

Praise God for the Holy Spirit
An alphabet Praise Booklet of the Holy Spirit

**PRAISE GOD FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT
AN ALPHABET PRAISE BOOKLET
OF
REASONS TO PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GIFT OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT BASED ON GOD'S HOLY WORD**

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FORWARD

Just praising God for his gift of the Holy Spirit is like writing a "thank-you" note without mentioning the reason for being thankful.

So I started to list reasons why I felt I needed to be grateful for the Holy Spirit. This booklet is the result and I like to use it along with other devotional material. If it has any value to anyone besides me, all credit goes to God.

Note:

Symbols used to denote Bible versions:

KJ King James

RSV Revised Standard Version

NIV New International Version

LB Living Bible

ML Modern Language

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A IS FOR ADOPTION

FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD THEY ARE SONS OF GOD. FOR YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF **ADOPTION** WHEREBY WE CRY "ABBA FATHER". THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS TO OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST.

Romans 8:14-17 KJV

Thanks to the leading of the Holy Spirit I have been **adopted** into God's family. This means Jesus is my brother--and what a generous brother! He will share his inheritance with me.

I'm glad my thoughts about **adoption** have changed since that day long ago I cried because I was sure I was an **adopted** child because I had been scolded. My mother assured me I was born of her but then explained how wonderful **adoption** really is. I later read of a natural child who cried because all the other children in the family were **adopted**.

There are many people in the world who should cry because they have not been **adopted** by God. He wants everyone. Jesus paid the **adoption** fee. He died to make us acceptable. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, he explains all this to us. He also helps us grow and live as a child of God.

Prayer time:

I must praise God for this great plan for us as made known by the Holy Spirit.
Amen

See Galatians 4:4-8

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B IS FOR BAPTISM

JESUS SAID, "JOHN **BAPTIZED** WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE **BAPTIZED** WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT."

Acts 1:5 LB

EACH OF YOU MUST TURN FROM SIN, RETURN TO GOD, AND BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS; THEN YOU ALSO SHALL RECEIVE THIS GIFT, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Acts 2:38 18

It seems that the Holy Spirit is an essential part of **baptism**. When Jesus was **baptized** the Spirit descended as a dove. He told his disciples they would be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit. Peter said at **baptism**, we would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What does all this mean? To be **baptized** by the Spirit must mean that the Spirit surrounds us and is ready to help us. Babies who are **baptized** must be blessed with this presence hovering over them until, hopefully they become aware of the need to accept Jesus. At that time the door is opened for the Spirit to enter our heart and be a guiding and comforting force.

When I was **baptized** in a creek at the age of 12, my thoughts were not on the Holy Spirit. I was more concerned with the way I looked. I ask forgiveness now as I have come to a better understanding.

Prayer time:

I must praise and honor God for his gift of the Holy Presence in baptism. Amen

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C IS FOR COUNSELOR

JESUS SAID, "I TELL YOU A TRUTH. IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE THAT I GO AWAY. FOR IF I DO NOT GO AWAY, THE **COUNSELOR** WILL NOT COME TO YOU BUT IF I GO I WILL SEND HIM UNTO YOU.

John 16:7 RSV

THOU DOES GUIDE WITH THY **COUNSEL**.

Psalms 73:24 RSV

The **counselor** whom Jesus spoke of was the Holy Spirit. He came not only to the disciples but to us also. His advice is available at all times if we seek it. There are hundreds of **counselors** in the world--some reliable and some not. The Bible says some are ungodly.¹ But not the Holy Spirit for he is God's presence within us.

Do I really need a **counselor**? Yes, I know I do. There are decisions to make. There I times I am blind to opportunities. Some days things look bad. There are troubles to work through. I really need help and advice. How can I get it?

BE STILL	Psalm 46:10
WAIT	Psalm 27:14
HAVE FAITH	Hebrews 11:1
TRUST	Proverbs 3:5

Prayer time:

This **counselor** is truly a reason to praise God. Amen

¹ Psalm 1:1

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D IS FOR DWEL

DO YOU NOT KNOW YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE AND GOD'S SPIRIT **DWELLS** IN YOU?

1 Cor 3:16 RSV

YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY YOUR NEW NATURE IF YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVING IN YOU.

Rom. 8:9 LB

"God's Spirit living in me"---isn't that amazing? He is my guest. What kind of a home am I providing for him? No wonder David asked God for a clean heart.¹ I'd better do the same.

Why did God send his Spirit to **dwel** in us?
There are so many reasons I can't name them all.
But I guess the most important one is to give us eternal life.²

We are influenced by people living close to us. Our very contact with them changes us. For instance, parents can help mold the: lives of their children. Husbands and wives can provide help and strength. How much more influence can be felt from the presence of God's Holy Spirit actually living in you and me? Do I really pay attention to him? Or could it be that I ignore him most of the time?

Prayer time:

I'd better sit down right now and praise God for the indwelling of his Spirit.
Amen

1 psalm 51:10

2 Rom. 8: 11

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E IS FOR ETERNAL

IF ONE PLANTS THE GOOD THINGS OF THE SPIRIT HE WILL REAP THE **EVERLASTING** LIFE, WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES HIM.

Gal 6:8 LB

FOR BY THE HELP OF THE **ETERNAL** SPIRIT CHRIST WILLINGLY GAVE HIMSELF TO GOD TO DIE FOR OUR SINS --HE BEING PERFECT, WITHOUT A SINGLE SIN OR FAULT.

Heb. 9: 14 c L B

We are told the Holy Spirit is not only **eternal** himself but he desires **eternal** life for us also. How can we refuse to accept such a loving offer?

Jesus accepted the help of the Holy Spirit. We read evidence of this in the story of his temptations¹ and can sense it as he deals with the multitudes and the cross.

He holds out this same help for us. We are not used to such dependable help. He doesn't close his office weekends. He will never retire or go out of business. He is **eternal**.

He offers his help sometimes when we aren't even aware of it until it is all over. Then we wonder--why things happened, or why we were able to do certain things. Then we stop and think it had to be the urging of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer time:

Today I have another reason to praise God because of the eternal help of his Spirit. Amen

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F IS FOR FRUIT

SO EVERY SOUND TREE BEARS GOOD **FRUIT** BUT THE BAD TREE BEARS EVIL **FRUIT**.

Matt 7:17 RSV

BUT THE **FRUIT** OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF CONTROL, AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW.

Galatians 5:22 RSV

I love **fruit**. God made so many varieties and gave them such wonderful flavors. I never tire of them.

He did the same with the **fruit** of the Spirit. What a wonderful list! It contains everything we need to be well nourished and well functioning Christians. I just wonder how he is able to produce this **fruit** within us. Jeremiah might give us a clue when he said the remnant of Israel should have a soul like a well-watered garden.¹

Is my soul a well watered garden or one which is dry and hard? Can the Holy Spirit make anything grow there? If it does grow, what am I doing with the fruit? Am I sharing it with others?

Prayer Time:

I seem to have some things I need to talk over with God. Amen

¹ Jeremiah 31:12c

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G IS FOR GUARANTEE

HE WHO HAS PREPARED THIS VERY THING (ETERNAL LIFE) FOR US IS GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE SPIRIT AS A **GUARANTEE**.

2 Corinthians 5:5 RSV

IT IS GOD WHO MADE YOU AND ME INTO FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS AND COMMISSIONED US APOSTLES TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS. HE HAS PUT HIS BRAND UPON US--HIS MARK OF OWNERSHIP--AND HAS GIVEN US HIS HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR HEARTS AS A **GUARANTEE** THAT WE BELONG TO HIM.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 LB

Guarantees come with most products we buy or services we receive from dependable companies. They are written promises and usually have a time limit and certain conditions that must be met by us.

God's **guarantee** is a little different. It is not a piece of paper. It is the Holy Spirit in our hearts. It assures us we belong to God and that we have eternal life. It is not limited to two years or five years. It is not conditional to the way we use it. If we make an error, he will not cancel the contract. It has this clause about forgiveness. Unbelievable!!

But what if I don't have the money to buy this product and get this guarantee? Don't worry. Jesus paid for it. You are never too poor, too young, too sick, too wicked or too hopeless. Just believe, confess and accept.

Prayer time:

God deserves my praise for this deal with the Holy Spirit and me. Amen

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H IS FOR HELP

THE SPIRIT **HELPS** US IN OUR WEAKNESS.

Romans 8: 26a RSV

FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US THE SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY BUT OF POWER AND LOVE AND SELF CONTROL.

2 Timothy 1:7 RSV

I am weak in many ways so it is very nice to know the Holy Spirit stands ready to **help** me. I need help physically, spiritually, and mentally. What a gracious God to meet this need by sending his Holy Spirit to me!

Paul reminded Timothy that we have **help** when we are timid. That hits home to me. I am timid about speaking out about God. I can think of all kinds of excuses. Moses did the same thing, forgetting God was there to **help**.

Pharaoh sensed that Joseph had something special when he appointed him overseer. He said, "Can I find such a man as this in whom is the Spirit of God?"¹

So we not only need **help** from God's Spirit to overcome our weaknesses but also we need to choose leaders who have this same Spirit to **help** them.

Prayer time:

I rejoice in God's provision for help by means of the Holy Spirit. Amen

1 Genesis 41: 39-40 RSV

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I IS FOR INTERCESSION

AND WHEN THEY BRING YOU TO TRIAL AND DELIVER YOU UP, DO NOT BE ANXIOUS BEFOREHAND WHAT YOU ARE TO SAY, BUT SAY WHATEVER IS GIVEN TO YOU IN THAT HOUR, FOR IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAK, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Mark 13:11 RSV

THE SPIRIT HELPETH OUR INFIRMITIES FOR WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT; BUT THE SPIRIT ITSELF MAKETH **INTERCESSION** FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED.

Rom 8: 26 KJV

Intercession means pleading in behalf of one in difficulty or trouble.¹ God knows we are going to need extra help at times so he gave us an **intercessor** in the form of the Holy Spirit. Life hits us with many problems too hard for us to solve alone. So we worry and fret and pray ineffectively. That's no good.

When we don't know what to say,
And we don't know how to pray,
There's no reason to dismay,
We have God's Spirit.
When all seems dark and lost;
And our lives are tempest-tossed,
Even thoughts seem devil-bossed,
We have God's Spirit.
He himself makes intercession,
No matter what the provocation;
And we cry in exaltation,
"We have God's Spirit"

Prayer Time:

Time to praise God for **intercession**. Amen

¹ American College Dictionary Random House.

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J IS FOR JESUS

THE ANGEL SAID TO MARY, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; THEREFORE THE CHILD TO BE BORN WILL BE CALLED HOLY, THE SON OF GOD."

Luke 1:35 RSV

JOSEPH, DO NOT FEAR TO TAKE MARY FOR YOUR WIFE, FOR THAT WHICH IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. SHE WILL BEAR A SON AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME **JESUS** FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE.

Matt 1: 18-21 RSV

As we consider all the accomplishments of the Holy Spirit, none can exceed the part he played in bringing **Jesus** to the world. The Holy Spirit came to Mary; she consented to the plan and then became the Mother of our Savior.

This very presence that was in Mary is also present in we other humans. Perhaps he stands ready to conceive some kind of accomplishment in us. How has Billy Graham been able to move vast numbers to accept **Jesus**? How has Mother Teresa been able give help and hope to so many desolate and forgotten people? It has to be by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We'll never be Billy Graham or Mother Teresa but I'm sure he is waiting for us to say "yes" to the planting of a seed in our hearts that can grow into some valuable work for God.

Prayer Time:

I will praise God for the most valuable work of the Holy Spirit--**Jesus**. Amen

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K IS FOR KINGDOM

THE **KINGDOM** OF GOD IS NOT COMING WITH SIGNS TO BE OBSERVED; NOR WILL THE SAY, 'LO HERE IT IS!' OR 'THERE!' FOR BEHOLD THE **KINGDOM** OF GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF YOU.

Luke 17:20-21 RSV

FOR THE **KINGDOM** OF GOD IS NOT MEAT AND DRINK BUT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Romans 14:17 RSV

Some versions say the **kingdom** is within us and some say in our midst. In either case, we as well as the early Christians have a little trouble understanding it. Again we are thankful God sent his Holy Spirit, for Paul said, "it is righteousness, peace and joy in the holy Spirit." It must be these fruits of the Spirit help us become aware of the **kingdom** in or about us.

We will have a perfect view of the **kingdom** in heaven, but isn't it nice He gives us a preview while we are still on earth? Sometimes I am aware of it and other times I'm not. It is then I'm glad for David's prayer--"Restore unto me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with thy free Spirit."¹

Prayer time:

Today's praise must include the help of the Holy Spirit as we seek the **kingdom**.
Amen

¹ Psalm 51:12 KJV

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L IS FOR LEAD

FOR ALL WHO ARE **LED** BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE THE SONS OF GOD.

Rom 8:14 RSV

AND JESUS FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT RETURNED FROM JOROON, AND WAS **LED** BY THE SPIRIT FOR FORTY DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS, TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL.

Luke 4: 1-2 RSV

The Holy Spirit **leads**. Why did he **lead** Jesus into the wilderness? One reason may have been to show his followers that we can overcome temptation with the help of the Spirit.

The Spirit led Philip to share the story of Jesus with an Ethiopian.¹ He understood and asked to be baptized. No one knows how many he may have helped when he got home.

The Holy Spirit has **led** people all through the ages to accomplish countless things for God. Being **led** by him all kinds of opportunities are opened to us which we wouldn't have noticed at all. He can provide strength when we face temptations. Now comes the question. Are we willing to be **led**, or are we stubborn mules who won't budge no matter how hard the Spirit pulls us?

Prayer Time:

Praise to God for providing leadership. Amen

¹ Acts 8:29-39

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M IS FOR MOVE

PROPHECY CAME NOT IN OLD TIMES BY THE WILL OF MAN BUT HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE **MOVED** BY THE HOLY GHOST.

2 Peter 1:21 KJV

AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD BEGAN TO **MOVE** HIM (SAMSON) AT TIMES IN THE CAMP OF DAN.

Judges 13: 25 RSV

The word "move" here seems to be a touch or stirring of the inner person. However after the stirring, the prophets **moved** physically to do something about it. They wrote or they talked or even demonstrated points God told them to make known to the people. They risked their lives to be God's spokesmen.

I am sure the Holy Spirit is **moving** people in this day and age, too. Joni, a young woman who became a quadriplegic following a diving accident has been **moved** by the Holy Spirit to bring God's message of hope to many people. She inspires not only the handicapped but able bodied people, too. She speaks, she writes, she paints, she sings and has founded groups who in turn bring hope and help to thousands.

Perhaps God I through His Holy Spirit is trying to **move** even me. I can't be a prophet or a Joni, but there are small things I could do or say, when I am stirred up by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer time:

In my prayer I will praise God for giving the Holy Spirit the power to move people. Amen

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N IS FOR NEW

WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN HE BECOMES A BRAND **NEW** PERSON INSIDE. HE IS NOT THE SAME ANY MORE. A **NEW** LIFE HAS BEGUN!

2 Cor 5:17 LB

NOW WE ARE DISCHARGED FROM THE LAW, DEAD TO THAT WHICH HELD US CAPTIVE, SO WE SERVE NOT UNDER THE WRITTEN CODE BUT IN THE **NEW** LIFE OF THE SPIRIT.

Rom 7:6 RSV

New is an exciting word no matter what it is describing--**new** shoes, **new** baby, **new** day, **new** friend or this **new** life given to us by Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

He helps us discard old sins, old ideas, old laws, old habits and ways. Trash day is here. We need to be sure we have packed all the old in the trash bag to be carried away.

Then we start to enjoy the **new**-- **new** peace, **new** joy, **new** hope, **new** love and a host of other things. All this is possible because Jesus died for us and then sent His Holy Spirit to live in us.

Prayer time:

Time to praise God for all this. Amen

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O IS FOR OBEDIENCE

PETER...CHOSEN AND DESTINED BY GOD THE FATHER AND SANCTIFIED BY THE SPIRIT FOR **OBEDIENCE** TO JESUS CHRIST ...

1 Peter 1:2 RSV

SEEING YOU HAVE PURIFIED YOUR SOULS IN **OBEYING**: THE TRUTH THROUGH THE SPIRIT ...
SEE THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A PURE HEART FERVANTLY.

1 Peter 1:22 KJV

All of us need to **obey** God. Even Jesus "humbled himself and became **obedient** unto death."¹ It was something God asked him to do so we could be saved.

It is hard to **obey**. Not only children but also adults need help here. So God made his Holy Spirit available to help us. Learning to **obey** does not come painlessly, Sometimes it takes a little suffering before we learn. Even this was evidently true in Jesus' case. Although he was a Son, Jesus learned **obedience** through what he suffered; and being perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.²

I'm grateful for the way the Holy Spirit stands ready to help.

Prayer time:

Praise to God for this help. Amen

1 Phil 2: 8

2 Heb 5:8-9

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P IS FOR POWER

BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE **POWER** WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT SHALL COME UPON YOU.

Acts 1: 8 KJV

AND JESUS RETURNED IN THE **POWER** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO GALILLEE.

Luke 4:14 RSV

Power is the strength or ability to accomplish something. There is **power** used for good and **power** used for evil. The Holy Spirit stands ready to provide the kind we need as children of God.

We need the **power** to love and not to hate. We need the **power** to work and not to faint. We need the **power** to speak the right words at the right time. Paul told Timothy that God did not give the Spirit of timidity but of **power** and love and a sound mind.¹

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus with **power** at the time of his temptations. All of us could use that kind of **power**. We seem to be constantly bombarded with evil suggestions.

We can be thankful for the **power** plant right in our own hearts.

Prayer time:

Once again we praise you God for power given through your holy spirit. Amen

1 2 Tim 1:7

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Q IS FOR QUENCH

QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT.

1 Thess. 5:19 KJV

DO NOT STIFLE THE SPIRIT.

1 Thess. 5:19 ML

DO NOT SMOTHER THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1 Thess 5:19 LB

DO NOT DAMPEN THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1 Thess 5:19 Phillips

All the above versions warn us about the way we may treat the Holy Spirit. Stephen had a warning too, when he was arrested and brought before the Council. He asked, "Must you ever resist the Holy Spirit?"

The Holy Spirit maybe a little like a fire. A fire will go out if it isn't fed, if it is smothered or dampened, or if the fuel is too far apart. I could quench the Spirit under the same conditions. It needs fuel or food--Bible study, sermons, retreats etc. I must not smother it by too many non-essentials in my life. I must not dampen or resist it by ignoring or putting off the impulses it tries to give me. I need to cling close to other Christians for one log keeps the other burning.

Prayer time:

I just praise God again for His Holy Spirit and ask for help so I do not quench it. Amen

1 Acts 7

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R IS FOR RENEWAL

CREATE IN ME A CLEAR HEART, O GOD; AND **RENEW** A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

Psalm 51: 10 RSV

BE **RENEWED** IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND.

Ephesians 4:23 KJV

Some detergent companies advertise their product as making the laundry look like new. Some exercise and diet programs claim you will be a new person if you follow their advice. Some individuals seem to have found **renewal** in medication or transplant operations. We seem to always be searching for **renewal**.

When we accepted Christ we became new creatures.¹ We felt clean. But there seems to come a time when we need a **renewal**. David prayed for a clean heart and a right spirit. Paul pleaded for the Ephesians to be **renewed** in the Spirit of their minds.

Again we can thank God for his Holy Spirit who help; us "by the washing of regeneration and the **renewal** in the Holy Spirit."²

Prayer time:

Much praise and thanks must be given to God for giving us the means of **renewal**.

1 2 Cor 5:17

2 Titus 3:5

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S IS FOR SPEAKS

HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT **SAYS** TO THE CHURCHES.

Rev. 2:7 RSV

...BY THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER **SPEAKING** THROUGH YOU.

Matt. 10:19-21 RSV

In Revelation 2 and 3 we find messages for churches. At the close of each message we read: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." From this we conclude that part of the work of the Spirit is to **speak** to churches, both past and present.

His messages include praise, warnings, criticism and suggestions. Churches are people. Therefore I am one of the persons he is **speaking** to and through. Whether I work alone or in a committee, I can be sure he is there to suggest and advise.

The important question for me then is; "Am I listening?" Not always. I am a little deaf and often distracted. I have "great ideas" of my own which I hate to give up. I act too fast not waiting for answers.

Prayer time:

After I praise God for the Holy Spirit once more, I'd better ask him to give me ears that hear. Amen

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T IS FOR TEACH

HE SHALL **TEACH** YOU ALL THINGS AND BRING TO REMEMBRANCE ALL I HAVE SAID TO YOU.

John 14:26b RSV

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL **TEACH** YOU IN THAT VERY HOUR WHAT YOU OUGHT TO SAY.

Luke 12: 12 RSV

How can the Holy Spirit **teach** me? In order for me to hear his **teaching** I believe I'll have to have some quiet time. When I read my Bible I'll need to keep my mind open to his messages. When I pray, I'd better quit doing all the talking. Instead of feeling self pity in hard times, I guess I need learn some lessons.

What can he teach me? Jesus said the Holy Spirit will teach all things.¹

When can he teach me? Jesus said he would be with us always.² He does this through the Holy Spirit.

Where can he teach me? David discovered that we can never get away from God's Spirit.³ He can **teach** me any where.

Prayer time:

It's time I praise God for giving me a personal tutor. Amen

1 John 14:26

2 Matthew 28: 20

3 Psalms 139

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U IS FOR UNITY

I THEREFORE BEG YOU TO LEAD A LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALLING TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED, WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS, WITH PATIENCE FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, EAGER TO MAINTAIN THE **UNITY** OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

Ephesians 4:13 RSV

BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS WHEN BROTHERS DWELL TOGETHER IN **UNITY**.

Psalms 133:1 RSV

Paul pleaded for **unity** of the Spirit. This does not come easily. He reminded us we need to be meek, patient, forbearing, and loving. All of these are fruits of the Spirit.¹ If we really want unity we need to use the tools provided to us by the Holy Spirit.

There is no harmony when individuals all sing whatever note they choose. They must sing notes that blend together. In the same way groups cannot obtain **unity** when each insists on doing his or her own thing. Our talents are varied and this is good. But we need to blend them so all are aiming for the same goal.

How wonderful that God has provided his Holy Spirit to aid us in this quest for unity.

Prayer time:

Praise God for another of his wise plans. Amen

¹ Galatians 5:22

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V IS FOR VINDICATED

HE (JESUS) WAS MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH; **VINDICATED** IN THE SPIRIT; SEEN BY ANGELS; PREACHED AMONG NATIONS; BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD AND TAKEN UP INTO GLORY.

1 Timothy 3:16 RSV

Vindicated means justified (KJV), proved spotless and pure (LB) or to be just and righteous (dictionary). Jesus was **vindicated**. We can all believe that. Why does this verse tell us he was **vindicated** in the Spirit? We know he was in close contact with God his Father. Is this what it means, "to be in the Spirit"? He had the aura of the Spirit about him.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we too, can be **vindicated**. Do we need to be in the Spirit too? Yes, I'm sure we do. He helps us understand this wonderful thing Jesus has done for us. He assures us of God's love and concern for us.

Time after time we find ourselves overwhelmed by God's ways. He deserves our praise and devotion every day of our lives.

Prayer time:

Give me words, O God, as I turn to you. Amen

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W IS FOR WORSHIP

THE TIME IS COMING WHEN WE WILL NO LONGER BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER TO **WORSHIP** THE FATHER HERE OR IN JERUSALEM. FOR IT IS NOT WHERE WE **WORSHIP** THAT COUNTS, BUT HOW WE **WORSHIP**--IS OUR **WORSHIP** SPIRITUAL AND REAL? DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP? FOR GOD IS SPIRIT AND WE MUST HAVE HIS HELP TO **WORSHIP**, AS WE SHOULD.

John 4:21-24 LB

GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO **WORSHIP** HIM MUST **WORSHIP** IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.

John 4:24 RSV

Am I **worshipping** in Spirit and truth? I go to church regularly. I join in the hymns. Of course I must admit I don't always pay attention to the words I sing. I read when the congregation is asked to read. I pray when asked to pray. I give an offering and I try to listen attentively to the sermon. Is this **worshipping** in Spirit and in truth?

I know I can **worship** anywhere--in my kitchen, in my garden, in my car, in my bed--anywhere. Sometimes I believe these unexpected moments of praise and thanksgivings are more real than my time in church. But it shouldn't be that way. The Holy Spirit stands ready to help us **worship** any time, anywhere. I just need to be more conscious of his guidance at all times. He can help me make my **worship** experiences real and true.

Prayer Time:

It is time for one of those **worship** experiences now as I turn to Him in praise.
Amen

Praise God for the Holy Spirit

An alphabet Praise Booklet of the Holy Spirit

X IS FOR EXALT

MY SOUL DOTH MAGNIFY THE LORD, AND MY SPIRIT HATH REJOICED IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

Luke 1:46-47

EXALT YE THE LORD OUR GOD, AND WORSHIP AT HIS FOOTSTOOL; FOR HE IS HOLY.

Psalm 99: 5 KJV

Although God is **exalted** many times in the Bible, it seems to me no one did it better than Mary in her beautiful Magnificat.¹ Her soul which had been touched by the Holy Spirit sang out in adoration and praise. She spoke of her soul magnifying the Lord. When we magnify things they become clearer and closer to us. All of this happened because of her response to the Holy Spirit.

In a lesser way, we too, are able to exalt God. We are able to praise him and honor him before others. We can tell of his wonderful deeds and his unfailing love. This is part of the joy that comes out when we have a close relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Prayer time:

Once again we must Praise and exalt God for the help of his spirit. Amen

¹ Luke 1:45-55

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Y IS FOR YEARN

O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, KILLING THE PROPHETS AND STONING THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO YOU! HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED YOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER AS A HEN GATHERS HER BROOD UNDER HER WINGS, AND YOU WOULD NOT!

Matthew 23: 37 RSV

THE LORD IS NOT SLOW ABOUT HIS PROMISE. AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS, BUT IS FORBEARING TOWARD YOU, ' NOT WISHING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD REACH REPENTANCE.

2 PETER 3:9 RSV

Was there ever such **yearning** expressed as in the above verses? Jesus wanted so much to show his love to Jerusalem but they ignored him. Then there is God putting off the dreaded day of decision because he does not want any to perish.

What **yearning** there must be in the Holy Spirit as he waits for people to accept him. God gave us the will to make up our own minds. Jesus said we cannot serve two masters.¹ There is such a great reward when we accept and such awful results when we do not. The most severe warning in the Bible, I believe, comes to those who blaspheme the Holy Spirit.²

Prayer time:

My thanks and praise to the God who yearns over me and sent His Holy spirit to make this yearning known to me. Amen

¹ Matt 6:24

² Mark 3:28-30

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Z IS FOR ZEST

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH, AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; YEA AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND MAIDSERVANTS IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY.

Acts 2:17-18 RSV

God promised to pour out his Spirit on us. Why did he want to do this? Because it adds **zest** to our lives.

What is **zest**? It can mean enjoyment, keenness or relish. All of these words can apply to the positive way the Holy Spirit affects us. Think about "relish". When relish is added to foods it enhances the flavor and gives us more enjoyment.

We marvel at the happenings on the day of Pentecost **1** when the Holy Spirit came in power to those very ordinary men known as disciples. Their message took on new flavor and keenness. They were able to convince thousands to accept Jesus and repent. This **zest** can change us, too.

Prayer time:

I must praise God for the zest he can add to our lives. Amen

1 Acts 2