

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Key Idea

The Holy Spirit is God's promised presence and power in every believer—inviting us to move from passive faith to transformed living.

Key Scriptures

John 14:15–18

Acts 1:8

Ezekiel 36:26–27

Joel 2:28–29

2 Timothy 3:16

Introduction: Something Is Missing

- Many believers experience faith as routine rather than transformation
- Early Church: power, boldness, miracles, movement
- Modern Church: often structured but lacking spiritual vitality
- A. W. Tozer insight on dependence on the Holy Spirit

Tension:

We understand God the Father [Parent] and Jesus as Son, but the Spirit feels distant or misunderstood.

Key Question:

Are we living with the reality of the Spirit—or just the idea of Them?

Part 1: The Promise — What Jesus Said

John 14:15–18 (NLT)

“15 “If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you”.

- Jesus promises “another Advocate”
- The Spirit will never leave
- The Spirit will live IN believers

Old Testament foundation

- Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT) - New heart + Spirit within

26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

- Joel 2:28-29 (NLT) - Spirit poured out on all people

28 "Then, after doing all those things, (returning them to their land redeeming them) I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. 29 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.

Part 2: Who the Promise Is About — Holy Spirit

The Spirit is Powerful

- Present at creation (Genesis 1:2)
- Ruach = breath, wind, powerful
- We are called to live empowered lives

The Spirit is Divine

- Fully God Trinity (Genesis 1:26)
- Holy Spirit is equal in power and glory with God and Christ
- God dwelling in us

The Spirit is Personal

- Has will and emotions (gives gifts)
- Can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- Someone to know, not something to use- speaks and leads

Part 3: What the Promise Gives — Presence & Power

Promise of Presence

- Parakletos = one who comes alongside
- We are never alone - equivalent to Jesus with us
- Goal: awareness of Holy Spirit presence

Promise of Power

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Power, courage, love, endurance, and faithfulness to share
- Not control, but courage
- Where do you need power?

Part 4: Taking the Promise Seriously — How to Live It

Start with Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

- God-breathed
- Spirit and Word work together

Practice:

Daily, consistent Bible reading

Create Space

- Silence is essential
- Practice Lectio Divina

Practice:

Pause, reflect, listen

Learn to Listen

- Through impressions and Scripture
- Tune into God's voice -test everything against Scripture

Conclusion: Will You Take the Promise Seriously?

- Holy Spirit is already given
- Will we make room for Holy Spirit
- The same Spirit is available today

Call to Action

- Stop keeping distance
- Open Scripture daily
- Create space for silence
- Listen with expectation
- Invite the Spirit into every area of life

Reflection Questions

1. Where has your faith felt routine?
2. What challenges you about Holy Spirit?
3. Where do you need Holy Spirit power?
4. How can you create space this week?