

If we read and believe these accounts [in the Book of Acts], we would expect a great deal of the Holy Spirit. He would not be a mostly forgotten member of the Godhead whom we occasionally give a nod of recognition to, which is what He has become in most American churches. We would expect our new life with the Holy Spirit to look radically different from our old life without Him.

Francis Chan in *Forgotten God*

Prayer Study #276

Why Study the Holy Spirit?

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

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 will dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:28-29

(The following material was taken from Holy Spirit Studies at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia.)

“Because from the first to the last this is the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit.”

1. This is the age of the “poured out” Spirit. Peter stood (on the Day of Pentecost) and said, *“But this is that which was spoken through the prophet Joel, ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit...’”* (Acts 2:16-17a).
2. All Jesus did as a Man, He did by the Holy Spirit, not entering into His ministry until the Spirit of God came upon Him at His baptism. (Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 4:1, Matthew 12:28)
3. The latter part of this age will be marked by spiritual warfare against unseen forces of evil, never seen before. It has already begun, but this will increase greatly until He shakes everything that can be shaken (Heb. 12:27). We can be

effective *only* by the power and wisdom of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:13).

4. We live in an emotionally and spiritually shallow day, with little depth perception of spiritual truth. There is an abysmal ignorance among believers of the deep things of God and of their birthright privileges, and the Holy Spirit is given "*That we might know the things freely given to us by God* (1st Corinthians 2:10-14). He is the Revealer and Teacher of truth.
5. Every Christian grace of character (the fruit of the Spirit-Galatians 5:22-23), every supernatural enablement for life and ministry (the gifts of the Spirit-Acts 1:8 & 1st Corinthians 12:1-11), and even the quickening of our mortal bodies is mediated to us through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).
6. Jesus promised that the Spirit of truth would guide us into and teach us all truth, and that He would not speak of Himself, but that He would glorify the Son (John 16:13, John 14:26).
7. Jesus called Him "another (of the same kind) Comforter." He takes the place of Christ making Him always present with all of His own in every place (John 14:16, John 16:14-15).
8. Jesus said, "It is better for you (to your advantage) that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come" (John 16:7). Does that not say that the presence of the Holy Spirit will take the place of Jesus? The Greek word for *Comforter* is *parakleetos*. *Parakleetos*, or as we would say in English, *parakleet*, is called to one's side, especially to one's aid. The Parakleet is one who pleads another's case before a judge or a defense lawyer or advocate; an intercessor; a helper or assistant.
9. We cannot pray as we ought except by the Spirit (Romans 8:26-27; Zechariah 12:10).

10. God is a Spirit, the author of our human spirits; our spirits are eternal, and the only way we can know God is through the Spiritual birth, made possible only through the Holy Spirit.
11. We need to know Him personally, keeping daily communication with Him who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts (Romans 5:5).
12. The Holy Spirit is the One Who changes us into the image of Christ. We must cooperate with Him and soak in His Presence to become more Christ-like (2nd Corinthians 3:18).
13. He is a Person and the One, in and by Whom, the Father-God is presently manifesting Himself and His Son to us, His children. All true worship is "in the Spirit" and in worship we can know Him experientially (John 4:23-24).
14. Jesus is the Pattern Son, and He was filled with the Spirit without measure. If the presence of the Holy Spirit was so important in His life, we too should know about and be led by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 10:25 says, "*It is enough for the disciple that he be as his Master.*"
15. In this wicked age, we will not be able to stand under the pressures of the age and the acceleration of the activities of the Kingdom of Darkness without the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit living in us.