

Receive

David Platt video

Acts 20:19-23

Jesus commands us to venture courageous counter-cultural demanding lives. He orders us to love one another, to pray for enemies, to take up the cross and FOLLOW. He does not expect us to do these demanding tasks by ourselves. Christ gives us the Holy Spirit to be what He calls us to be and to do. Thus the church prays for the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Receive!"

When we say Holy Spirit we are saying God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is not an afterthought. He's always been and always will be God. **Genesis 1:1-2** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void, and darkness [was] on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." **Luke 1:31, 35**, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ... 35 And the angel answered and said to her, '[The] Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, and immediately led him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **Acts 10:38**, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." **Romans 8:11**, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

The Greek word for spirit is translated "wind" or "breath." Holy Spirit is the expression of God by which we can experience God. But, the Holy Spirit can never be reduced to an experience!

Trinity: union of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one Godhead

- Everything said about Holy Spirit also ought to be said of Father and Son. They are inseparable.
- Each person of Trinity is but a different aspect of God's being rather than distinct beings.
- Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." **John 14:10-18**
 - Notice this obvious dependency of God with himself, expressed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - We are invited into this relationship with the Godhead. The obvious overflow of this relationship is expressed in continuing God's ministry in the earth.
 - "Another Helper" according to the Wuest translation is, "of the same kind as I am." Jesus told us the Holy Spirit is just like himself. Jesus is just like the Father.
- Chad is one person, but with many expressions. You may only know one or two of those. We see and experience different aspects of Chad. Yet, there is only one Chad.
 - Chad is musical. He's athletic. He is a hunter. What you don't know is that Chad is a poetic soul! He's patient and kind. But, Chad can be very authoritative and direct.
 - Similar things could be said of you.

- We should never be content with a shallow or limited understanding and experience with God.

God who is, not the God of our own making!

- The contemporary church wants to paint Jesus as gentle, meek, nice and safe. While we openly ignore Jesus who is confrontational, forceful, commanding and unyielding. We must always remember that Jesus never sinned once, even when shouting and kicking tables over as he drove the moneychangers out of the temple. Jesus pronounced judgment over cities that did not repent and called religious leaders, "brood of vipers" and "whitewashed tombs, full of dead men's bones."
- Similarly, we want a Holy Spirit who comforts, but never demands anything from us or expects anything of us. We want Holy Spirit to help find lost car keys, while never accepting his rebukes. Some are not willing at all to hear and obey a call to minister outside of their comfort zone. Few are willing to deny self and FOLLOW!
- It is time for Christians to "stop it" When Lainey becomes exasperated with her aunts, uncles or Pop Pop, she says, "Top it." Today I want to shout, "Stop it!" Stop living selfish, shallow lives. We are called to live selfless, meaningful lives. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can do so.
- RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

- Some treat Holy Spirit with willful disregard. Others treat Him as a useful tool. Other, extremist, treat Holy Spirit like a circus performer, who does tricks for our personal entertainment.
- Holy Spirit is God. He should be treated with honor. He should be obeyed.
- Holy Spirit is here to help us FOLLOW Jesus.
- RECEIVE Him—welcome, accept as a guest or member
- When we properly receive the Holy Spirit in our lives, then He overflows from us to others. "The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do."
- It is time for crazy Spirit-filled Christians to stop blaming the Holy Spirit for their craziness.
- It is time for dead, dry, lifeless, powerless Christians to RECEIVE!

Acts 4:23, 24, 29-35

And being let go, they went to their own [companions] and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You [are] God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ... 29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 "by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. 32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid [them] at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

FILL US HOLY SPIRIT!