

# Come Holy Spirit

**Acts 2:1–4** *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

1. It's a shame that the Holy Spirit tends to be an afterthought for many Christians. We formally believe, but honestly, there isn't much fire to it. We just sort of believe. That's why in the Gospels there are two clearly distinguished baptisms. There's the baptism with water that most of us are used to, and then there's the baptism "*with the Holy Spirit and fire*" (**Matthew 3:11**); that's the one that matters most.
2. Even though we so often pray, "Come, Holy Spirit," the gift of the Spirit is already given. The Holy Spirit has already come. The only difference is the degree that we know it, draw upon it, and consciously believe it.
3. All the scriptural images of the Spirit are dynamic—flowing water, descending dove or blazing fire, and rushing wind. If our whole lives are just going through the motions, if there's never any deep conviction, we aren't connected to the Spirit. We would do well to fan into flame the gift that we already have.
4. God doesn't give God's Spirit to those of us who are worthy because none of us are worthy. *God gives God's Spirit in this awakened way to those who want him.*
5. The Spirit empowers Jesus to be continually present in the world. The Spirit is the driving force, the animating creative life of the entire cosmos, responsible, in particular, for the vision of those in human history most attuned to the heartbeat of God. Even the apostle Peter recognized this as he preached to the Gentiles: "*You know ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil for God was with him*" (**Acts 10:36–38**).
6. To separate Jesus from the Spirit is impossible. Jesus would not exist without the Spirit; Jesus would not be a continuing presence if not for the Spirit. We cannot know Jesus without the Spirit.

## 7. In the scriptures, the Spirit is called:

Ruach	Pneuma	Shekhinah
Wind	Breath	Dwelling
Power	Wisdom	Presence
Answers injustice with empowering hope	Answers insufficiency and loss with trust	Answers alienation and loneliness with love

8. The vision of a redemptive God of presence, wisdom, and power comes from the biblical revelation of God's presence in Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit. Now we can experience Jesus as dwelling with us through the Spirit of Christ who indwells us.
9. Jesus came to the Jews as being fully human yet also as the dwelling place of God. And if that is who he was, that who he still is in us. **The Spirit of Christ is the presence, the wisdom, and the power of the Divine dwelling with us, here and now.**

## The Power of Love

1. At the end of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers, "*Stay in Jerusalem until you are filled with the power from on high*" (**Luke 24:49**). The disciples remained as they were told until the Spirit descends upon the gathered community on the feast of Pentecost. Suddenly, there is a new vitality in the Church, a new source of power and love.
2. By living in the Spirit, Jesus' disciples can do what God is doing. It is by the power of the Spirit that they follow Jesus' alternative way (**Luke 6:27-30**):

*Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you; pray for those who treat you badly. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer your other cheek. If someone takes your coat, let them take your shirt as well. Treat others the way you want them to treat you.*

3. The gift of the Spirit is God's own power to love unconditionally—and to transform the world by that power. This gift of knowing the Spirit, of being able to love as God does, is the same gift we need today. We live in a an unraveling world. But the truth is we are often apathetic. All of this is evidence of something missing in our lives and reveals that we do not really know the Holy Spirit as Jesus did.
4. The Spirit is always a gratuitous gift. It's always pure grace. The Spirit is elusive, blowing where it wills. Yet like fire, the Spirit can be felt. The Spirit can be experienced as the warmth of God's love, an inner vitality, incredibly intimate, yet supremely transcendent.
5. To enter relationship with the risen Christ, we must let go of ourselves, surrender control of our lives, and let the Spirit be given to us. The highest form of self-possession is the capacity to give ourselves away.