

09.30.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: Praying for the Spirit

Scripture Reading: [Acts 2:1-13](#)

Reflection: Rev. Amy Schenkel

Devotionals like these often have the same template: most of the page is filled with the thoughts of the author followed by a few sentences of prayer. Church meetings often follow the same pattern: most of the agenda is filled with conversations and decisions about important issues followed by a short time of prayer. Even sermons fill 20-30 minutes of a worship service, followed by a 2-3 minute prayer.

I wonder if these patterns have informed the way we expect the Holy Spirit will show up in our lives. We are more comfortable studying, considering, and analyzing the Spirit with our heads than we are to opening up our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit through prayer.

In Acts 2 we see the Spirit is poured out as an answer to prayer, so today's devotional invites us to spend more time in prayer than in academic thinking. May God answer our prayers!

Prayer:

Lord,

We pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

Pour out water to quench our thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. Pour out your Spirit on our descendants, and your blessing on our children. (Isaiah 44:3)

Pour out your Spirit on our neighborhoods, institutions, communities, and leaders of these communities, which we now name: (space to name these silently or aloud)

Come Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will reveal Christ to us.

Build up the body of Christ until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (Eph. 4:13)

Speak to us about where, in each of our lives, we need to be more Christ-like, reflecting the love and life of Christ to God and to our neighbor. (space for silent reflection)

Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will shape us in the character of Christ.

Produce in us this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. (Galatians 5:22-25)

Produce the fruit of the Spirit in our communities, too. We especially pray for places in our neighborhoods and communities where the growth of the fruit is not found or is stunted. Bring new life and healing to... (space to name the broken places in our communities that need restoration)

Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will equip us for the mission of Christ.

Give us the Spirit's power so we can be your witnesses, telling people about you everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Spirit, fill us with the courage and wisdom to be the church, sent into the world on Christ's mission. We especially pray for discernment for how to be, what to say, and how to act in the context of these relationships: (space to name the missional opportunities before us)

Come, Holy Spirit.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

This prayer liturgy was developed by the Resonate Global Mission Great Lakes Team that I lead, and we use the prayer statements in bold to pray for the churches and ministry leaders we work with. This week, write down the statements in bold and put them where you can see them, to remember to pray this for yourself and others.

If you would like a sticker with this prayer on it, drop me an email (aschenkel@crcna.org) and let me know how many your household needs!

Song for today:

[Holy Spirit You are Welcome Here](#)