



The Holy Spirit

Grace, Patience, and God's Love

(The seeking of guidance from the Holy Spirit)

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(Online versions link to scripture)



Do we allow the **Holy Spirit** to offer direction?

The Holy Spirit

Introduction

These six pages describe *the degree* our Heavenly Father has gone to encourage us to transform our *decision-making* from an earthly perspective and to include Heaven as a part of our concept of life.

What is Grace? Grace is a *gift* through Christ's sacrifice for those willing to receive it. Grace can take us from our current state and raise us up to the *standards* in heaven where *God's will* is done. The acceptance of this gift requires our *willingness to learn* the things God would have us know.

We are not forced into this growth; we must seek it. Because it is voluntary, *many opportunities pass us by* where God offers to expand grace to us. How many times is our growth stunted because we assume our judgment is adequate rather than seeking the Holy Spirit to help teach us *His grace*?

Self-Reliance Vs. Grace

Chapter 1

Imagine the patience the Holy Trinity has during times of our spiritual blindness.

For example: The Disciple Peter's thinking repeatedly focused on the "*here and now*." Such thinking failed to take into account "God's will" which includes a prospective throughout time of both earth and the heavens.

1. Matthew 14:22-33 First, let's recognize that Peter had great trust in Jesus when He was present. None of the other disciples got out of the boat in rough seas to walk on the water.
2. Matthew 16: 15-23 Peter was fully aware that Jesus was the Messiah, yet Peter's thought process was humanistic and failed to consider the perspective Christ was demonstrating.
3. Matthew 17:1-8 The God of the Universe even tells Peter to listen or take into account what Jesus is teaching.
4. Matthew 26: 31-35 When self-reliance motivated Peter to pledge his loyalty to Christ, Jesus informed Peter that he would deny Christ three times that same night.
5. Luke 22: 54-62 Upon the third denial, Christ looked straight at Peter. Peter left and wept bitterly. This incident brought Peter's self-confidence to an all-time low.

Peter's denial was a symptom. His recurring problem involved Peter not allowing God into his decision-making process.

The Degree of God's Love

Chapter 2

Matthew 16: 21-23 Jesus explained to his disciples that He must suffer, that He must be killed, and that He would raise on the third day. Peter relied on his "own thinking" rather than "God's plan" and rebuked Christ while stating such things would not occur. Jesus responded, "Get behind me, Satan!"

John 18: 7-11 Peter ended up using a sword to cut off the ear of the servant who was among those arresting Jesus. Had Peter's decision-making prevailed, Peter's violence could possibly have continued until he was cut down. Had Peter prevailed, the moment may have been remembered as a *bloodbath* rather than the time that Christ was *submitting* himself for the salvation of mankind.

1. Peter was like many modestly mature believers; willing to die for Christ, but blind to his role in living for Christ.
2. Luke 22: 51 Jesus performed the miracle of healing the servant's ear because God's plan worked around Peter's spiritual immaturity.
3. The God of the New Covenant does not give up on those who love Him! God then offered Peter additional opportunities until Peter finally comprehended the message!

At what point did Peter learn to listen to "God's will?" John 21:1-19

1. **What explanation** is there for Jesus to ask Peter if he loved Christ more than this catch of fish? John 21: 15
2. Had Jesus **not** intervened, just how many successful catches would it have taken for the disciples to return to their routine of fishing and ignore sharing Salvation to the World?
When His service requires us to step outside our comfort zone, what is our response?
 - a. Jesus already knew Peter loved Him. However, Jesus had still not reached Peter's heart to motivate him into allowing "the things of God" to motivate his actions.

- b. [John 21:1-19](#) How did Jesus ask Simon Peter that second and third time, "***Do you love me?***" and then plead for him to "***feed my sheep.***" Potentially, the member of the Holy Trinity had tears in his eyes as He begged this dearly loved child to "***step beyond your own thinking and follow the will of God.***"

We cannot comprehend the patience or the depth God's love for those who are open to learning this lesson through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing the message of the New Covenant is a simple one: God loves us. He is offering his gift of grace through Jesus that we might raise to a level which is **acceptable** in His holy presence. *God's will is done in heaven* and He wishes to prepare us for that day. God simply asks us to provide the willingness to receive the skills that are required for such a journey.

When our talent is not enough to develop such a conversation, offer the booklet at realprayer.org which articulates this message.

For a person with such talent, "offer to pray" with the individual: Dear Heavenly Father, I ask your forgiveness through Jesus to be forgiven of my sin. I give to you my entire existence, my hopes, my dreams, and my ambitions. Please be my "Lord" and have "your will" become my motivator for the remainder of my life. Amen.

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Chapter 3

Is there a benefit to actually praying the above prayer to be Born Again and then proceed to seek righteousness?

[\(John 14: 15-26\)](#) ¹⁵⁻²¹ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the 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^[a] in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I

will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁵⁻²⁶ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ 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.

"*Feeling*" the presence of the Holy Spirit may be most common during times of "my will to thy will" submission before a Holy God. A Born Again Christian may be going from a heart of "I am only willing to do," transitioned to "What would you have me do?"

Some appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit beyond submission to aid in discernment. The Holy Spirit offers to teach us how to apply Christ's teachings. However, this requires our willingness to be open to learning a higher degree of His grace. It is done through prayer and an awareness of how He responds.

Have you ever asked a Christian of true maturity for a long-term commitment? Much of the time their reply may be, "*I'll get back with you.*" During the following weeks they may spend time on their knees seeking discernment through the Holy Spirit as to the direction in life God would have them take.

John 7:39, Acts 1:8-8, Acts 2:1-4 The Holy Spirit came down after Christ's ascension. While the Disciple Peter may have done well as a fisherman making earthly decisions, God's path required Peter to not only know Christ's teachings, but to incorporate "things of the Spirit" into his decision-making process. While the

Disciple Peter displayed meager insight; the later writings of the Apostle Peter reflected the fruit of the Holy Spirit was within him.

A Step toward Spiritual Maturity

Conclusion

Some church leaders that obtain great results do not view themselves as leaders, but as servants with some spiritual maturity in recognizing His direction.

An opportunity for service that begins with apprehension can turn into an adventure as we anxiously await, "*what comes next?*" Pride can give way to humility upon realizing these accomplishments do not belong to us. It is His project. We were simply called to help along the way.

What is viewed as Christian leadership can fall back to the washing of the feet. ([John 13: 12-17](#))

How does our ability "to love our neighbor" grow? The more we follow "*his will*" with the talent entrusted to us, the more talent may be given. (See [Matthew 25:14-29](#)) It begins through prayer.

How far into God's grace will we take ourselves **and** others during this lifetime? Does our prayer life overly focus on asking for "this or that" as we attempt to balance on top of our wobbly path? Peace of mind comes from the result of asking to be taught the things needed to navigate our way upon His path.

What appreciation is felt at the point we comprehend the grace, patience, and love that God provides during our instruction in preparing us to be in His **HOLY** presence.

A daily prayer to consider:

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for your patience and love as I learn of your grace. Please teach me the things that you would have me know. Amen

When we are Dead and Gone

What in our existence will mattered beyond the number of those who received the *Message of Salvation* that we taught?

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