



*"The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power" -- 1 Cor 4:20*



# The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jesus promises that he will never leave us orphaned, cast out, isolated, or alone. Those who love Jesus will receive his Spirit—the Spirit of God—who will not just stand beside them but will dwell *within* them. The divine life, which Adam and Eve received from God and lost through their disobedience, is restored in Jesus Christ through the coming of his Spirit.

Even before his death, Jesus reveals the truth of his coming resurrection and the resurrected life that his disciples will receive: “In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live” (John 14:19). Recognizing the grief in his disciples, Jesus reassures them further, saying, “But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7).

The One who rules the kingdom in love must return to his throne so that his Spirit can establish kingdom life in all of creation and fill the disciples with that very same life. The Holy Spirit, then, is the promise and reality of the eternal life of the kingdom made manifest in all of creation, particularly in those men and women who receive that Spirit in Jesus Christ. What we experience in the Spirit—right relationship with God, peace, and joy—are all characteristics of kingdom life, a life that brings healing and restoration to our souls.

Take some time to reflect on your own life and experience with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Who is this Holy Spirit for you?

- What has your relationship with the Holy Spirit consisted of up until this point? How do you hope to see that changed now?
- Have you ever prayed to the Holy Spirit? If so, what was the situation and what happened? If not, why not?
- What difference have you seen in your life, or the life of another person, that you believe is the result of the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- What are some fears or reservations that people may have at the idea of experiencing a release of the Spirit in their lives?
- When you think of the power that comes with God’s Kingdom life, what comes to your mind? Do you want this power to be unleashed in and through your own life? If yes, why? If not, why?
- Do you think it is really possible to become like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit? What do you think keeps people (you) from experiencing that transformation?
- What are some concrete ways you can invite the Holy Spirit to take a more active part in your daily life? Where do you think he is asking you to let him in?