

# The Holy Spirit

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**PASTOR FRED GRECO**

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# **Holy Spirit & Prayer**

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**WEEK 12**



And it shall come to pass afterward, that

**I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH;**

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men  
shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

JOEL 2:28

# Review: Central to the Gospel

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- Without Him the work of the Gospel would be powerless and in vain
- It is the Holy Spirit's ministry

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?  
(2 Corinthians 3:7-8)

# Spirit is Given to ALL Believers

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- Being a disciple of Christ and having the Spirit are *inseparably* linked
- To put a wedge between is to deny the power of the gospel



# Review: in Regeneration

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## The Spirit

- Enlightens our minds
- Renews our wills
- Sets right our affections

# Review: Sanctification

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- **God is the Author of sanctification**
- **Sanctification brings peace with God**
- **It is thorough/whole (all parts)**
- **It is complete (God will perform)**

# Review: What illumination does

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## The Spirit:

- Communicates spiritual light
- Frees our minds from corrupt influences
- Implants spiritual habits and principles



# **Promise of the Spirit's work in Prayer**

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# Prayer is critically important

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- It is a means of grace (like Word & Sacraments)
- It is vital to our growth as believers
- It is vital to our relationship with God

# We have the promise

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And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy**, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.  
**(Zechariah 12:10)**



# Promise of the Spirit

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**“Poured out”** = plentiful dispensation of the Spirit for the promised end

On whom? “The house of David” and “inhabitants of Jerusalem” = **ALL God’s people**

Promise is to produce notable effects

(See also Titus 3:5-7)

- Knowledge
- Justification
- Heirs

# “Spirit of Grace”

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- Sovereign grace of God in dispensation
- Author of all grace (1 Peter 5:10)
- Those on whom He is poured out have grace and favor with God (Ephesians 1:6)

# “Spirit of supplications”

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Prayers for grace and mercy

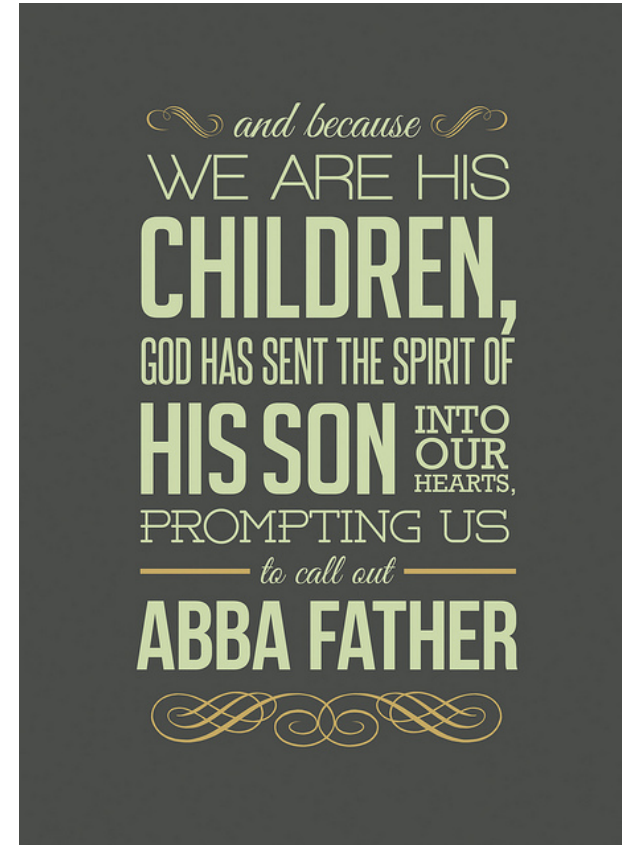
- Working *gracious inclinations* and dispositions in us to the duty of prayer
- Preparing hearts to exercise prayer with *delight*
- Giving an *ability* for prayer

# Accomplishment of promise

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Subjects on whom He is bestowed – those who by adoption are the children of God (John 1:12)

He enables them to behave suitably as children (Romans 8:15-17)



# Accomplishment of promise

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## NOTE: “Spirit of Son”

- Spiritual power, love, and sobriety of mind
- Holy boldness and confidence
- Prayer is working of these things
- “Abba” means “My Father” (e.g. Gen 19:34)



# **Nature of Spirit's work**

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# Why do we need the Spirit?

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Prayer is a gift, ability or spiritual faculty of exercising faith, love, reverence, fear, delight and other graces in a way of vocal requests, supplications, and praises to God.

**(Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18)**

# Why do we need the Spirit?

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1. We do not know our own wants
2. We do not rightly know the promises
3. We do not know the end for which we pray

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our  
weakness. For we do not know  
what to pray for as we ought,

**but the Spirit himself  
intercedes for us**

with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

# Our Wants

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Outward pressures and difficulties

Internal wants, such as guilt of sin

Inward frames and dispositions of our souls

# The Promises – 1 Cor. 2:11-12

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- Only pray for what God has promised
- Pray in faith (Rom 10:14), and faith respects God's promises (Hebrews 4:1; Romans 4)

**Condition → Provision → Suitableness**

# The End of Prayer

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- When we pray in ourselves, we are at a loss
- To pray for anything and not expressly for the end to which God has designed, is to ask amiss

**You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.  
(James 4:3)**

# **The Matter of Prayer**

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# Faith and Unbelief

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Luke 17:5; Mark 9:24

John 16:8-9

1 Corinthians 2:14

“I cannot think that they ever pray aright who never pray for the pardon of unbelief, for the removal of it and for the increase of faith.”  
(Owen IV. 277)

# Acquaints us with provision

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Grace and mercy prepared in the promises of God for our relief

- We must pray with understanding
- The promises teach us what to pray for
- The Spirit enlightens the mind to perceive the things God has prepared

# Stirring Our Affections

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- ❑ **Excites** and stirs us up to seek after the enjoyment of these things with ardent affects and endeavors
- ❑ Gives to believers such a **comprehension** of promised grace and mercy that they may constantly apply their minds to those things in a special manner which are daily suited to their present daily wants and occasions

# Stirring Our Affections

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- ❑ Gives delight in God as the object of prayer
- ❑ Freedom of speech
- ❑ Confidence of acceptance
- ❑ Focus on Christ as the only way of acceptance (John 16:14; Ephesians 2:18; Romans 5:2)

# Guides Us to the Design

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- That the success of our petitions tend to the glory of God
- That we are lead to holiness – conformity to God and nearer access
- Not just a form, but implanting love



And I will ask the Father, and he will give  
you another Helper, to be with you forever

**JOHN 14:16**

**NEXT WEEK: The Holy Spirit as Comforter**