

*Come
Holy
Spirit*

**LIFE
GROUP
BOOK**

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COME HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit is one of the ancient prayers of the Church. It is a short and simple, yet profoundly powerful prayer. It has been prayed in catacombs, cathedrals and chapels throughout the centuries and it is our prayer for Gateway in 2023.

Come Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see Jesus and fall in love with Him afresh. **Come Holy Spirit**, nourish our soul and release your power in our lives. **Come Holy Spirit**, help us to hear the Father's voice and fill us with hope for the future. **Come Holy Spirit**, stir our hearts for the lost and give us faith for revival in our nation.

Key Scripture – Acts 16:6-15

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Connect

Meet: Host a life group start of year event. Have everyone bring a plate to share and enjoy catching up after the Christmas break.

Ask: What was a highlight of 2022 and what are you looking forward to most in 2023?

Read Acts 16:6-15

Ask: When reading this Scripture, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

Ask: What do these verses tell us about the nature of the Holy Spirit?

Discuss together

Ask: What did you learn about God and yourself in 2022 and how will you apply that lesson in 2023?

Ask: What excites you most about the Gateway vision for 2023? How are you looking forward to being involved?

Ask: What are you looking forward to most about this series, Come Holy Spirit? What are you hoping to learn/experience?

Pray

Pray: Share your big prayer for this year and pray for each other.

This week

Action: Spend time in prayer asking God what His vision is for you and your family in 2023. Ask God to give you a key verse for the year.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The first thing Jesus told his disciples to do as He ascended to heaven was to WAIT. To wait for a gift from heaven – the Holy Spirit. There must have been so much they desired to do, or imagined doing, but Jesus knew that the only thing that would make their witness powerful and pervading was the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in them.

As we follow Jesus, we are still called to walk in step with the Spirit – to listen to his guidance, wisdom and counsel, and to operate out of his power.

Key Scripture – Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Connect

Share: What is your vision and key verse for 2023?

Ask: Have you ever been forced to wait an extended period for something important? Share your experience with the group.

Read Acts 1:1-11

Ask: Put yourselves in the shoes of the disciples. Summarise what they have been through in the 2 months prior to Jesus' ascension (from Palm Sunday till now).

Ask: How do you think they may have felt as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds after hearing these words?

Ask: What does this passage tell us the disciples would do after they received the Holy Spirit? Where do you see this come true?

Read Ephesians 5:15-20

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit help us live wisely?

Ask: What does this passage say about the role of music and thanksgiving in a Spirit led life? How can you apply this?

Pray

Pray: Spend time as a group in singing and prayer. Sing along to the song *Fresh Wind*, and then spend time in a prayer of thanksgiving.

This week

Action: Spend time this week in personal singing and thanksgiving each day this week.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Everyone has a part to play in the work of the kingdom. Every believer has been equipped by the Spirit with unique gifts that build and sustain the body of Christ and see the kingdom of heaven come on earth as it is in heaven. When we all discover our unique God given gifts, and cheer on others as they use theirs, the church grows and is strengthened, and the kingdom expands.

This week, as a Church family we invite everyone to find the spiritual gifts the Spirit has given you. Go to giftstest.com to discover your gifts. It should only take you a few minutes to complete.

Key Scripture – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Connect

Ask: Did you spend time singing and thanksgiving this week? How did it impact your week?

Ask: Do you know what your spiritual gift is? How did you find out? Take some time doing the spiritual gift test at giftstest.com

Ask: Does the outcome of the test resonate with you? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-14

Ask: What does this passage teach us about the distribution and purpose of spiritual gifts?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

Ask: What does this passage teach us about the purpose of spiritual gifts?

Ask: How have you seen different people with different gifts working well together? What was the outcome?

Ask: How are you using your spiritual gift? How can the truth of these passages help you to use your gifts more in future?

Pray

Pray: Share a way that you can practise using your spiritual gift this week. Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to accomplish His Kingdom work.

This week

Action: Make a plan about how you will use your spiritual gift this week.

Commit: To attending your Campus prayer night next week.

FILLED BY THE SPIRIT

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon people like tongues of fire and they began to speak and pray in other languages. These early disciples were filled with the Spirit for the work of the Spirit.

For centuries when people have hungered for the presence of God to bring breakthrough, they have fasted and prayed. When we fast we come before God in weakness and humility and declare our hunger for His presence and our deep desire for Him to bring revival.

This week we begin our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit to see revival in our lives, our local community, our nation and right across the globe.

Key Scripture - Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Connect

Ask: Did you have an opportunity to use your spiritual gift? Share your experience with the group.

Share: How will you be engaging in the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting? What is your prayer for revival and breakthrough?

Read Acts 2:1-13

Ask: Have you had a supernatural experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit? Share your experience with the group.

Ask: Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. What must they have been thinking and feeling seeing the tongues of fire and people speaking in strange languages?

Read Acts 2:36-47

Ask: What is the significance of God's promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit being for you, your children and even all who are far off?

Ask: What would the disciples have been thinking as three thousand people were baptised that day? Have you experienced sheer wonder when God has done something incredible or miraculous? Share with the group.

Pray

Pray: Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and empower each one of you for the 21 days ahead. Lay hands on one another and ask that you all may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This week

Action: Journal your prayers each day through the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. Keep them somewhere so that you can look back and see how the Spirit has been working in you.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit of God at work in our life continues to shape us and transform us. As we allow the Spirit to work in us, fruit becomes evident in our lives. As we bear the fruit of the Spirit we become more like Jesus and more people, in more places will know the love of God through Christ in us.

Key Scripture - Galatians 5:13-26

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Connect

Ask: What did you get out of the campus prayer night last week? Was there a particular theme that came through the prayer night? Share your experience with the group.

Read Galatians 5:13-18

Ask: What does this passage teach us about freedom?

Ask: What does this passage teach us about the role of the Spirit in community life?

Ask: How is the conflict between the Spirit and flesh apparent in your life? How do you ensure you are led by the Spirit?

Read Galatians 5:19-26

Ask: How are the acts of the flesh mentioned in verses 20-21 evident in modern life? Is there anything unique to the Australian context/the context of your country of origin?

Ask: What are practical ways we can be more fruitful, demonstrating more of the fruit of the Spirit?

Ask: How can you apply verse 25 to your life?

Pray

Ask: Are there some of the fruit of the Spirit you struggle with?

Pray: All together, ask God to help each of you develop that fruit of the Spirit.

This week

Action: Each morning, begin by praying that God would help you practise a particular fruit of the Spirit throughout the day.

SENT BY THE SPIRIT

As the believers gathered together, and the Spirit of God moved powerfully in their midst, one of the implications was they “spoke the word of the Lord boldly”. We are in a time where people desperately need to hear the good news of Jesus. As we are filled by the Spirit, we boldly witness to a broken world.

Key Scripture - Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Connect

Ask: How did the Fruit of the Spirit grow in your life this week?

Read Acts 8:26–40

Ask: Put yourself in Philip's shoes. What surprises you? What challenges you? What encourages you?

Ask: How do you discern the voice of the Spirit leading you?

Ask: Do you have time and space in your life to hear and obey the Spirit's voice?

Ask: Now, put yourself in the shoes of the Ethiopian. What surprises you? What challenges you? What encourages you?

Read Acts 4:31

Ask: Who do you know who does not yet know Jesus?

Ask: What is your witness to them like? Would they see Christ in you as you do life with them?

Ask: What is stopping you from boldly sharing your faith with them? How will you overcome this so that they might know Jesus too?

Pray

Pray: Pray the bold prayer of Acts 4:31, that you would be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak the word of God boldly.

This week

Action: Pray for the person you identified every day this week. Follow the guidance of the Spirit as you make contact and initiate a faith conversation with them.

Commit: As a life group, attend the Unified Prayer night together in your Campus next week.

UNITY IN THE SPIRIT

We are in different locations but are ONE church. We have different functions but are ONE body. We are different but we serve ONE God.

This Sunday will be the end of our season of prayer and fasting. Everyone is invited to our “Unified Prayer” night as across every campus as we join together in a chorus of prayer for God to breakthrough in our church and community.

Key Scripture - Ephesians 4:1-13

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Connect

Ask: How did God lead you to boldly share His word last week? Share your experience.

Ask: How was your experience in the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting? What did you see God do and what did you learn about yourself?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

Ask: What does this passage teach us about unity in the church?

Ask: What do you find challenging about the unity described in these verses? How can you overcome these attitudes?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

Ask: How does this passage describe the responsibilities of church leaders?

Ask: What is your role in building “unity in the faith” in our church community?

Ask: What does this passage teach about spiritual maturity?

Ask: What do you find challenging and inspiring about the church body described in these verses?

Pray

Pray: There’s an old hymn called Bind us Together Lord. Pray that the Holy Spirit would bind us together in unity, so that more people, in more places will hear the Good News of Jesus.

This week

Action: Strengthen the bonds of peace by finding someone from church to encourage this week. Why not write them a note, give them a call, or anonymously bless them?