

What is the “gift of the Holy Spirit?”

How can I get the Holy Spirit?

1. When the first 3,000 people asked this question, Peter replied in *Acts 2:38*: *Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”

2. The Holy Spirit is the “*gift*” (singular) that a Christian receives at his baptism. There are different gifts (plural) that the Holy Spirit gives to Christians (*Read I Corinthians 12:4-11*).

3. *Acts 2:38* promises us only the Holy Spirit as a gift (can’t earn it). The gifts that the Holy Spirit gives Christians is totally up to the Holy Spirit; and, according to *Acts 8:12-24*, the Holy Spirit only granted special powers (tongue-speaking, healing, prophesying, etc.) through the laying on of hands by an Apostle.

4. According to *Acts 19:1-5*, when Paul met disciples who knew nothing of the Holy Spirit, the first question he asked them was: “*Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?*” When they told Paul “*no*,” he asked: “*Then what baptism did you receive?*” When they answered, “*John’s baptism*,” Paul immediately baptized them into the name of the Lord Jesus, so that they would receive Holy Spirit (as a *gift*), so he could then lay hands on them (as an Apostle), which would enable the Holy Spirit to give them special powers (*Acts 8:12-24*)

There are 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit given to every Christians listed in *Galatians 5:22-26*.

1. “Love”

A. There are 3 great commands concerning love that only can be accomplished only with the help of the Holy Spirit:

(1) *Matthew 22:36-40*: “*Love your neighbor as yourself*”

(2) *Luke 6:27-36*: “*Love your enemies*”

(3) *I John 4:19-21*: “*Love your brother (or fellow Christian)*”

2. “Joy”

A. *James 1:2-4* says “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*”

B. Why would facing trials give me joy? Because *verse 12* goes on to say: “*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood his test, he will receive the victor’s crown, the life God has promised to those who love Him.*”

3. “Peace”

A. According to *Philippians 4:7* this kind of joy brings us “*the peace of God (that) surpasses all understanding.*” Christians know that the *trials* are only a *testing of our faith*, and after we have passed the test, we will go to Heaven! This kind of *understanding* gives us *peace* as we *trust* God to keep His promise.

B. *Romans 15:13* says: “*May the God of hope fill you with great joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*”

C. And, if you think you can pass your test, and remain at *peace* without the help of the Holy Spirit, you need to read *Romans 12:17-21*: “*...if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone...*” Even those who are your enemies and do great harm to you. We are never to seek revenge, and even required to do good to those who do harm to us? Remember, *Colossians 3:15* says we were *called to peace*.

4. “Patience”

A. According to Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words: “Patience, which grows only in trial, *James 1:3*...perfects Christian character, *James 1:4*, and fellowship in the patience of Christ is therefore the condition upon which believers are to be admitted to reign with Him, *2 Timothy 2:12*; *Revelation 1:9*.”

B. *1 Thessalonians 5:13,14* says: “*Live in peace with each other and be patient with everyone.*” Try this without the power of the Holy Spirit!

5. “Kindness”

A. The word in the Greek is translated: “serviceable, good, pleasant (of things), gracious, kind (of persons).”

B. According to *2 Corinthians 6:6* it is part of what defines a *Servant of Christ*.

C. *Ephesians 2:7* says God’s grace is “*expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*”

D. *Colossians 3:12* says that kindness is one of the keys to forgiving people.

6. “Goodness”

A. The word “goodness” is the Greek word “*agathosune*.” It is very close in meaning to the word “*kindness (chrestotes)*.” According to Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words: “*Kindness (chrestotes)*” is a kindly disposition towards others; and “*goodness (agathosune)*” is a kindly activity on their behalf.

B. As ***Galatians 6:9,10*** encourages: “*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*”

7. “Faithfulness”

A. The word in the Greek means to be “faithful, trusted, and reliable.”

B. ***I Corinthians 4:1,2*** says: “*So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*”

C. And then after we have proven ourselves faithful with the Word of God, ***II Timothy 2:2*** reminds us: “*And the things you have heard me (Paul) say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will also be qualified to teach others.*”

8. “Meekness”

A. This is not the Greek word for “gentleness.” It is the word “*prautes*” or “*meekness*.” “*Meekness*” in the Greek denotes “gentle, mild, of a soothing disposition.”

B. It is the same word Jesus used in His third Beatitude in ***Matthew 5:5***: “*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*”

C. For most, the word “*meek*” denotes a kind of weakness; instead, it denotes an extra strength to overcome self and desires. It is the reception of injuries with the belief that God will vindicate us. Perfect meekness would be to put ***Romans 12:14-21*** in practice.

9. “Self Control”

A. This is the Greek word “*enkrateia*” from the word “*kratos*” or “*strength*.” It is the power a man exercises over his own will and desires. For instance, ***I Corinthians 6:12*** says: “*Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.*”

B. *I Thessalonians 5:19* says: “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.” We are not to be like the Christians in Corinth (*I Corinthians 3:3*). They too had the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:38*), but there were times they wouldn’t exercise self-control and yield to the Holy Spirit’s direction (*I Corinthians 6:9-12*).

Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

1. To make us God’s child.

A. *Romans 8:9* says: “...And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

C. *I Corinthians 3:16* tells us that “we are God’s Temple and that God’s Spirit lives in us.” ***I John 3:24*** reminds us: “...And this is how we know that He lives in us; We know it by the Spirit He gave us.”

D. *Romans 8:14-17* tells us we “received a Spirit who make us sons...the Spirit Himself testifies...we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs...”

2. To guide us into all Truth and help us understand the Bible.

A. *John 16:13-16*: “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth...the Spirit will take from what is Mine (Christ) and make it known to you.”

B. *I John 5:6* reminds us: “...And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the Truth.”

C. Read *I Corinthians 2:13-16*. The Apostles who wrote our Bible wrote “...words taught by the Spirit...The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

3. The Spirit will speak through us.

A. *Luke 12:12*: “The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

B. In *John 14:26* Jesus said: “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

4. Intercedes for us in our prayers.

A. I John 5:14 says: “We have this assurance in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

B. But, how do we know what God’s will is? **Read Romans 8:26,27:** “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”

C. For, according to **I Corinthians 2:11**, “...who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

D. So, “Pray in the Spirit” (**Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18**)

5. Guarantees us a place in Heaven.

A. II Corinthians 5:4,5: “For while we are in this tent (body), we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by eternal life. **Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**”