



Gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT

A Biblical Study

About This Study

We hope that you'll dive in, grow in the Lord, and share with others what beauty God reveals to you through it. If you are doing this study independently, know that we at HOM are here for you & that you also have a LARGE community of women through our website and social media that are participating too! You are truly never alone!

If you are completing this study in a group setting - we are excited that you have found a local community to grow with, on top of our online sisterhood. Please use this study journal for your reference, resource, and more during your meetings and the personal time leading up to it.

Looking for a group? Please visit www.heartofmarywf.com/groups to find a meet up near you.

Are you already in one but not listed on our website? Looking to start one? Please contact us for more information about our "HOM Ambassador" program. We have team members available specifically to help you grow a local group and lead other women through community, prayer, and devotion. Their support is available at all times. We also want to help you grow! We will advertise your group on our website & social media! And we have free resources for you as well. Please email us at heartofmarywf@aol.com

Note: All written content has been reviewed by a Catholic spiritual director to cross check that all statements are align with the teachings and tenants of the Roman Catholic Church.

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Day One: Why the Holy Spirit?



Today's Scripture

Isaiah 11:2-3, John 14-16

The Holy Spirit is one of my favorite topics. Despite his huge significance, I think the Holy Spirit is often overlooked (reminder: you can't have a "Trinity" with only two persons) or misunderstood. By default, this also makes Pentecost one of my favorite liturgical seasons. The entire Church focuses on the beautiful gift that is the Holy Spirit, and we get to celebrate the profound ways in which he impacts the body of the faithful.

I think in some ways we have done ourselves a disservice by depicting the Holy Spirit as a cartoon dove with a tiny flame. Don't get me wrong – there is much biblical significance behind all of the symbols of the Holy Spirit which I fully support (including the dove)! In fact, sections 694-701 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are dedicated to the explanation of these symbols.

However, I feel that in many people's experiences growing up, the way we learned about the Holy Spirit made him seem more like an afterthought of Jesus rather than the third person of the Holy Trinity. Yet in John chapters 14-16, Jesus begins talking to his disciples about the Counselor, the Paraclete, his Advocate, the Spirit of Truth whom he will send after him.

He must have sounded like he was speaking in riddles. "Why is Jesus talking about leaving? Where is he going? Who is this counselor he's sending to us, and how will he know everything we are supposed to say? The parables were hard enough to understand, but now this?" On top of that, when the Holy Spirit did come, Scripture tells us it was "like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the



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Day Two: Wisdom



Today's Scripture

Isaiah 11:2-3 Isaiah 61:1-2
Luke 4:18-19 Romans 5:5

The gift of wisdom is the first gift of the Holy Spirit listed in Isaiah 11. I'm sure we each have our own idea of what constitutes wisdom, but when I think of a wise person, I often picture someone who is advanced in years and experience. I remember my grandfather who grew up in Wisconsin, raised his siblings during the Great Depression, moved across the country to California to work for his father, fought in a war, took over the family business, married my grandmother (who seriously looked like a movie star), drank beers with the astronauts who first landed on the moon, raised an incredible legacy of children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, made everyone feel important wherever he went, suffered through diabetes and kidney failure and continued to live, never ceased displaying unmatched generosity, and who, finally, passed away peacefully in the grace of our Lord. His funeral drew the attendance of local deli workers, restaurant managers and servers, our dentist, an estranged neighbor who we hadn't seen in years, and countless family and friends. He exuded wisdom. He also exuded happiness and a love of life that drew people to him

naturally. I'm sure many of you relate. No doubt there is at least one person in your life who fits the definition of having wisdom: "the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight"

Naturally, the longer we are on this earth and the more that we experience, the more we grow in our knowledge of right and wrong, just judgment, and discernment – usually through trial and error

and success and failure. So is this standard definition of wisdom different than the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit?

In short, yes! While the above example and definition are true, many of us also know someone who doesn't seem to fit the mold; yet we still know they are wise. We sometimes describe an individual like this as "wise beyond her years." Well, what makes their wisdom different? What makes the gift of wisdom different?

Pope Francis recently said this:

"This is wisdom: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God...This gift comes from intimacy with God...This is, however, not in the sense that he or she has an answer for everything, or knows everything, but in the sense that he or she "knows" of God, how God acts. They know when something is of God and when it is not."

Have you ever met someone who seems to have this gift of wisdom as opposed to our regular human understanding of wisdom? Usually these people are sought after for comfort, advice, conversation, and friendship. They seem to have a greater stability and peace about them because they constantly shift perspective to see "through the eyes of God."

Now I don't know about you, but I would love to grow in this kind of wisdom. The good news is it's a gift – there is nothing we do to earn the gift of wisdom. However, Pope Francis encourages us to ask the Lord to give us His Holy Spirit and the gift of wisdom! He says:

"It is a gift that God gives to those who are docile to His Holy Spirit. If we listen to him he teaches us this path of wisdom, he gifts us wisdom which is seeing with God's eyes, listening with God's ears, loving with God's heart, judging things with God's judgment. These are the things that Holy Spirit gifts us, and we can all have this. We just have to ask the Holy Spirit. And with this wisdom we can move forward, build the family, the Church and we can all be sanctified."

So let us ask God for this gift today. Let us invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts and ask for the grace to be open. And lastly, let us ask our most Blessed Mother, the Seat of Wisdom, to grant us this petition and intercede for us.

Come Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart, that I may see the things that are of God.

Come Holy Spirit, into my mind that I may know the things that are of God.

Come Holy Spirit, into my soul, that I may belong only to God.

Sanctify all that I think, say, and do, that all may be for the glory of God.

Pope Francis' teaching:

<http://www.catholic.org/news/international/europe/story.php?id=54889>

- Emma



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Day Three: Understanding



Today's Scripture

Isaiah 11:2-3 Isaiah 61:1-2
Luke 4:18-19 Romans 5:5

Do you want to know one of the things that I find most frustrating in life? Not understanding why. (I'm sure you can probably relate.) As humans we have an insatiable desire to know the reason behind everything, and this frustration has probably caused more people to leave the Church than anything else.

Why does suffering exist? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why did God choose Mary? Why can't I break my habitual sins? Why are women and children trafficked? Why do 1/3 of women experience from some kind of abuse at least once? Why is that statistic probably higher in real life? Why was I born during this time to this family?

In 1 Corinthians 2, St. Paul says, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him...For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." He goes on to say that the spirit of the world – or the world's way of understanding and interpreting things – is not what we have been given. Rather, the gift we have received is "the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God."

Just as with wisdom, we see a distinction between our human idea of understanding and God's. It is not just a possession of intelligence and facts but instead understanding the teachings of Jesus and His Word. In Luke 24:13-27, Jesus appears to his disciples and walks with them to Emmaus. He has

already died and risen, but they do not understand what happened. They are sad and confused, not even realizing they are speaking with him. Eventually he opens their eyes, and their minds and hearts are rekindled with hope.

I could try to come up with eloquent words to inspire you, but I think Pope Francis sums it up best:

"And this is what the Holy Spirit does for us: opens our minds, opens us to better understand, to better understand the things of God, human things, situations, all things. It is an important gift for our Christian life. Let's ask the Lord to give us, to give all of us, this gift to understand as he understands the things that happen, and, most importantly, to understand the Word of God in the Gospel. This is precisely how the Holy Spirit acts within a Christian with the gift of understanding. We, too, oppressed by the weight of life and of our limitations, are unable to recognize the Lord beside us by ourselves. When, however, we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts, everything acquires a new light and tells us about God and His love."

Come Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart, that I may see the things that are of God.

Come Holy Spirit, into my mind that I may know the things that are of God.

Come Holy Spirit, into my soul, that I may belong only to God.

Sanctify all that I think, say, and do, that all may be for the glory of God.

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