

To Know To Believe To Live – Module 8 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

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THE HOLY SPIRIT

- I. An Initial Encounter with the Holy Spirit: The Lord, the Giver of Life (Nicene Creed):
- A. Life is important to us. We all want a long, happy, and healthy life.
 - B. We receive the breath of life (i.e., the Holy Spirit) from God; this is called the source, the spark, of all biological life.
 - C. Because humans are made in the image and likeness of God, our relationship with the Holy Spirit does not end at the conclusion of our life.
 - D. DISCUSSION: Catholic dogmatic belief holds that the Holy Spirit is the giver of life. The Holy Spirit accompanies our bodies and souls throughout our lives (divinity dwells within us) and into eternity because of our unique and privileged relationship as those made in the image and likeness of God.
 - 1. Is there anything about this belief that is new, revelatory, or confirming for you in light of this brief presentation?
 - 2. If all of us are temples of the Holy Spirit, how might this impact your life and your relationship with yourself and other people?
- II. Another Significant Encounter with the Holy Spirit: Baptism
- A. In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit by which we are made adopted children of God (heirs), brothers/sisters of Jesus Christ with whom we share his risen life, and filled with the Holy Spirit to live out our calling as sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus.
 - B. Baptism is not just a cleansing from sin (important as that is); by it we are ‘born anew.’ It is a birth to supernatural life, a sharing in the life of God.

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C. DISCUSSION: Baptism is very important in all Christian denominations. Through it, the Holy Spirit bestows many eternal gifts upon us, gifts that shift our relationship significantly with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

1. Of those gifts, which one do you find most compelling/attractive/important in your life? Why?

III. Another Significant Encounter with the Holy Spirit: Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation

A. These gifts are given to us in baptism but are sealed in Confirmation so we may actually live out our calling as God's sons/daughters as we grow in virtue.

B. Confirmation is like a booster shot that strengthens what is already within us.

C. The Seven Gifts:

1. Wisdom: "gift that allows a person to understand things from God's point of view. . . and then choose Godly solutions to problems" (Modesto)
2. Understanding: "allows us to grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essences of the truths of the Christian faith. It gives us certitude about our beliefs that move us beyond faith." (Modesto)
3. Counsel (right judgment): ability to judge how best to act after looking at alternatives and considering the consequences; when well developed, it is almost intuitive. (Modesto)
Fortitude (courage): ability to follow our convictions and conscience no matter what the cost (Lansing)
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- 5.

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6. Knowledge: gift of objectivity, of seeing the world and the things around us as they really are, rather than as we would like them to be (Lansing)

7. Piety (reverence): A willingness to worship and serve God that is beyond a sense of duty (Modesto)

8. Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe in God's Presence): An understanding that we are creatures and not God and an awareness that everything we are/have is a gift from God and that despite our creatureliness, God loves us beyond all measure (Modesto/Lansing)

D. DISCUSSION:

1. Which of these gifts is most/least developed in your life?

2. Around which gift did this presentation give you a better understanding/awareness of what you received at your baptism which was perfected by the Holy Spirit in your Confirmation?

3. Which gift are you sensing a call from the Lord to cultivate at this point in your life?

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IV. Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God (©Text and Music by: Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend)

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road to sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

V. Ongoing Reflection:

Reflect on where you are currently in knowing, believing, and living the meaning of the Holy Spirit in your life today and the difference it makes for you AND how you might be invited to take another step forward growing in this area of faith.

VI. A Prayer:

O God, send forth your Holy Spirit into my heart that I may perceive,
into my mind that I may remember, and into my soul that I may meditate.
Inspire me to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness, and mercy.
Teach, guide, and direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end.
May your grace ever help and correct me,
and may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high, for the sake of your infinite mercy. Amen
(St. Anthony of Padua)

VII. Bibliography/Credits:

- “Be Still and Know That I Am God,” by Christopher Walker and Sr. Paule Freeburg, DC is used with permission by Oregon Catholic Press.
- “Called to Live in the Holy Spirit,” by Abp. Charles Chaput.
<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=8322>
- “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God (with Gabriel’s Oboe),” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend is used with permission of Thank You Music. Copyright 2006.
- “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” St. Joseph Catholic Church, Modesto, CA. <https://www.stjmod.com/7-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit.html>
- “What Do We Believe About the Holy Spirit.” Diocese of Lansing. <https://faithmag.com/what-do-we-believe-about-holy-spirit>

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