

## **Pathway to Perfect Peace**

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”

Isaiah 26:3 NLT

“I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night.”

Psalms 63:6 NLT

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.”

Romans 8:14, 16 NLT

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he [Jesus] of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

— John 7:38,39

If anyone ever understood the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus’ earthly ministry was completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit. From His birth, nothing that happened to Him and nothing He did was apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Moreover, when He sat down at the Father’s right hand in Heaven, the first thing He did was send the Holy Spirit upon the Church on the day of Pentecost.

The ministry of Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit are inseparable. In fact, when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit’s future ministry to His Church in John 7:38 and 39, He was describing the Holy Spirit’s present ministry through *Him* during His earthly ministry: “...Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he [Jesus] of the Spirit)....” The Greek word translated “flow” is a form of the word *rheo*, which pictures a rushing stream, so full that it actually overflows its banks.

This is how Jesus described His own relationship with the Holy Spirit as He walked this earth — and how He foretold the nature of the relationship that those who believed on Him would one day experience with the Holy Spirit after Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus depended on the continual flow of the Holy Spirit's power, wisdom, counsel, and ability through Him and upon Him during His earthly ministry. And as He is, so are we to be in this world (1 John 4:17).

**So let's take it further and consider these important facts about the workings of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus on this earth:**

- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:35).
- “The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
- **Jesus' conception** in Mary's womb was confirmed by Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, when she was filled with the Holy Spirit (see Luke 1:41-45).
- **Jesus' dedication** as a baby in the temple was accompanied by the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit as Simeon, the priest, and Anna, the prophetess, prophesied over Him (see Luke 2:25-38).
- **Jesus' public ministry** was announced by John the Baptist, who, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, declared that Jesus was the One who would baptise in the Holy Spirit and with fire (**Luke 3:16NLT** John 1:33; Acts 11:16).
- “John answered their questions by saying, “I baptise you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am— so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
- **Jesus spoke of the baptism in the Holy Spirit** and commanded the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they had received this special endowment of power (see Luke 24:49;

- ““And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”
- **Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit** at the Jordan River when He was baptised by John the Baptist ( **Luke 3:22**).
- “and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy. ””
- **Jesus was given the fullness of the Spirit** without measure (see John 3:34).
- “For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit.”
- **Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit** ( Luke 4:NLT).“Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,”
- **Jesus returned from the wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit** (see Luke 4:14NLT).“Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.”
- **Jesus stated publicly that His ministry was a result of the power of the Holy Spirit** (see Luke 4:18).““The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,”
- **Jesus proclaimed that we must be born again by the Holy Spirit** (see John 3:5-8).
- **Jesus warned about the danger of blaspheming the Holy Spirit** (**Luke 12:10 NLT**).“Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”
- **Jesus taught about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit** (**Luke 11:13NLT** “So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.””
- **Jesus offered Himself upon the Cross, like a Lamb without spot or blemish, through the power of the Holy Spirit** (**Hebrews 9:14**).“Just think how much more the blood of Christ

will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.”

- **Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples** after His resurrection (see John 20:22NLT). “Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- **Jesus, once exalted to the right hand of the Father, poured out the Holy Spirit** upon the Church on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2:2-4, 2:33).
- “And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
- Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.”
- Acts of the Apostles 2:4, 33 NLT
- **Jesus instructed the disciples through the ministry of the Holy Spirit** (see Acts 1:2NLT). “until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.”
- **Jesus and the Holy Spirit were always together when He was on the earth.** If Jesus needed this kind of ongoing partnership with the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish His divine role in the earth, you must have that same partnership with the Spirit of God to fulfil what God has asked you to do. The Holy Spirit has been sent by Jesus to give you everything you need to be a victorious, successful, faith-filled, overcoming child of God in this world. With Him at your side, you are equipped for every situation you could ever face in life.

Because no one has ever known the Holy Spirit better than Jesus, we must look to see what Jesus had to say about His personality, His power, His gifts, and His character. In John 14, 15, and 16, the Lord Jesus Christ gives us important instruction about how to develop our own partnership with the Holy Spirit.