



*Holy Spirit,*

How I Long  
to Know You  
Better

Roberto Hodgson

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doctor Roberto Hodgson graduated in 1985 from the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas, in San José, Costa Rica, with a degree in (Licenciatura) Theology. During that time he pastored the Church of the Nazarene in San Pedro de Poás, 1982-1985.

He was ordained as an elder in 1986. He pastored the Hispanic Church of the Nazarene in Washington, D.C. from 1986 to 1992. From 1993 to 2002, he served as coordinator of the Latino Ministries in the Washington, D.C. district (now Mid-Atlantic).

In 1992, he completed his Master in Theological Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. and in 2003, he graduated from the Graduate Theological Foundation with the title of Doctorate in Ministry.

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ISBN 237-000946-170-5



2 370009 461705



Multicultural Ministries  
USA-Canada



# Holy Spirit, How I Long to Know You Better

*“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,  
says the Lord Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6b)*

**Roberto Hodgson**



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Multicultural Ministries  
USA/Canada

Originally published in Spanish with the title

*Anhelo Conocerte Más... Espíritu Santo*

By Roberto Hodgson

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Casa Nazarena de Publicaciones

English Translation by Synergy Media Services Association

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## Holy Spirit, How I Long to Know You Better

“It is natural for you as a Christian leader to long for God’s power to rest upon you and be evident in your ministry. You have often longed for more power in prayer, in your speaking, and in your touch upon the lives of those to whom you minister. This is a God-given longing. It was placed in your heart by the Holy Spirit because He wants you to ask and trust God for more of His powerful ministry through you.”  
(Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*)

“*Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,*’ says the Lord Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6b).

## FOREWORD TO THE ENGLISH VERSION

It is an honor for Synergy Media Services Association to introduce the reader to *Holy Spirit, How I Long to Know You Better* by Roberto Hodgson. This is an adaptation from the Spanish original, which Dr. Hodgson wrote a couple of years ago during a moment of special illumination in his life by the Holy Spirit.

By sponsoring the production of *Holy Spirit, How I Long to Know You Better*, we have two goals in mind:

1. Inspiring the many ministers and lay people under Dr. Hodgson's leadership in the area of Multicultural Ministries for the Church of the Nazarene on the United States and Canada Region who may be able to read his book in English only.
2. Making Dr. Hodgson's book available to all English readers around the world who may be able to access it through the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library online ([whdl.org](http://whdl.org)), knowing that we are making available to them devotional material that they will find very valuable.

Our gratitude to Scott Stargel, of Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library and Global Nazarene Publications, for coming alongside Synergy Media Services Association in the production and publication of *Holy Spirit, How I Long to Know You Better*.

Our gratitude also goes to those who have graciously donated the funds to cover the English production cost of Dr. Hodgson's book.

—Juan R. Vázquez-Pla, Director  
Synergy Media Services Association



## INTRODUCTION

The inspiration for writing this thoughtful devotional about a deeper personal knowledge of the Holy Spirit came in the closing days of 2016. The New Year season invites us to reflect on events that occurred during the year. The eve of another year leads us to think of some events that marked our lives. The media underlines and presents the most relevant events that happened. The media also presents the most important or prominent personalities of the year.

I have developed the habit of dedicating special time to prayer, fasting, and reading of the Scriptures, particularly the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, during this time. I also try to read a book. In addition, I use the year-end tradition to look for a biblical theme that will serve as a guide for my life and my ministry in the new year. This custom has helped me to maintain a biblical emphasis that gives direction to my life during the new year. It is similar to the popular tradition of establishing resolutions for the new year. As we say in Spanish, “New Year, New life.”

While I was praying for a subject for 2017, I felt a strong impulse that the emphasis should be to seek the Holy Spirit and learn more about His presence in my life. This topic led me to search the biblical references where the Holy Spirit is mentioned in my electronic concordance. The quotes I found were used for my personal devotions, since my emphasis for the new year would be to learn more about the Holy Spirit. As I did these devotions, I also had the opportunity to share in the monthly e-newsletter of

Multicultural Ministries some of the topics and thoughts I encountered.

I have enjoyed knowing more about the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit and His work in my life. This experience has greatly enriched my personal and ministerial life. It seems to me that many leaders and believers know about and believe the basic doctrines of the Holy Spirit, but we may not know Him as we should. It is my prayer that the topics presented in this reflective devotional, with biblical sources and quotes from people who have lived under the guidance of the Spirit and have had a wonderful walk with Him, may serve as an inspiration and a foundation for readers to yearn for and know more the Holy Spirit in their lives for the service and the work of the ministry. I long to know the Holy Spirit more and more.

## The Holy Spirit

***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Genesis 1:1-3).***

FROM THE BEGINNING, AND FROM ETERNITY, the Holy Spirit is moving and is co-creator as the God of the Universe. The Christian faith believes and declares the doctrine of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, that He is ever present and efficiently active in and with the Church of Christ, convincing the world of sin, regenerating those who repent and believe, sanctifying believers, and guiding into all truth as it is in Jesus (Article of Faith III, *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, 2017-2021 edition).

God said through the prophet that He would pour out His Spirit on all people. “Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing

floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. ...And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:23-24, 28-29).

In the Old Testament era, the Spirit descended only on certain persons who were called to fulfill specific tasks for God. Through the prophet Joel, God promised a new dispensation of the Spirit, in which the Holy Spirit comes upon His people without distinction of gender, age, social class, or leadership position.

The Holy Spirit comes to bring joy to His people, which the prophet compares to the rain necessary for cultivating the earth. Such will be the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon His people that it will be like a fertile field producing an overabundant harvest. The promise is for all who have received Jesus as their Lord.

“The Holy Spirit is the Agent of our new life or new birth. Hence, He is called the ‘Spirit of Life’, freeing us from sin’s death. The Cristian begins his walk with God by the Spirit” (John A. Knight, *All Love Excelling*).

*“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel’”*  
(Acts 2:14-16).

## Transformed by the Holy Spirit

*“The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.” As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying” (1 Samuel 10:6-10).*

THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDS ON PEOPLE to transform them and to change their hearts for service to God in His mission. When the Spirit empowers people, it will be noticeable in them. They will have the certainty that God has called them for the work of ministry because of the Spirit’s testimony in their lives. God will equip them for extraordinary works in their lives (ordinary people for extraordinary works) through the Holy Spirit.

“I had been for some time in almost constant prayer, and crying to God for something that would meet my needs, not clearly realizing what they were or how they could be met. ...As I waited and waited, and continued in prayer, looking up, it seemed to me as if from the azure there came a meteor, an indescribable ball of condensed light, descending rapidly toward me. As I gazed upon it, it was soon within a few score feet, when I seemed distinctly to hear a voice saying, as my face was upturned toward it: “Swallow it; swallow it,” and in an instant it fell upon my lips, and face. I attempted to obey the injunction. It seemed to me, however, that I swallowed only a little of it, although it felt like fire upon my lips, and the burning sensation did not leave them for several days. While all of this of itself would be nothing, there came with it into my heart and being, a transformed condition of life and blessings and unction and glory, which I had never known before” (a direct testimony from Phineas F. Bresee quoted by Carl Bangs in, *Phineas F. Bresee*).

*“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them” (Acts 6:3).*



## The Spirit of the Lord Speaks

***“These are the last words of David: ‘The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel’s songs: The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue’” (2 Samuel 23:1-2).***

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS SERVANTS AND TO HIS PEOPLE through His Spirit. The Spirit of God brings the word to the hearts of His messengers so that they can communicate it. The Spirit enlightens and anoints His messengers to proclaim the Word of God to His people. The Holy Spirit continues to speak today through His servants.

“Anointing is the gift of God given at the moment of your ministry. There are several prerequisites to God’s anointing upon you. There must be commitment to God, obedience, total dependence, and prayer. Anointed ministry prevails. God’s anointing enables the Spirit to grip hearers with the truth of your message, clothes you with the authority of God, and is His seal upon you and your message” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to*

*heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (Acts 4:29-31).*

## The Holy Spirit Is God's Breath in Me

*“But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding. The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 32:8; 33:4).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO GUIDE and illuminate human understanding. The Spirit of God communicates with our spirits so that we can understand His designs. The Holy Spirit is the compass that guides our spirits and makes us sensitive to God's will for our lives.

“Eternal Spirit, write Thy law upon our inward parts, / And let the Second Adam draw His image on our hearts” (from a hymn by Isaac Watts, as cited by John A. Knight, *All Loves Excelling*).

“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

## The Work of the Holy Spirit in Times of Dryness

*“This is what the Lord says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams” (Isaiah 44:2-4).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PROMISE OF YAHWEH for His people. In times of dryness, the Spirit comes upon His people as fresh rain for their lives. The Holy Spirit is the blessing for the renewal of His people. The renewed people of God always present themselves as a faithful and available group to obey God and is the group with which God works to carry out his mission.

The Holy Spirit makes a huge difference in the lives of the people who receive Him. The prophet uses the metaphor of fertility and a flow of water that benefits the production of the fruit of the earth to exemplify the Holy Spirit when He is poured out for a blessing on His people.

“Spiritual power is expended naturally by your ministry. The more you minister, the more you need your power renewed. The busier you become, the more you need your power renewed, the more you need spiritual refreshment and replenishing” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).*

## The Anointment of the Holy Spirit on Preaching

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor” (Isaiah 61:1-3).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS ON THE LIVES of His servants to give them His power to preach the good news of the kingdom of God. Prophets like Isaiah were empowered by the Spirit to proclaim God’s message to His people. Jesus, in the inauguration of His ministry of the proclamation of the kingdom of God, used this prophecy to confirm its fulfillment in Him as the promised Messiah.

Jesus promised His Holy Spirit to His disciples so that they would be empowered for the proclamation of the



gospel: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“We need a new drenching, a new outpouring of the Spirit upon us. We need again and again to have God’s power descend upon us, enter into us, fill us, and permeate us until we can truly say of our lives, ‘Not I, but Christ,’ and of our ministry, ‘Not I, but God’s Spirit’” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ” (Romans 15:18-19).*

## The Spirit and the Commission to Preach

*“He said to me, ‘Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.’ As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them” (Ezekiel 2:1-5).*

WHEN GOD CALLS HIS SERVANTS to carry His message to His people, He gives them His Spirit. The Spirit affirms these people and empowers them to proclaim the Word of God. God guarantees that those He calls will have His Spirit to face the challenges of ministry.

God knows that human beings, by nature, refuse to respond to His message. But the Spirit will help the prophet-minister to fulfill God’s purpose of communicating His Word. The Holy Spirit gives courage and conviction in the

proclamation of the Word, regardless of how people respond to God's message.

“A. J. Gordon urged, ‘Our generation is rapidly losing its grip upon the supernatural; and as a consequence, the pulpit is rapidly dropping to the level of the platform. And this decline is due, we believe, more than anything else, to an ignoring of the Holy Spirit as the supreme inspirer of preaching’ (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed’” (Acts 4:8-10).*

## The Spirit Creates a New Heart

***“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 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. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:25-27).***

THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDS TO CLEANSE and purify people from their sins. The Holy Spirit creates a new heart that will make them sensitive to God’s commandments. The Holy Spirit helps them to walk and live in the ordinances of the Word of God. When God forgives a person of all their sins through the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to create a new heart of worship and ministerial service.

“About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation” (words of John Wesley as quoted by John Pollock in *Wesley the Preacher*).

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24).*

## Not by Might, But by My Spirit

*“So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty’” (Zechariah 4:6).*

GOD ASSURES THE PROPHET that when you have the Spirit you don't need to depend on human structures or forces to achieve God's plans in the fulfillment of His mission. The Spirit is more than enough to help His servants and His people with the work entrusted to them.

Human forces and even personal abilities and talents produce results, but they are limited compared to what the Holy Spirit can and wants to do in the lives of His servants.

“James Harvey, one of John Wesley's ministerial associates, describes in these words the difference the Spirit made in Wesley's ministry: ‘While his preaching was once like the firing of an arrow, all the speed and force depending on the strength of his arm in bending the bow, now it was like the firing of a rifle ball, the whole force depending on the power needing only a finger touch to let it off’” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).



*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

## Jesus, Full of the Holy Spirit

*“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor’” (Luke 4:14-19).*

JESUS WAS CONVINCED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT was in His life and that He possessed the supernatural power of the Spirit to fulfill the mission of the kingdom entrusted to Him by His Father. The anointing of God’s presence through the Holy Spirit was tangible in Jesus’ ministry and in preaching the good news of the Kingdom with the authority that comes through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who empowered the humanity of Jesus to perform supernatural works and perform miracles: feed the multitudes, liberate those oppressed by evil forces, and heal the sick.

“Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire / To work, and speak, and think for Thee; / Still let me guard the holy fire / And still stir up Thy gift in me” (words of a hymn by Charles Wesley, quoted by Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22).*

## Rivers of Living Water in the Spirit

*“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 7:37-39).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PROMISE OF JESUS CHRIST to all believers. Jesus promised His disciples to send His Spirit on them. Jesus used figurative language to describe the Spirit as a river of refreshing living water for those who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit in the life of believers will keep freshness of life in their walk with the Lord.

However, in the walk of life, people can become dry and lose the flow of the Spirit’s stream. Ephesians 5: 18b says: “Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” The good news is that the Spirit is available to fill believers so that this promise will always be a reality in their lives, from which a fresh spring of the Holy Spirit will flow.

“The human condition for receiving the Holy Spirit is consecration, the offering of our bodies as ‘living sacrifices’.

The divine part is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, who takes the vacated throne and becomes Lord of our lives” (J. Lyal Calhoun, *The Holy Spirit and the Church*).

*“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us” (1 John 3:24).*

## The Spirit as Advocate

***“If you love me, keep my commands. 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. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (John 14:15-17).***

WHEN JESUS PREPARED THE DISCIPLES for His departure, He guaranteed that the Holy Spirit would come into their lives. The Holy Spirit will be with believers to console them in the vicissitudes of life. In times of suffering, pain, afflictions and other difficult life experiences, the Holy Spirit will be there to help them face and overcome overwhelming hardships.

“It’s a matter of learning to minister with a proper attitude, a tremendous harmony in which the beauty of character is interwoven with the power of dynamic ministry. There is probably nothing more destructive to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives than self-interest. When we divorce the ethics of the fruit, especially love, from the ministry of the Spirit, we’re on a collision course—no matter how ‘anointed’ we might appear” (J. W. Hayford, *People of the Spirit*).

*“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15).*

## The Holy Spirit as Teacher

***“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE FAITHFUL TEACHER of believers. The Spirit teaches us and reminds us of God’s promises for our lives. Teaching us God’s plan for our lives is one of the Spirit’s many functions.

The Holy Spirit is the believer’s guide; He is like a map, compass, or GPS that guides us in our daily walk with God. If we are sensitive and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He will help us make the most important decisions in our lives according to God’s designs.

*“By your Spirit cleanse us so that we may wholly love you, be wholly filled with you, and be wholly enlightened and enflamed by you” (Edward Bouver Pusey, *Prayers: Ancient and Modern*).*

*“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify*



*me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you” (John 16:12-14).*

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

*“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned” (John 16:7-11).*

JESUS AFFIRMS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME to be present with His disciples. The Holy Spirit will be the faithful companion of the disciples in their ministry.

He will also be working in the world to convince people that they are sinners, that they need a Savior who is Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to people to tell them what God’s justice and judgment is.

“I was powerfully converted on the morning of the 10th of October, 1821. In the evening of the same day I received the overwhelming baptism of the Holy Ghost, that went through me, as it seemed to me, body and soul. I immediately found myself endued with such power from on high

that a few words dropped here and there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:5-6).*

## Let Us Walk According to the Spirit

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:1-4).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES PEOPLE who are in Christ to walk according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit helps us not to continue in a life of sin. The Spirit makes it possible for those who are in Christ to turn away from the sinful life which they previously lived.

The Holy Spirit puts new thoughts in believers so that they think about the things of God and not those of the world. The Holy Spirit helps the believer to understand what pleases God.

“The procedure required to turn an impure heart into a burning heart for God is similar—only a continual refining

fire will purify our motives and cleanse our character, making us beautiful and valuable treasurers, useful for God's purposes. The fire is available to us in the person and presence of Christ and through the constant indwelling of the Holy Spirit" (Becky Tirabassi, *The Burning Heart Contract*).

*"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law" (Galatians 5:16-18).*

## The Power of the Holy Spirit

***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES INTO THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS to give them His power to fulfill God’s mission. The Holy Spirit is the indispensable source for an effective and fruit-bearing ministry.

The Holy Spirit gives the power for the proclamation of God’s kingdom. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to bear witness to Jesus Christ and the power of the resurrection.

“Much opposition faced [Duncan Campbell] when he began ministry on the Isle of Skye. Duncan walked the roads at night praying for God’s help. Three young women were given a great prayer burden and prayed all night in their home while Duncan did the same in a barn. The next evening God’s power fell on the meetings. People were so seized with the conviction of the Holy Spirit that they groaned for mercy” (Wesley L. Duwel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God.’ But*

*as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin” (Micah 3:7-8).*

## The Holy Spirit as Intercessor

*“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN US and strengthens us in moments of emotional and spiritual weakness. The Holy Spirit guides us to communicate with the Father and gives us a sense of how we should pray to Him. Even though we do not know what we should pray for, and cannot express our feelings or hearts’ desires, the Holy Spirit helps us. The Spirit knows the depths of our hearts. He also brings to mind the people for whom we must intercede; He gives us a strong urge to intercede for them.

*“When we pray in the Spirit, we pray primarily for others. When we seek first Christ’s kingdom, God will take care of all our personal needs (Matthew 6: 33)” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).*



*“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit” (Judas 20).*

## The Holy Spirit is Hope, Joy, and Peace

***“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS gives them joy and peace. The Spirit gives His fruit so that we can experience the peace and joy of a heart filled with Him.

Amid the sorrows, tragedies, and afflictions of life, you can have the peace and joy that only the Holy Spirit can give.

“The core of a fruit is its vital center. It carries the genes of its nature, determines its basic character, and provides its power to reproduce itself. In the fruit of the Spirit, love is that vital center, the well-spring of all the graces of the sanctified life. All the other characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit spring from this vital source” (J. Lyal Calhoun, *The Holy Spirit and the Church*).

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).*

## Revelation by the Holy Spirit

*“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:9-14).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS THE THINGS that God has for those who love Him. Spiritual things are understood only through the Spirit. The Spirit teaches the children of God some of the mysteries of the spiritual world, such

as salvation in Jesus Christ, faith in God, hope after death and the incomparable promises of God.

The mysteries of God are revealed to His children and can only be understood through an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. In our earthly walk, God, through His Spirit, makes us know everything necessary in the spiritual realm.

“The word of knowledge is a gift of the Spirit giving supernatural insight or information which one would not have known apart from the Spirit’s revealing. It differs from general biblical knowledge in that it’s spontaneously revealed rather than learned through study or acquired by experience; however, it must always be tested against revealed knowledge found in the written word of God” (J. W. Hayford, *People of the Spirit*).

*“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way” (Ephesians 1:17-23).*

## The Holy Spirit's Temple

***“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).***

WHEN PEOPLE RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST as the Savior and Lord of their lives, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them. The Holy Spirit comes to initiate a cleansing of the past sinful life and to give a clear awareness of what sin is.

The Holy Spirit, by dwelling in the life of new believers, will help them to resist and not to fall into the temptations of the sins in which they used to live. They have a new nature that leads them to an intimate relationship with the holy God. The Holy Spirit comes to reside and to take possession of the life that now belongs to Him.

“[Andrew Murray said,] when the Holy Spirit fills us, He imparts purity and power. [And] the person dedicates his [or her] all as a living sacrifice in absolute surrender” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not*

*your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).*

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

*“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uniformed. ...For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:1, 13).*

THE SPIRIT IS THE GIVER OF GIFTS TO BELIEVERS, and He does so without respect of persons. He distributes these gifts in the lives of believers in order to operate through them. The Holy Spirit acts in certain people and manifests Himself so that God may be glorified through the supernatural, such as miracles of healing through the gift of healing.

The gifts of the Spirit are necessary for the body of Jesus Christ to do the work of the church in establishing the kingdom of God. The church must be aware that these gifts exist and that it is the Holy Spirit who gives them for the harmonious operation of His church.

“[The spiritual gifts] were intended to be part of the Church’s timeless equipment for carrying on its work in the world. ...In our task of seeking a definition of spiritual gifts we must now concentrate on what is the key word of the Scripture when it says that they are collectively the

manifestation of the Spirit” (Donald Gee, *Spiritual Gifts in the Work of the Ministry Today*).

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:6-8).*



## The Holy Spirit's Seal of Ownership

*“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Corinthians 1:20-22).*

WHEN PEOPLE OPEN THEIR HEARTS to accept the grace and forgiveness of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to seal [as in ownership] their voluntary decisions.

The divine act of redemption and the free will of human beings are merged in the redeeming act of God. The Holy Spirit given as a deposit represents a covenant between God and people, giving them the status and legal right to be children of God.

*“Of all that has been wrought in the believer in the way of conviction, repentance, faith, joy, holiness, etc., the blessed and eternal Spirit is the sole author” (Octavius Winslow, *Personal Declension and Revival of Religion in the Soul*).*

*“[A]nd in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household” (Ephesians 2:16-19).*

## The Spirit Gives Life

***“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).***

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT BASED ON CONCEPTS and precepts of human institutions or regulations, but on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

The servants of the New Covenant are called to minister in the power of the Spirit. The ministers of the good news of the Kingdom do not depend on human wisdom or abilities, but on the power of God through his Spirit.

“This ‘accession of power,’ or if you prefer it, this ‘effusion of power’ upon Christian preachers is not something ‘once for all;’ it can be repeated, and repeated, and repeated many, many times” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. ... Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-16; 20-21).*

## Walking by the Spirit

***“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law” (Galatians 5:16-18).***

THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER MUST BE DEMONSTRATED IN DAILY LIVING through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes to the children of God so that their lives may reflect the new spiritual nature given to them. The Spirit comes to their hearts and becomes visible in their daily lives.

To walk in the Spirit’s guidance is to be victorious over the pleasures offered by sin. The Spirit helps us to live the call that God makes to his children to a life of holiness: “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” (1 Peter 1:15). The Holy Spirit convicts and gives the power for a life of holiness set apart from sin. A life guided by the Holy Spirit can overcome the desires and temptations of sin.

“The cure for spiritual death is the creation of spiritual life in our souls by God the Holy Spirit” (R. C. Sproul, *Chosen by God*).

*“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8).*

## Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

***“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30).***

WHEN PEOPLE RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST as the Lord of their lives, they become His property, purchased with blood through the sacrifice on Calvary’s cross. The transaction is sealed with the Holy Spirit, who takes possession of the lives of the people who now belong to God. We are warned and advised not to grieve the Spirit by repeating sinful actions of the past.

Rebellion grieves the Holy Spirit. The Spirit does not tolerate sin; He cannot live in a heart that disobeys the commandments and teachings of God contained in His Word. A life of sin alienates the Spirit by disobedience to the known law of God.

*“The great danger to which we are exposed, is, not in over-rating, but in undervaluing the office-work of the Spirit; not in thinking too high, but in thinking too low of it: and that anything tends more to wound, grieve, and chase from us His sensible presence, than a known and permitted declension of His work, we cannot imagine” (Octavius Winslow, *Personal Declension and Revival of Religion in the Soul*).*

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Ephesians 4:22-29).*

## Sanctification by the Spirit

***“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter” (2 Thessalonians 2:13-15).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT INITIALLY SANCTIFIES BELIEVERS in the act of salvation. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the hearts of people who receive the forgiveness of sins, purifying their hearts for a new nature.

The Spirit dwells in these people and testifies that they have been forgiven of their sins. Now their lives are separated to walk and live in holiness.

“But consecration was more than the act whereby purity was achieved. Consecration also meant the act of devoting something or someone to the service of God. It signified that something or someone was being claimed by God as God’s possession. In other words, it signified that something or someone stood in a relationship to God not enjoyed by other things or people. This notion of consecration



explains how the Old Testament can consider physical and other created things to be holy. The Sabbath, for instance, is holy. Why? Because from the seven days of the week God chose the seventh for God's purpose. In turn, Israel was to consecrate that day and thus keep it pure" (Samuel M. Powell, *Holiness in the Twenty-First Century*).

*"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance" (1 Peter 1:1-2).*

## Guard the Good Deposit with the Help of the Holy Spirit

*“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us” (2 Timothy 1:13-14).*

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FAITH IN BELIEVERS and pours out the love of God into their lives. “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5: 5). The Holy Spirit helps believers to love, even when it is difficult or impossible to love those who have harmed them.

The Holy Spirit will help us to be responsible in keeping all that God has given to us, to be faithful with the grace of salvation, and to use well the gifts of the Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit is the Christian’s proof of acceptance with God. His presence enables him (or her) to know that he (or she) belongs to God. The Spirit is the evidence of the fellowship of the community of Christ’s Body, because all experience the same Presence. While the Holy Spirit respects and enhances each one’s individuality, there is a oneness

about His presence that assures each member of a common fellowship through Him. That oneness is the unity of their faith in Jesus Christ. This confession is prompted by the indwelling Spirit” (John A. Knight, *All Loves Excelling*).

*“[H]ow shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will” (Hebrews 2:3-4).*

## Discernment Through the Holy Spirit

***“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God” (1 John 4:1-2).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN BELIEVERS TO HELP US discern the spirits of erroneous teachings that proliferate and want to deceive people and turn them away from the truth. Jesus Christ promised the Holy Spirit to teach and guide the church to the truth of the faith. “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:12-13).

“The Lord does not leave His people without the equipment they need for a Pentecostal ministry. We are to ‘try the spirits.’ False doctrines of men can be tested by doctrinal standards. There remains our Lord’s ultimate test: ‘By their fruits shall ye know them.’ The spiritual gifts of discernment of spirits is apparently for urgent necessities

of protection” (Donald Gee, *Spiritual Gifts in the Work of the Ministry Today*).

*“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth” (1 John 2:20-21).*

## The Holy Spirit and the Bible

*“We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:19-21).*

GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED His servants to write the sacred books we call “The Word of God.” The Spirit that inspired the writers of the Bible is the same Spirit that inspires the children of God for the interpretation of His Word.

The Holy Spirit has been the sentinel who keeps the Word of God through the ages. The Holy Spirit speaks to His church through Jesus Christ, the written Word, and preaching.

“In fulfillment of [the] promise [of the gift of the Spirit] came the New Testament, written by some of the men...to whom He gave the gift of the Spirit to inspire their minds.

...Not only has the Holy Spirit given us the written Word; He inspires our own minds to recognize and approve truth, as well as to recognized and reject error” (J. Lyle Calhoun, *The Holy Spirit and the Church*).

*“On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: ‘Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea” (Revelation 1:10-11).*

*“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:29).*

## It Is the Spirit Who Testifies

***“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement” (1 John 5:5-8).***

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES TESTIMONY of the coexistence of the Trinity from the beginning of creation when the Spirit hovered over the waters. The Spirit witnessed to the Son from the beginning of His ministry when He was baptized in the Jordan: “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17). The Trinity coexists in unity and in harmony, working for the redemption of humanity.

“Just as it is important to speak of Christ as God, and in loving relationship with the rest of the Trinity, so too is it crucial to affirm, first and foremost, that the Holy Spirit is as



equally divine and equally active in the love of the Trinity as the first two Persons” (Rhonda Crutcher, *Essential Beliefs*).

*“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us” (1 John 3:24).*

*“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6).*

## Keeping the Holy Spirit with Us

*“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. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me” (Psalms 51:10-12).*

THE PSALMIST DAVID ACKNOWLEDGES that it is the Holy Spirit who purifies and helps maintain a right heart before God; therefore, he prays to God not to take the Holy Spirit away from him. The Spirit brings joy to the psalmist and testifies to the assurance of God’s saving work in his life.

Through the fruit of the Spirit, the people obtain a character of humility, even when they have privileges and wealth that can generally create attitudes of arrogance and pride. The Spirit of God creates a state in the person’s conscience that is devoid of boasting about socioeconomic status, leadership positions, or any other human achievement.

“If we would know the continuance of the Spirit’s power we need to be on guard to lead lives of simplicity, free from indulgence and surfeiting, be ready to “endure hardness as

a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy. 2: 3)” (Wesley L. Duewel, *Ablaze for God*).

*“Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble’” (James 4:5-6).*

## CONCLUSION

I TRUST THAT THE READER HAS ENJOYED these devotion-  
al reflections on the wonderful person of the Holy Spirit,  
and that he or she may have a better knowledge of and  
personal relationship with the Holy Spirit in their lives  
and ministry. These passages of devotional reflection  
can be used for preaching, Bible studies, or discipleship  
groups.

*“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6).*

*“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the mes-  
sage of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed,  
you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”  
(Ephesians 1:13).*

*“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and  
read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the  
result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit  
of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human  
hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).*

AMEN!