

Grace in Action: Serving through God's Love
Open Yourself and Heart to Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father,
I need the Holy Spirit and God.
We are weak and prone to wander from your path.
Remove any barriers that hinder me from fully receiving your Spirit.
We welcome and surrender all my will to your kingdom.
I ask that you would fill us with your presence, guide me in your truth, and empower me to live a life that honors you.
Help me to discern your voice and to follow your lead.
Comfort us in times of sorrow
Strengthen us in times of weakness
Guide me in times of confusion.
I pray that you would help us to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.
In Jesus name, Amen.

God's presence and power at work in the world and in our lives. The Holy Spirit is often described as the Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate. The Holy Spirit empowers believers, guides us into truth, and produces fruit in their lives. Prayer is a powerful way to open your heart and express your desire for God's presence. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life where we need guidance, healing, or transformation. We need to surrender our will to God's will. We need to stop living up to the devil's will. We need to have self-control and trust that the Holy Spirit knows what's best for us. We need to cultivate a spirit of humility and recognize your dependence on God's grace. The Word of God is a source of wisdom, guidance, and revelation. The Holy Spirit illuminates the meaning of the scriptures and applies them to our life. We need to practice mindfulness and pay attention to your thoughts, feelings, and intuitions. I pay a lot of attention to my thoughts and that is why it feels like God continues to hear my prayers and control my thoughts daily. When the Holy Spirit prompts you to act, be obedient. We need to follow the guidance we receive from God. Living out your faith through acts of love, kindness, and service opens your heart to the Holy Spirit's work. The community of faith provides support, encouragement, and accountability. The Holy Spirit is always working, so be aware of his presence in your daily life. The Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out. You may experience changes in your character, attitudes, and behaviors. The Holy Spirit provides guidance and direction. The Holy Spirit brings comfort and peace. The Holy Spirit empowers us to serve God and to use our gifts for his glory.

The church is on track to file IRS Form 990N to the IRS this month to protect the church automatic 501(c)(3) and church donations in 2024 by the church Bylaws and Rules Committee. Form 990N will be posted on the IRS website under charitable organizations like filed 990N and Form 990 for previous years. The IRS tax forms are stamped by the IRS as exempt on the IRS website under charitable organizations. .

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."-Galatians 5:22-23

This scripture describes the characteristics that are produced in a believer's life when they are guided by the Holy Spirit. This scripture highlights that Christian living is not primarily about following a set of rules, but about allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our character. These qualities are seen as the natural outflow of a life lived in accordance with God's Spirit. This means that these qualities are inherently good and are not prohibited by any righteous law. They are the characteristics that God desires to see in his people. Love is the foundation of all the other fruits. It means showing selfless concern and care for others, even those who are difficult. Joy is a deep and abiding sense of happiness that is not dependent on external circumstances. It means finding contentment and gratitude even in challenging times. Peace means resolving conflicts, seeking reconciliation, and trusting in God's provision. My case manager at Star of Hope Mission in Houston told me that I need to stay put and deal with conflicts where I am living. He told me that my weakness is running and not dealing with conflicts and he says that he believes I am running from conflicts when I moved around from place to place since 2015. I will try to work and deal with conflicts and seek reconciliation with others and trust in God more to guide me. Forbearance is the ability to endure difficult situations and people with grace and understanding. Forbearance means being slow to anger and giving others the benefit of the doubt. Kindness is showing generosity, helpfulness, and compassion to others. Kindness means going out of our way to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. I show kindness to help the homeless and poor in the past and present with my volunteer work at homeless shelters. I need to expand my volunteer experience at homeless shelters by volunteering at more women, children and veterans homeless shelters. I always did my volunteer work at men's homeless shelters. That is not a bad thing, but I need to volunteer at more women, children and veterans homeless shelters in the community. Goodness is moral excellence and integrity. Goodness means living a life that is pleasing to God and beneficial to others. Faithfulness is being reliable, trustworthy, and loyal to God. Faithfulness means keeping our promises and remaining committed to our responsibilities to God's kingdom. Gentleness is having a humble and considerate spirit. Gentleness means treating others with respect and avoiding harsh or aggressive behavior. Self-control is the ability to control our impulses and desires. Self-control means making wise choices and avoiding excess in all areas of our lives. These fruits are not something we can produce on our own, but rather they are the result of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Cultivating these fruits requires a conscious effort to surrender to God's will and allow Him to transform us. Living according to these fruits leads to a more fulfilling and meaningful life, characterized by stronger relationships, greater peace, and a deeper connection with God.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."-Proverbs 3:5-6

1. make a conscious decision to trust God in every situation, big or small.
2. Start each day with prayer, committing your plans and decisions to God.
3. When faced with uncertainty, remind yourself that God is in control.
4. Recognize that we are not in control of everything. Surrender your need to control outcomes and trust that God's plan is better.
5. Admit that our understanding is limited and that God's wisdom is far greater than ours.
6. Be open to learning from others and from God's Word.
7. When faced with difficult decisions, seek God's guidance through prayer and studying the Bible.
8. Avoid making impulsive decisions based on your own emotions or limited knowledge.
9. Strive to obey God's commands and follow His guidance, even when it's difficult.

10. Make choices that align with God's values and principles.
11. Surrender your own desires and plans to God's will.
12. Be willing to follow God's path, even if it's different from what you expected.
13. When making a purchase, pray about it.
14. When deciding how to spend your time, pray about it.
15. When you are about to speak, pray that God will guide your words.
16. Believe that God will guide you and lead you on the right path.
17. Pay attention to God's promptings and follow His lead.
18. Experience the peace and clarity that comes from trusting in God's guidance.
19. When you trust God, you can face life's challenges with confidence.
20. Before making any significant decision, pray for God's guidance and seek His wisdom.
21. Consider how your decision aligns with God's Word and values.
22. Trust God to guide your relationships and to help you resolve conflicts.
23. Seek God's wisdom in dealing with difficult people.
24. When faced with challenges or hardships, trust that God has a plan and that He will see you through.
25. Find comfort and strength in God's presence.
26. Trust God to provide for your needs and to guide your career decisions.
27. Be a good steward of your resources and use them to honor God.

This emphasizes the importance of complete and unwavering trust in God. It's not a partial trust, but a wholehearted reliance on His wisdom and guidance. This cautions against relying solely on our own limited perspective and reasoning. It acknowledges that human understanding is often flawed and incomplete, especially when faced with life's complexities. It is easy for humans to think they know the best way to handle a situation, but God's perspective is far greater than ours. It is the action of giving up our own will. This is the promise that God will guide and direct our lives when we trust and submit to him. God will remove obstacles, provide clarity, and lead us on the right path. God will help us to navigate life. True wisdom comes from trusting in God, not ourselves. Surrendering to God's will leads to a life of purpose and direction. God is faithful to guide those who trust in him.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."-Ezekiel 36:26

This verse speaks of God changing the heart so that it is able to receive his spirit. This signifies a radical change in a person's inner being. It's not just a superficial adjustment, but a complete overhaul of one's desires, motivations, and affections. This refers to the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit which empowers believers to live a new life. The new spirit enables individuals to have a closer relationship with God and to live according to His will. The heart of stone symbolizes a hardened, unyielding heart that is resistant to God's love and grace. It represents spiritual deadness and an inability to respond to God's call. The heart of flesh represents a soft, receptive heart that is open to God's influence. It signifies a heart that is alive, responsive, and capable of love, compassion, and obedience.

1. Be honest about your struggles with sin, selfishness, or apathy.
2. Admit that you cannot change yourself on your own.

3. Recognize that you have areas in your life where your heart is hardened or resistant to God.
4. Pray regularly for God to give you a new heart and a new spirit.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that need transformation.
6. Spend time in God's Word, allowing it to soften your heart and shape your thinking.
7. Actively pursue a relationship with God through worship, prayer, and fellowship.
8. Be willing to let go of old patterns of behavior and thought that are contrary to God's will.
9. Make conscious choices to align your life with God's Word.
10. Practice forgiveness, compassion, and love, even when it's difficult.
11. Cultivate a spirit of humility and teachability.
12. When you feel your heart hardening, immediately turn to God in prayer.
13. Regularly reflect on your attitudes, motivations, and actions.
14. Ask yourself if your heart is becoming more like Christ's.
15. Be open to feedback from trusted friends and mentors.
16. Be aware of your emotional state. Are you becoming bitter, angry, or self-centered? These are signs of a hardening heart.
17. Acknowledge God's ongoing work of transformation in your life.
18. Express gratitude for the new heart and new spirit He has given you.
19. Focus on the positive changes you see in yourself and in your relationships.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me."-Psalm 51:10-11

This involves actively pursuing a relationship with God through prayer, worship, and studying His word. David acknowledges that his heart is defiled by sin. He understands that he cannot cleanse himself. This speaks to the need for inward purity, not just outward appearances. He asks God to create a pure heart, signifying that it's a work of divine power, a complete transformation. This is not about self-improvement, but about God's transforming grace. David recognizes the weakness and instability of his own spirit. He longs for a spirit that is firm, loyal, and unwavering in its devotion to God. This is a desire for a spirit that is able to resist temptation. He asks God to renew his spirit, suggesting that it had become worn out, discouraged, or compromised. David understands that sin separates us from God. He fears being cut off from God's presence, which is the source of life and joy. This shows a deep understanding of the consequences of sin. He expresses a deep longing for communion with God and recognizing that God's presence is essential for his well-being. David recognizes his dependence on the Holy Spirit for guidance, strength, and spiritual life. David, as King of Israel, knew the spirit of God could be removed from people. He fears losing the Holy Spirit, which would leave him powerless and vulnerable. Do not let sin linger in your life. Pray for God to cleanse your heart and to remove any sinful desires or attitudes. Examine your heart regularly. Make time to be in God's presence. When you know that you have done wrong, repent quickly, and ask for forgiveness.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth."-John 14:16-17

This highlights Jesus's role as our intercessor, the one who pleads our case before God the Father. It signifies the intimate relationship between the Father and the Son. It can also be translated as counselor, comforter, or helper. Jesus is promising another advocate, implying that he himself was their first

advocate. This means that after Jesus ascends to heaven. We will not be left alone. This advocate is the Holy Spirit, also called the "Spirit of truth." The Holy Spirit's role is to help, guide, and comfort believers. The phrase "be with you forever" emphasizes the permanent presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. The spirit of truth" means that the Holy Spirit will guide us into truth, and away from lies. He helps us to discern between truth and falsehood. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life that honors God and to fulfill our calling. The Holy Spirit's presence is not temporary. He is with us forever.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."-Romans 8:14

This emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and directing the lives of believers. It implies that true Christians are not acting independently, but are actively following the spirit's lead. It signifies a close and intimate relationship with God as our Father. This is a statement of adoption, and not of just being a creation of God. We should actively seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our decisions and actions. This involves listening to the Spirit's promptings and following his lead. We have a secure and loving relationship with our Heavenly Father. We are part of God's family and have access to his love, grace, and provision. The Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome sin and to live a life that honors God. It is vital to discern if the spirit that is leading you is indeed the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never lead a person to do something that violates the word of God.