The Comforter

*John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*John 16:7 ¶ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

Setting the scene:

Jesus had been trying to personally teach his disciples of how to walk in boldness and power; however, they seemed to think that the Lord was going to be with them forever or to set up His earthly kingdom, really not listening to what He had tried to prepare them for. They heard but they did not stow it away in the heart and mind.

After the crucifixion, the disciples, no doubt were scattered, afraid, disillusioned, hurt, and probably torn with mixed emotions. Right before and after the Last Supper, Jesus stated that He was going to send a comforter, the Holy Spirit to lead and basically fulfill their callings. They still had no idea what type of future lied before them but Jesus knew and He knew exactly what they needed even before they asked. Just like us today.

After the resurrection, Christ appeared to certain individuals, the 11 apostles, and 500 brethren. Pentecost can also refer to the whole fifty days between [Easter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter) and Pentecost. It originally was a feasts of weeks, a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the [Law on Sinai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_given_to_Moses_at_Sinai). Later it became a feast commemorating the descent of the [Holy Spirit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit) upon the [Apostles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostle_%28Christian%29) and other followers of [Jesus Christ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Christ) (120 in all), as described in the Acts. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described by some Christians today as the "Birthday of the Church".

Let’s look at the Day of Pentecost.

Luke 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* Christ had spoken to over 500 brethren including apostles. But yet, there were 120 that experienced the Holy Spirit. I don’t know exactly where the other 380 people went, whether they were tarrying elsewhere or just gave up. Don’t know.

Ac 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. {power...: or, the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you}*

The 120 people in the Upper Room was not waiting on being filled with the Holy Ghost, they were waiting for the day of Pentecost. The day of Pentecost came first. The Bible reads: Acts 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

I want you to notice that in Luke 24:49, it said to tarry for the Holy Spirit. After the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost, He has been here ever since! There is no need to tarry. People after that were saved and filled. Some people get hung up on the tarrying than to actual receive the gift.

Immediately [the apostles](http://christianity.about.com/od/peopleofthebible/tp/12-Apostles.htm) were filled with the [Holy Spirit](http://christianity.about.com/od/topicalbiblestudies/a/whoisholyspirit.htm), who caused them to [speak in tongues](http://christianity.about.com/od/glossary/g/speakingtongues.htm). The crowds of visitors were astonished because every pilgrim heard the apostles speaking to him or her in their own foreign language! Some accused the apostles of being drunk.

The [Apostle Peter](http://christianity.about.com/od/newtestamentpeople/a/JZ-Peter-The-Apostle.htm) stood and addressed them, saying they were not drunk. It was only nine o'clock in the morning. Then, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter preached boldly to them, explaining about [Jesus Christ](http://christianity.about.com/od/newtestamentpeople/p/jesuschrist.htm) and [God's plan of salvation.](http://christianity.about.com/od/conversion/p/salvation.htm)

The crowd was so moved when Peter told them of their part in Jesus' [crucifixion](http://christianity.about.com/od/biblestorysummaries/p/crucifixionstor.htm) that they asked the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37, [NIV](http://christianity.about.com/od/faqhelpdesk/p/newinternationa.htm)).

The right response, Peter told them, was to [repent](http://christianity.about.com/od/newchristians/p/becomechristian.htm) and be [baptized](http://christianity.about.com/od/faqhelpdesk/f/whatisbaptism.htm) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. He promised that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

They took the gospel message to heart. About 3,000 people were baptized and added to the Christian church on that Day of Pentecost.

I can’t find in the Book of Acts where the disciples ever asked anyone, “Has God given you the Holy Ghost?” But I do read where Paul asked, “Have you received the Holy Ghost?” Jesus made a promise to all to receive this gift.

Smith Wigglesworth was struggling and even argued with people. People stated that he needed more of the Holy Ghost. He argued that I have the Holy Ghost but it’s the tongues I want. He argued with most everyone but he was determined to get these tongues. Smith Wigglesworth went to his priest but he found the priest gone but his wife said, “Come and I’ll pray for you.” The priest’s wife said you don’t want tongues, you want the Holy Ghost. He then argued that “he had the Holy Ghost. I know what I want.” She said, “be quiet, shut your eyes, and I’ll pray for you”. Her prayer went this way, “Oh, Lord, help this poor fellow. Forgive him and baptize him in the Holy Ghost”. About that time, there was a knock at the door and left to answer it. When she cam back, Smith Wigglesworth began crying out “Clean, Clean, Clean! I am clean through the blood! Through the blood! I’m clean”. About that time, he realized he was not saying “clean” but talking in some kind of strange language. He traveled back home speaking in other tongues. He would later on tell people that he use to argue but found out that there was more to receive the Holy Spirit after being born again.

So what does the Holy Spirit do for us? In John 14-16-18, it says that the Holy Spirit is a comforter, counselor, helper, intercessor, advocate, strength, and a standby. What more do we need?

Someone once said, “Being filled with the Spirit means to be filled with the immediate presence of God to the extent that you are feeling what God Himself feels, desiring what God desires, doing what God wants, speaking by God’s power, praying and ministering in God’s strength, and knowing with the knowledge that God Himself gives”. ~ Prof. Wayne Grudem

“You cannot live the Christian life under your own power, nor can you effectively witness to others about your newfound faith unless the Spirit of God enables you. The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to so overwhelm you with the presence of God that you will no longer dwell on your own weaknesses and inadequacies, but instead be filled with assurance and boldness”. George Wood, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God.

One of the main benefits is that you build yourself up by strengthening your inner man. So often we don't know how to express ourselves to God.

Benefits of Holy Spirit Filling:

Spiritual counsel and edifying praise – Eph. 5:19.

Frequent worship of God – Eph. 5:19.

Constant attitude of thanksgiving – Eph. 5:20.

Humility and submission to those in authority – Eph. 5:21-6:9.

Greater victory over concentrated spiritual attack – Eph. 6:10-19.

Understanding of God’s will in the decisions which face us in life – Eph. 1:17, Gal. 5:18.

Greater holiness in life – Rom. 8:13.

More answers to prayer – Eph. 6:18.

Amazingly fruitful ministry – Zech. 4:6.

Much greater peace in our hearts – Rom. 8:6.

The Holy Spirit is also our Guide. John 16:13 says, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth. He will guide us in all affairs of life. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. No one can be led or guided unless they place themselves in the hands of the Guide.

If I took you to Carlsbad Caverns, I don’t think you would want to go there without having a guide. You would never get out. The guide knows where to turn and knows where to turn on the lights. There are times when we get into a mess and usually do so because we have no one guiding us nor have we made it a matter of prayer. I can’t tell you the number of times whenever I prayed, that the Holy Spirit so gently led me to safety and the answer. Too many times, we don’t look inward to the Holy Spirit to guide us, we look on the outside to find the answers or through our own intellect.

The Holy Spirit also reveals things that we cannot see or feel. There have been times when I was faced, when the Holy Spirit popped something in my spirit about someone or something that only they or God knew. When you are the willing vessel and you suddenly see the facial expressions of people who knew that only God and His Spirit revealed it to me. That is confirmation of the need for the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives. I cannot imagine ever standing before any church or person without it being active. I can’t imagine going through like without the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us power. Ephesians 3:20, says *according to the power worketh in us.* Jesus said ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

The first witness of the Holy Ghost was in the Upper Room, the 120 that was present. Second witness was with Cornelius and his household, then came the Ephesian disciples, then Samaritans, Saul, and so on.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit produces a sense of peace and joy in the believer. The fruit (i.e., harvest) of the Spirit is described as being joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Spirit-filled Christians are just different.

We have a boldness after receiving the Holy Spirit, power to witness, power against unclean spirits, Spiritual revelation, Prophetic operations, And the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit happens when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts include gift of discernment, gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, and interpretation. There are others.

Wisdom is gained through the application of the Word of God and the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Judgment, Righteousness, Wisdom, Knowledge, Stability, Strength, Reverence for God are just a few more benefits of His wisdom.

There are reasons to speak in tongues. One is because there may be times when we don’t know how to pray. It is our spiritual language connecting to our heavenly father. “*For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered."* Romans 8:26

God is serious about the Holy Spirit and how to treat Him. He gave us a warning. We should not ever blaspheme the Holy Ghost. There is forgiveness to blaspheme God or the Son but not the Holy Spirit. That is how important the Holy Spirit is. (I don’t know if there are others who are ignorant and in sin whether this applies but for a Christian, God has made his warning.

The Bible says that God will give back to us with the measure that we will use. In other words, if you want God to give you 100% from His direction – then you have to be willing to give Him 100% from your direction. Seek – and then you will find. Ask – and then you will receive.

 Prayer Checklist

Here's a checklist for daily use:

Have I opened the Bible today and let it speak to me? Failing to take God's Word into your life is like neglecting to eat. You become weak when you do not receive nourishment.

2. Have I prayed meaningfully today?

I use my hand as a prayer guide: the thumb represents persons who are nearest my heart; the index finger for those who are an example and point the way; the middle finger for those who are in places of temporal and spiritual

authority; the next finger, my weakest, for those in great need and vulnerability; and the little finger for me, the smallest and least.

3. Is there sin, bitterness, or unforgiveness in my life?

I need to practice daily spiritual cleansing and not let impurity build up and become caked into my life. Each night as I go to sleep I must seek to do so with a clear conscience. (See Ephesians 4:26.)

4. Am I sensitive to how God may want to guide or use me today?

Peter the apostle prayed during the noon hour, and the Lord changed the destiny of Cornelius and family because Peter opened himself to being guided of the Lord. (See Acts 10:9.) I must not live so structured that I block out what God may want me to do. And when I know what He wants, I must obey.

5. Have I sought to help/encourage someone today whose need is greater than my own?

The Lord commended to us the example of the Good Samaritan. (See Luke 10:30-37.) When I am emotionally expended or dealing with personal hurt and sorrow, I find it important that I rise above my own concerns to enter in to the greater concerns of another. The Lord himself left us an example. On His cross He focused on the needs of others for forgiveness, pardon, and support.

6. Do I live, as Jesus taught, one day at a time? (See Matthew 6:11,25-34.) I cannot be empowered to live the future unless I am empowered to live today. I must not daydream about how different today would be if I could order it so. God has given me today and seeks for me to glorify Him in it. If I am faithful in small responsibilities now, He will decide what my lot will be tomorrow.

7. Have I relinquished myself to His full control this day?

Sometimes hurtful things hit us and we feel diminished rather than empowered. How can we live to the full, when we have taken a hard blow to the midsection and the air has been knocked out of us? We must change

our focus, even if it takes time, from asking why to asking what now. In Romans 8 Paul did not concentrate on the why, but the what; in so doing he reminded us that the future glory will be greater than any present suffering. The Holy Spirit is interceding for us even when we don't have words because the pain is too great; God is always working for the good; and nothing can separate us from the Lord. In such times I am empowered as I realize how much God loves me, guards me, and cares for me. He has a stronger grip on me than I have on Him, and He will never betray nor abandon me.