



Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Acts 2

After Jesus was raised to life, He spent time with His precious disciples. He taught them, and enjoyed time with them. When it was time for Jesus to return to His Father's side in heaven, He promised to send His disciples an incredible gift. Jesus was going to send His Spirit to live inside of each of them. For the first time, the disciples would experience the fullness of Jesus' Holy Spirit, empowering them to do great and miraculous things.



Day #1: Living Water

Turn on the faucet in your bathtub. Put your hand under it. Other than, "wet," how would you describe how it feels? (Fresh, clean, powerful.)

While Jesus walked among His people, He made this amazing promise:

✝ *Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When He said "living water," He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into His glory.) - John 7:38-39 NLT*

Everyone was invited to come to Jesus to see, hear, and feel what the Spirit of God is like. It is pure, powerful, and life giving. Just to be near Jesus, who was full of God's Spirit, would have been life-changing. But Jesus promised more! He promised that everyone who believed in Him would be filled with His Holy Spirit. The amazing Spirit of God would then flow out from the hearts of all believers, so that more and more people would experience the new life that God offers.

✱ If your trust is in Jesus, YOU are filled with His Holy Spirit. Fill a glass with water and drink it. Let it remind you that you are already filled with God's "Living Water" - His Spirit. Trust His Spirit and be sure to "splash out" on those around you by showing love, kindness, peace, and patience to them (Galatians 5:22-23).

Day #2: In the Beginning

Grab your Bible and open to the first page of the first book - Genesis 1. Read the first two verses.

God's Holy Spirit has always existed! In the Old Testament, God's Spirit helped and guided His people (Nehemiah 9:20, 30). It was God's Spirit that told God's message to the prophets (Zechariah 7:12). And at specific times, God sent His Spirit to fill certain people for certain tasks (Genesis 41:38, Exodus 31:3).

God gave His Spirit to Moses so he could lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. God gave His Spirit to Joshua when it was Joshua's time to lead the Israelites (Deuteronomy 34:9). God gave His Spirit to David when David was appointed King (1 Samuel 16:13). God filled Elijah with His Spirit so he could speak God's message to His people (2 Kings 2:15). God gave His Spirit to John the Baptizer so that he could announce that the long-awaited Messiah was finally here! (Luke 1:15)

God gave His Spirit to His leaders, workmen, judges, and prophets. It's clear that no one can do the work of God without the power of God's Spirit.

✱ When Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of **everyone** who believes in Him. If you trust in Jesus, you are filled with the Holy Spirit! The Bible says it is foolish to try to do God's work by your own strength (Galatians 3:3). Rely on God's Spirit inside of you to do His work.

✝ *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. - Philippians 1:6*

Day #3: WWJD

Several years ago, people began wearing bracelets with the letters WWJD. The letters stood for "What Would Jesus Do"? It's fine to imagine what Jesus would do in the situations you face, but doing what Jesus did is actually **impossible** unless you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you. Who could possibly do the things that Jesus did on their own? Who could heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, or teach truth with God's authority? Without His Spirit living in you, that bracelet is just some string tied on your wrist.

But, if you have put your trust in Jesus, you CAN do

Day #3 continued:

what He did because the same Spirit that filled Him fills you! (Acts 10:38)

 In fact, Jesus promised: *What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. In fact, he will do **even greater things**. That is because I am going to the Father.*
- John 14:12

When Jesus returned to the Father, He sent His Spirit to fill everyone who believes in Him. It is only by God's Spirit that the disciples could preach with authority and perform miracles. It is only by God's Holy Spirit that you can do the things that Jesus did - and greater things. Through His Spirit, you can know truth, and speak truth to others (John 16:13, Acts 1:8). Through His Spirit, you can live an amazing, fruit-filled kingdom life (Galatians 5:22-23).

 With your parents, look at a lamp that is plugged into the wall. Turn on the lamp. What happens if the lamp is unplugged from the power source? Can the lamp shine on its own? Discuss how you are like the lamp, and the electricity is like the Holy Spirit. Remember that with God, there are NO power shortages! The gift of His Spirit in you is a forever-gift!

God gives the Holy Spirit without limit. - John 3:34b

Day #4: Deposit

Imagine you and your dad are out driving one Saturday morning. There is a sign that says "Yard Sale." Your dad decides to stop and look around. At the sale, he finds a big table saw for sale for \$100. He wants to buy it, but cannot fit the large saw in his car. So, he tells the owner that he will have to go and borrow a friend's truck and come back to pick up the saw. Then your dad gives the owner \$20. This \$20 is called a **deposit**. It is your dad's promise that he will return to get the saw and pay the full amount for it.

Did you know that God has given you a deposit? It's not a deposit of money; it is FAR better!

 *Now it is God who... has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.* - 2 Corinthians 5:5 NIV

Everyone who believes in Jesus has a promise from God. He promises that one day, we will leave our earthly bodies and live forever in heaven.

Our life on earth has many trials and troubles. We face sickness. We struggle against sin. We suffer from the sins of others and our own. But heaven won't be like that at all. It will be perfect! There will be no sin, no sickness, no sadness, no lies, no separation, no pain, and no death.

Day #4 continued:

God gives us His Spirit as a deposit! It is a portion of what is to come. This deposit is a promise. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! The Maker of the universe guarantees you perfect life in heaven!

And the deposit of God's Spirit is unlike any other deposit! This deposit is living, and powerful. This deposit allows those who hold it to live out the kingdom life right now.

 The more you depend on the Spirit of God, who lives within you, the more your life will look like heaven: peaceful, good, joyful, loving, truthful, sinless.

Day #5: Listening to the Spirit

With your mom or dad, go to the largest room in your house. (This could also be done outside.) Mom or Dad, blindfold your child and turn him or her around a few times. Next, the parent should go to the other side of the room, and lead your child to walk to you, using only your voice as a guide. When he or she makes it to you, reward him or her with a big hug!

How did it feel to depend on your parent's voice to guide you? Did you ever doubt that they would lead you in the right direction? God wants us to depend on His voice - the voice of His Spirit - to guide us everyday.

Back in Jesus' day, there were many sheep, and shepherds who took care of them. The sheep could not take care of themselves. They depended on the shepherd to protect them, feed them, and help them in every way. Jesus said that we are like those sheep, and He is like our loving shepherd.

 *"His sheep follow him because they know his voice."*
- John 10:4b

Jesus said that the sheep recognized their shepherd's voice. They would never follow a stranger.

If you are a believer, God's Spirit speaks to you. He will let you know in your heart that Scripture is true. He will remind you of the truth that you already know. He will speak by giving you thoughts that are not your own. The more you listen to the Holy Spirit, and obey what you hear, the easier it will be to recognize His voice.

 The next time you are sad, confused, or frightened, ask the Lord what He wants to tell you about your situation. Be quiet and still, and listen for the Holy Spirit. Listen for the first thoughts that come to your heart and mind. He will remind you of truth and speak what He wants you to know. The Holy Spirit's voice always agrees with God's written word, the Bible.