part of the Spirit’s anointing.

Pray today for your guide, the Holy Spirit, to speak to you and to be united with your family, the Church. Join in on Wednesday night ministry to dive deeper into fellowship.

## **Day 25. Thursday: The Role of Intercessor**

The Holy Spirit is our intercessor. “This is one of the greatest miracles of grace. The apostle Paul told us that the Holy Spirit who lives inside us ‘intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words’<sup>24</sup> Even when we don’t know how to pray, the Spirit prays the perfect will of God.”<sup>25</sup>

Have you ever just groaned in prayer? Not really sure what to pray for? Sometimes, our prayers are just, “Help me, God!” The Bible tells us that these prayers are powerful and effective. Why? Because the Spirit is in them. In the midst of these prayers, the Spirit is praying at a deeper level inside of us, and He knows exactly what to pray.<sup>26</sup> Prayer can be a messy struggle. We can struggle to believe that God is working; that is why we are so in

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<sup>24</sup> Romans 8:26

<sup>25</sup> Grady J. Lee. (2016) (pp 63).

<sup>26</sup> Grady J. Lee (2016) (pp63)

need of the Spirit.

When we struggle in prayer, it is easy to ask ourselves, “Is what God said true?” In the midst of that, we have the Holy Spirit to help us through it, and He gives us faith to see the answer we are waiting for.

What is it in your life that you really need God to move in today? Press in with the Holy Spirit and ask Him for faith to see the answer you are waiting for.

Read Romans 8:18-30

Pray today for 20 minutes asking the Spirit to intercede on your behalf. If you have a prayer language, use it and allow the Spirit to work in those groans too deep for words.

## **Day 26. Friday: The Role of Comforter**

In 2012, I was at a military school, and I was still fairly new in my faith. This is where I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as comforter. After completing the first day of school, I called home and found out that my grandfather had passed away.

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching about the Holy Spirit before He went to the cross. He was letting His disciples know they would never be alone. “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you.”<sup>27</sup>

Even though Jesus said it would be to their advantage for Him to go away, the disciples struggled to believe it. The word “helper” is also translated as “comforter” or “advocate.” He is a close friend who comes alongside us to offer encouragement when we face any difficulty.

Throughout the rest of this school, I was able to experience the Comforter walking with me in grief, encouraging me in trials, and providing consolation in being so far away from family. I have learned to appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit during

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<sup>27</sup> John 16:7

difficult times. He sustains me with supernatural power, hope, and cheer when I experience grief.

Read John 16:1-7

Where do you need the Comforter to work in your life today? Pray for 20 minutes today and experience the Comforter coming alongside you.

## **Day 27. Saturday: The Role of Refiner**

When we think of the Holy Spirit coming on those in the upper room, we often think of wind and fire. Before he died, John the Baptist proclaimed that one was coming after him who would baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>28</sup> The fire of the Holy Spirit refines us, and in order to walk with the Holy Spirit, we need both wind and fire.

If our experience is all feelings and noise, we miss out on one of the truly great works of the Holy Spirit: holiness. As the Holy Spirit refines us, He makes us whole, He burns up our sin, and He comes searching for us, breaking down the walls we have built.

“Our problem is that we treat the whole scene in Acts 2 as if it were a party. We want hoopla and the noisy speaking in tongues, but we don’t really want the fear of God or the deep conviction of sin that comes when we are exposed to His holiness.”<sup>29</sup>

What is in your life that you need God to clean out and refine in you? Holiness is not a side issue; it is central to the Spirit’s work. I encourage you today to open your heart to let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

Pray today for 20 minutes, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal things to you that need to be refined. If you have a prayer language, use that today to press in and allow the Spirit’s fire to refine you.

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<sup>28</sup> Mathew 3:11

<sup>29</sup> Grady J. Lee. (2016) (pp 69).

## **Day 28. Sunday: Experiencing the Holy Spirit**

Sunday is the day I look forward to the most as a pastor. It's the time when I get to see the family of God come together. It is also a time when I get to see and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 13:2-3, it says, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

The Spirit often speaks to us through worship. Maybe today He is calling you to serve in a new way. As you join in worship today, listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and what He wants for you.

## **Day 29. Monday: Spiritual Hunger**

Do you have spiritual hunger? We oftentimes feel hunger pangs for food or drink, but when it comes to our faith, spiritual hunger is something that spurs us forward. We are oftentimes too comfortable to realize that hunger is there. In the end, we like our flatscreen tv, smart phones, two-car garages, and air conditioning. Because of that comfort, we forget to be thankful in all circumstances and fail to see our utter need for God.

In the convenience of life, we forget to seek after God. Jeremiah said this: "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."<sup>30</sup>

God honors spiritual hunger. He does this because it is a sign of humility. Are you a casual seeker? God looks for those who are fervent in their pursuit. "Seek me and find me" He says, "when you seek me with all your heart."

When you begin to fervently seek after God in this way, you will begin to experience the amazing journey He has for you. This is all outlined for us in Jeremiah 29:11-14.

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<sup>30</sup> Jeremiah 29:13

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14

What do you long for from God? Take a moment today to evaluate your spiritual hunger. Pray for 25 minutes and ask the Holy Spirit to reignite your hunger for God.

### **Day 30. Tuesday: Turn Up the Heat.**

It gets cold here in Minnesota. I looked outside one morning and saw a fresh blanket of snow. Before I went to clean it off the driveway, I asked “Hey Siri what’s the temperature outside?” The answer was lower than I wanted to hear, and in a quest for my own comfort, I prayed a really selfish prayer: “Lord turn up the heat!” I was reminded of Romans 12:11 which says, “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

The Greek word for fervor is *zeontes*, which means, “to be stirred up emotionally, be enthusiastic/excited/on fire.”<sup>31</sup> How do we stay on fire for God? How do we turn up the temperature in our spiritual lives? We take time to hunger for God through His Word and by cultivating intimacy with Him through prayer and worship.

Read Romans 12:9-12

Today, take time to turn up the heat. Get alone with God and spend 25 minutes in prayer. Make sure you take time to listen as you stoke the fire of faith. Oswald Chambers said, “Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive.”<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., and Arndt, W. (2019) *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, (pp426–26). University of Chicago Press.

<sup>32</sup> Bridgwater, M. (2008). Essay. In *Prayers for the Faithful: Fervent Daily Prayer and Meditations for Christians Serving around the World*, (pp18). B & H Pub. Group, 2008.

## **Day 31. Wednesday: Break Free**

Have you ever tried starting a fire? The first time I went to build a fire, I stacked up so much wood and kindling that when I lit it, the fire would not get going. There was not enough air getting to the flame. It was only when I removed some of the wood and kindling that the fire could breathe and took off.

In our lives, we often hang onto things that can extinguish the flames of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Maybe it is that habit or addiction. Maybe it's unforgiveness. Paul tells the Thessalonians, "Do not quench the Spirit."<sup>33</sup> Many of us have things in our lives that prevent us from growing spiritually because we allow bondage to take up residence in our hearts: bondage to sin, bondage to habits, and bondage to addictions. What is it for you?

It is time to break free and let the Holy Spirit flow through you, igniting the flames of faith in your heart. Repentance and forgiveness are key to letting the breath of God ignite the flame of faith.

Read 1 John 1

Today, take time to confess to God and turn over whatever it is that is dampening your spiritual passion. Pray for 25 minutes today.

## **Day 32. Thursday: Get Back in the Word**

Have you ever been stuck in the doldrums: an extended period of stagnation where you are wondering where God is?

We all go through periods like this. I remember shortly after finishing my seminary education, I was in one of these periods. I was waiting, waiting for God to do something. The call process for churches is oftentimes extremely slow, and I was stuck.

What I had to do was build regimen and routine. Every single day, I would spend time in the Word, exercise, spend time with my

33. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

girlfriend (now wife), and pray for an extended period. Sometimes, the best thing to do in the doldrums is to press in, even when you don't feel like it. The Holy Spirit meets us in these doldrums and like a breath of fresh air fills us again.

God uses the Word to speak to us, whether we feel like reading it or not, and His Spirit is always active in the Word. Getting into the Word is not casually reading or skimming scripture. The Word will ignite your spirit and your heart, just as it did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Read Luke 24:13-35

Pray today for 25 minutes, asking God to open His Word to you. Press in during this prayer time, and let the Word of God dwell richly within you.

### **Day 33. Friday: Dig into the Well**

When I was an intern pastor, I remember talking with a family about why they liked attending a certain location at the two campuses. The father told me that one of their sons was learning to see in the Spirit and would often see what he described as a spiritual well in the front of the sanctuary. When I came back as a pastor, I started praying at both locations multiple times a week for the Holy Spirit to open up the spiritual wells at both locations.

It was a long process, but for over a year, I would pray. Finally, as I was on my knees up front, I got a vision of water rushing up from the floor and filling the sanctuary. As I walked around praising God for what He was doing, it felt as though my legs were extremely heavy as though I was wading through this spiritual water.

We not only need spiritual wells in our churches but in our lives as too. I have continued this prayer in my own home, and I've prayed for the Spirit to open a well in my heart too.

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said: 'Streams of living water will flow from within him.'"<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> John 7:38

Read John 7:37-39 and Ezekiel 47:1-10

Pray today for 25 minutes for God to open a spiritual well in your life. If you have a prayer language, press in, allowing the Spirit to pray the prayers you need.

### **Day 34. Saturday: Staying on Fire**

Much of the time you have invested is about igniting your experience with the Holy Spirit. We even stepped into the dry seasons. But how do we actually live this out after the initial excitement has passed?

Many of us make the mistake of letting our feelings drive our experience and our relationship with God. Feelings are a good thing, but they will not carry us through the rough seasons in life. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit is with us at all times.

Walking through trials is a big part of our life here on this earth. In the midst of those trials, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is always with us, even when we don't see or feel Him there.

“As you begin this remarkable journey of the Spirit-filled life, do not ever think that you are immune to trials. Difficult times will come. Each of us must face tests and challenges, but the Spirit will orchestrate these moments to shape us.”<sup>35</sup>

What trials are you facing right now? How can you see the Holy Spirit at work within them?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16 and 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Pray today for 25 minutes, pressing into the trials you are facing. Ask the Holy Spirit to fully produce what He is working in you.

### **Day 35. Sunday: Worship the Lord**

We all bring things with us into worship. But there is something about getting in the presence of God with other believers that makes it all fall away.

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<sup>35</sup> Grady J. Lee. (2016) (pp 172).

When Paul was imprisoned with Silas, their troubles seemed to have overwhelmed them. To anyone looking from the outside, it would have appeared that way. To Paul and Silas, it was merely an opportunity to show God’s majesty and might.

When we worship, the Spirit works, He moves, He shakes foundations, and He breaks chains.

As you worship today, let the Spirit set you free. Don’t fear the shaking; it’s just the start of freedom.

Read Acts 16:16-40

### **Day 36. Monday: Battling Doubt**

When I was newly baptized in the Holy Spirit, I experienced doubt within the first week. I doubted that it actually happened and that the Holy Spirit’s gifts were really working in me. Your battle of doubt may take different forms. But the truth remains the same, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”<sup>36</sup>

You have received a very precious gift in the Holy Spirit, one that wreaks havoc on the enemy. Because of that, the enemy will try to hinder you from operating in the gifts given to you. He does this through fear and false teaching, and he will do everything he can to keep you from using your gifts.

I struggled with speaking in tongues; in the back of my mind, I had this small doubt that started to erode my confidence. My confidence had to be restored, and the solution came through the Word of God. Whenever we have doubts, we must return to the Bible so that truth can overcome our doubts.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and Psalm 19:7-11

Today Spend 30 minutes in prayer, placing your doubts before the Lord. Ask Him to speak to them and search God’s Word for the answers to your doubts. If you have a prayer language and you haven’t used it for a while because of doubt, use it today.

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<sup>36</sup> John 10:10

## **Day 37. Tuesday: Was That You, God?**

I have had several instances where that still, small voice has popped up, directing me in ways I never expected. I remember driving on my way into the church one morning, and I had this thought that said, you need to stop at this gas station. I still had  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a tank, so there was no need for me to stop. Again, the thought came. I have been listening to the Holy Spirit for several years at this point, but I still had the thought, “Is this you God?” The sure-fire way to be sure is to act on it and see what happens.

I stopped at the gas station and went inside. There, another one of those thoughts came again: “go stand over by the protein bars.” As I stood there in the aisle, I felt rather silly, but that feeling didn’t last long. I looked up, and there were two dear friends in the Lord. What happened next was a special time of connection and encouragement. Within a few months, one of those friends went home to be with the Lord. It is a memory that will encourage me every time I think of my friend.

We all have instances where God speaks to us where seemingly random thoughts pop into our heads. How often do we ignore those when it could be the Lord speaking? Just as the Scriptures came from the Holy Spirit working through men, the gifts of the Spirit originate from God. Our role involves listening and responding to that invitation.

**Read 2 Peter 1:20-21**

Pray for 30 minutes today, asking God to speak to you. Use your prayer language, and ask God release His gifts through you.

## **Day 38. Wednesday: Catching the Wind.**

Jesus shares in John chapter three, “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sounds, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>37</sup>

When we operate in the Holy Spirit, we often never know when He is going to speak. I was recently praying for students at winter retreat. While praying for a student, the Lord spoke and said, “Go back and tell Landon to come forward.” I told the Lord, “Landon is a big boy; he can come forward on his own.” I have to confess I was not very mature in my interaction with the Lord. Again, as I was ministering to a student, the Holy Spirit said, “Go tell Landon to come forward.” When this came again, I knew I needed to listen to this prompting. I went back to Landon and told him I thought the Lord wanted him to come forward to receive the Holy Spirit.

Landon told me, “I was just sitting back here and told God if you want me to come forward, then you will send Jordan back here to get me.”

The wind of the Spirit blows where it wishes, and we have to be ready to catch it. Are you learning to adjust your sails? What is Jesus asking you to do?

Read John 3:1-15

Pray for 30 minutes today to catch the wind, asking the Holy Spirit to fill your sails and direct you on His adventure.

## **Day 39. Thursday: Learning to Enjoy Prayer.**

Over the past several weeks, you may have noticed that I have been asking you to pray more and more. Prayer can be one of those things that we struggle to find enjoyment in; this is often because it can seem like work. We get this feeling that if we just drudge through it, we can check off the box. To be honest, this has been me before too, and I have made it way more complicated than it needs to be.

Prayer is not meant to be complicated; you are just meant to talk with someone you know and love. One of the best ways I have found to really enjoy prayer time is to listen to worship music while I pray. I also make my devotion time part of my prayer time by talking with God as I am reading His Word.

Prayer doesn't need to be methodic and ritualistic; it can be fun and life giving. Think about sitting with your friends and how you talk with them. You speak, you share, you catch up, and you listen. We are personal when we speak with people, but for some reason when we come to God, we treat Him like He's the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Washington DC. The reality is that the Holy Spirit is right there with us in prayer, longing for us to tap in and be empowered by Him.

If you want to enjoy prayer, you need to treat God like a person, or you will never relate to Him personally.

Look at how Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6. He said, "Our Father..." Make it personal.

Read Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:9-13

Pray for 30 minutes today, and have a real conversation with God.

## **Day 40. Friday: The Internal Work**

So often we focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we miss some of the most important work of the Spirit: the internal work. Who we were before Jesus is not who we are after we come into relationship with Him, and that is all because of the Holy Spirit.

I remember one Christmas as a little kid that I ate almost half a pan of fudge. Before I knew it, my stomach churned and I was SICK. I had a period of time where I would not eat fudge. Now, I enjoy it in moderation, once a year as a gift from my aunt.

When we become Christians, something happens where our desires transform. Galatians tells us to “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”<sup>38</sup>

Our deepest desires come from the Spirit, and they lead to life. “A Spirit-filled Christian wants to learn the Bible, wants to pray, wants to live in holiness, and wants to worship God freely.”<sup>39</sup> How have your desires changed since becoming a Christian?

Read Galatians 5:16-25

Pray today for 30 minutes, allowing the Spirit to pull out His desires in you.

## **Day 41. Saturday: Keep Pressing In**

Each of us goes through suffering. There are some things you cannot learn until you go through them. Before having kids, I thought I knew what it meant to be a parent. And the truth is that we all are better parents before we have kids. Once you have them,

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<sup>38</sup> Galatians 5:16-18

<sup>39</sup> Driscoll, M. (2018). The Spirit, Not The Flesh. In *Spirit-Filled Jesus: Life by His Power* (p. 206). essay, Charisma House.

you learn you don't really know much about being a parent. Every time you start to figure out a phase, you enter a new one.

Jesus was in Heaven and knew our suffering, but He came to earth to experience our suffering. Hebrews tells us that "For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering." Our King who has returned to Heaven knows and can understand our suffering.

When we suffer, we are called to keep pressing into the One who understands our suffering. The Holy Spirit helps us to reflect on Jesus' suffering, so we can be more like him.

"Through suffering you will learn to, (1) perfectly hate sin and the suffering it causes, (2) perfectly love Jesus and the suffering He endured for you, and (3) grow into perfect relationship with Jesus that will endure forever once all the suffering has ceased."<sup>40</sup>

Read Hebrews 2:5-18

Pray today for 30 minutes. If you are suffering, press in and reflect on Jesus, that you may walk in the victory Jesus had over suffering.

## **Day 42. Sunday: Day 42 and Beyond**

Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event; it is a continual process. The famed evangelist D.L. Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be continually filled with the Spirit. "Well," he said, "I need a continual infilling because I leak."

I leak, you leak, we all leak, and we need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. Time and time again throughout the Scriptures we see that the disciples were not just filled once but were filled again and again.

Acts 2:4 "All of them (the disciples) were filled with the Holy Spirit..."

Acts 4:8 "Then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit..."

40 Driscoll, M. (2018) (pp157).

Acts 13:9 “Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 13:52 “And the disciples were filled joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

I have made it a habit to ask God throughout the day to fill me with His Holy Spirit. I need to drink water to be healthy, I also need the Holy Spirit to remain spiritually healthy. As you come into worship today, ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

### **Day 43. Monday Bonus: The Fruit of the Spirit**

While traveling on vacation, the kids my wife and I went to Florida to spend a week with some friends. From the moment of our arrival our friends open their home, their lives, and so much fun to our family. They joined us on adventures, they opened their refrigerator, and they shared with us so much joy that we had come to visit. Often times when people go visit others we can feel as though we are intruding and getting in the way. This was a breath of fresh air and is what life in the Spirit is like. It is contrary to what the world feels like.

The fruit of the Spirit is found in Galatians 5:22-25, this list is one that reminds us where we have come from, and can show us where God wants to work. We can at times focus so much on the gifts of the Spirit that we miss the internal work and fruit he wants to produce. There is a battle between our flesh and the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is what God wants to produce in us. No matter how hard we try we can't do it on our own we need the Holy Spirit and his power to produce these in us.

Love – Self-sacrificing and unchanging, demonstrated by Jesus. It is the foundation of all the other fruit.

Joy – Inner joy that is not dependent on circumstances.

Peace – Trust in God even in the face of challenges.

Patience – resting in God's timing rather than our own.

Kindness – Being considerate and charitable.

Goodness – Doing good to others, acting in generosity.

Faithfulness – Reliable and trustworthy.

Gentleness – Humble, submissive to God, and considerate.

Self-Control – Not out of control but under God's influence.

We all have seen the battle in our lives of against the flesh. It is not something we can win on our own, God's power is greater than our own. If we are truly to live in the power of the Holy Spirit we have to rely on his power and the fruit He produces.

Read Galatians 5:13-25

Pray today for the fruit of the Spirit to grow and produce new life in you.

## **Praying in Tongues – Your Personal Prayer Language.**

Growing up, I rarely heard of the Holy Spirit in church. It was probably mentioned only once a year on Pentecost Sunday, and that had more to do with a one-time event. When I got to college, I was invited to a small group Bible study and found that many of the guys crammed in the room had something I didn't have, and they were on fire for Jesus. In talking with my small group leader, Steve, he asked if I had ever considered asking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Much like when Paul asked the Ephesians if they received the Holy Spirit in Acts 19, I didn't even know that was an option.

I started digging into Scripture and attended a winter retreat led by a man named Dick Schroder. It was there that he talked about the Father's heart and how it was God's heart for us to know Him and be in relationship with Him. One of the ways we experience this is through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues. In the back of my mind, I thought this was all strange, but I knew I wanted to know God more deeply. So that night when ministry time came, I went forward and prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I felt something different while I was praying at the front of the church. I felt God's presence close to me. I started praying out loud, thanking God for who He was. I didn't hear a rushing wind, and I didn't see fire; all I could feel was this electric feeling all around me as the presence of God grew and grew.

I was continuing to pray, and all of the sudden, I could no longer understand the words coming out of my mouth. I immediately thought I was making it up, but the Lord pressed even closer with His presence. Over the next several weeks, I pressed into my own study of God's word to see exactly what was up with this thing called speaking in tongues. In Jude verse 20, it says, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,". When you are praying in the Spirit, you are building yourself up. Paul says the same thing, "The one

who speaks in a tongue builds up himself.”<sup>41</sup> The gift of speaking in tongues is one that builds you up as a believer.

Jesus said that we would have streams of living water flowing through us, and that is exactly what being baptized in the Holy Spirit is like.<sup>42</sup> He also says in the Gospel of Mark, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in tongues.”<sup>43</sup> In Acts, we see that there were 120 in the upper room who received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and started speaking in tongues.<sup>44</sup>

More were baptized and spoke in tongues in Acts 10 (5-7 years after Pentecost). Peter and other believers were amazed when those in Cornelius’ house were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues.<sup>45</sup> Over 20 years after Pentecost in Acts 19, believers in Ephesus received the gift of speaking in tongues as they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

This experience was not exciting because I was speaking in tongues; it was exciting because God filled me with His Power. It ignited my faith and my prayer life in many different ways. This is all available to you too. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 11 that the Father wants to give the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who ask.<sup>46</sup>

“Our spirit was created to communicate with God. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, our spirit is liberated and speaking in tongues expresses that liberation. Birds fly in the air and fish swim in the water, their normal environment; when the believer speaks in tongues, his spirit is in its normal environment. Speaking in tongues is both human and divine and is the cooperation between the believer and the Holy Spirit.”<sup>47</sup>

The truth is this experience changed my relationship with God and it can change yours too. Are you wanting more? Are you longing for a closer connection to God? Being baptized in the Holy Spirit

41 1 Corinthians 14:4a

42 John 7:37-39

43 Mark 16:17

44 Acts 2:1-4

45 Acts 10:44-46

46 Luke 11:13

47 Fuhrman, E. (1999). *Speaking in Tongues. In You Shall be Baptized in the Holy Spirit: Know the Power of the Holy Spirit.* (p 57-58). Eldo Publishers.

ushered me into a deeper place with Him. If you want more, I have included a prayer by J. Lee Grady to ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is not just about speaking in tongues. There are many amazing gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us. But, speaking in tongues is a gift that is available to all of us. And when receiving the Holy Spirit, it is normative to experience speaking in tongues. I want to encourage you that we do not seek the infilling of the Spirit for the gifts; we seek the gift giver. It is all about growing in our relationship with God.

There are many different things that can get in the way of us receiving. J. Lee Grady outlines these in his book *Set My Heart on Fire*.

1. Doubt or Intellectual Pride – “Spiritual experiences cannot be figured out with the mind. To receive the Spirit’s infilling, you must let go of your intellectual arguments and display childlike faith (Matthew 18:2-4).”<sup>48</sup>
2. Religious Tradition<sup>49</sup> – When we get locked in our religious thinking and tradition, we can find it hard to receive the Holy Spirit. This was the case for me. I didn’t even know it was an option until later in life. We must be willing to break free from our religious tradition and get back to the Word.
3. Fear of Supernatural- “Some Christians grew up in denominations that teach against the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They were told that Pentecostals were fanatics who go into trances, speak mindless gibberish, and swing from chandeliers.”<sup>50</sup> The supernatural should be natural. People are weird, not God. People who are afraid of the power of the Holy Spirit will struggle to receive it.
4. Unconfessed Sin – “Some people stuff their secret sins in the closets of their hearts. If you want to be filled with the Spirit, you must be willing to open those closets and invite

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48 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p158).

49 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p159).

50 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p159).

the light of God’s holiness into every dark corner of your life.”<sup>51</sup> Because God is holy, our sins can separate us from Him. The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5 that the Holy Spirit can be grieved.<sup>52</sup> Take time to confess your sins to God. He is faithful to forgive.

5. Emotional Wounds – Sometimes we can bind ourselves in our brokenness so much so that we are weighed down by our baggage. “Healing is often needed before a person can receive the blessing of Holy Spirit baptism.”<sup>53</sup>
6. An Unyielded Spirit – “Some people are too willful to be filled with the Spirit. They have not surrendered their plans, finances, relationships, or time to God... Only the fully yielded can experience the fullness of His power.”<sup>54</sup> Surrender yourself to God, all of you.

Remember the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a continual process, so if you have received it in the past, but you feel as though you are cut off, open up your heart today for the Spirit to have His way. It is also a gift received by faith. Don’t look for emotions and feelings to validate it; just receive God’s power.

Joining Jesus on His mission through the power of the Holy Spirit is the most exciting thing you will ever step into. It is a life of adventure.

If you want to be filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit, below is a prayer for you to pray.

*“Jesus, I want all You have for me. Right now I ask You to baptize me in the Holy Spirit. Fill me with all Your power and supernatural anointing. Give me the supernatural language of the Holy Spirit. As I surrender every part of my life to You, I ask that You clothe me with Your power and allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through my life. I receive the fullness of Your Holy Spirit now in Jesus Name. Amen.”<sup>55</sup>*

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51 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p159).

52. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

53 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p160).

54 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p160).

55 Grady J. Lee. (2016). (p162).

Pastor Jordan is an associate pastor at North Heights Church and an army chaplain in the National Guard. Jordan grew up on a farm in North Dakota, and faith became real to him in 2009 at North Dakota State University through Chi Alpha. Later that year, he had an encounter with the Holy Spirit that forever changed his life. Over the years he has studied and grown with the Holy Spirit and has a passion for others to experience the same relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Jordan has a Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary and has served in the National Guard since 2006. He has a passion for equipping people for faith and life and teaching the Bible.

Jordan and his wife Amy have two children and live in Mounds View, Minnesota. He enjoys spending time with his family, classic cars, hunting, reading, and traveling.