

Seeking Revival

DAY 1—JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

**“How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him”
LUKE 11:13.**

I Have Nothing

“Lord, teach us to pray!” the disciples asked. They saw how Jesus talked and connected daily with His Heavenly Father and they wanted the same power in their own lives.

Jesus answered with a prayer lesson in three parts: the Lord’s Prayer, the parable of a friend coming at midnight, and the need to continue to ask for Holy Spirit (Luke 11:1-13).

In the parable (verses 5-8), a man has nothing to feed a visitor who arrives late in the evening. The man hurries to his neighbor and asks for bread to feed the visitor, explaining, “I have nothing.” The man continues to ask until he receives bread to share with his guest. In this story we see that we need to come to Jesus to have something to share with others. When we want to share Jesus (the Bread of Life) with other people, we often find that we have nothing to give!

Jesus connects the problem in this parable (I have nothing) with our need to ask for the Holy Spirit: “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you” (Luke 11:9).

Jesus Tells Us To Keep Asking

In Luke 11, Jesus says 10 times that we should ask for the Holy Spirit in our lives because it is important. There are no other Bible verses where Jesus so lovingly tells us to ask for the Holy Spirit.

“So here is what I say to you. **Ask**, and it will be given to you. **Search**, and you will find. **Knock**, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who **asks** will receive. The one who **searches** (looks for) will find. And the door will be opened to the one who **knocks**. ‘Fathers, if your son **asks** for bread, will you give him a stone? Or if he **asks** for a fish, will you give him a snake instead? Or if he **asks** for an egg, will you give him a scorpion? Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** him!” (Luke 11:9-13).

In these Bible verses, Jesus uses the verb “ask” six times, “search” two times and “knock” two times. These are all action verbs. Jesus is saying that we must take action if we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The last use of the word ask is in the Greek continuous tense, meaning that we should not just ask once (one time) but keep continue to ask—again and again. Clearly, Jesus wants to increase our desire for the Holy Spirit with this loving invitation. He knows we are missing something important if we do not continue to ask for the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

In the book Christ’s Object Lessons we read, “God does not say, Ask once, and you will receive. He tells us ask. Patiently continue in prayer. The continued asking brings the person who asks into a more needful attitude, and gives us a bigger desire to receive what we ask for” (p. 145).

Think for a few minutes about why Jesus spent so much time in daily prayer? Ellen White explains, "Every morning Jesus talked with His Father in heaven, receiving from Him the Holy Spirit renewed each day" (Signs of the Times, Nov. 21, 1895).

Jesus is our example. Ask yourself: If Jesus needed to be renewed with the Holy Spirit every day, then how much more important is it for me?

Testimony and Challenge from a Church Member

"For the past two years I have been praying daily for the Holy Spirit in my life. . . . My walk with God has been amazing. The fruit (character) of the Spirit in Galatians 5 can be seen more in my life since I asked Jesus to live in me, to do His will (plan) in me, and to daily renew me with the Holy Spirit. I have greater joy in reading the Bible and sharing Christ with others, and I have a strong desire (want) to pray for others; also, my life has changed a lot. . . . I invite you to pray daily to be filled with the Holy Spirit for six weeks and see what happens" (C.H.).

Praying God's Word

Why don't we have more answers to prayer?

"You do not have what you want, because you do not ask God. When you do ask for something, you do not receive it. That's because you ask for the wrong reason. You want to spend your money on your sinful pleasures" (James 4:2, 3).

Dear Heavenly Father, please forgive us for forgetting to ask continually for the Holy Spirit. Thank You for Your promise that if we confess our sins, You are faithful to forgive them.

Our request shows how much we value God's offer.

"Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

Dear Father, thank You for promising to give us the Holy Spirit. We ask for the Holy Spirit now, and we thank you for answering. Teach us to depend on this promise.

God wants to give us life in abundance!

"Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from inside them.' When he said this, he meant the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit later" (John 7:38, 39).

Dear Lord, thank You for giving the Holy Spirit to the people who believe in You. Please help us to live in surrender to Jesus all day everyday so that You can make this promise come true in our lives.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the work of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for the needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Spirit of the Living God (#672); Sweet, Sweet Spirit (#262); Fill My Cup, Lord (#493); Sweet Hour of Prayer (#478); Come, Holy Spirit (#269).