

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S PLAN FOR US

God has a plan for every one of us. God, through His prophet, says; “For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). This plan can only come through if we always listen to God and abide by His commands, directions, and will. The Holy Spirit was given to us to help us live according to God’s plan for us. God had a plan for His beloved Son; Jesus Christ and to accomplish the plan He was accompanied by the Holy Spirit which was made known to us during His baptism. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. Jesus sent His apostles on a mission and promised them the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18). The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles in their work of evangelization; He encouraged them when they lost hope and strengthened them when they suffered persecution. The Catholic Church has suffered a lot of crises and persecutions both from her members and non-members and she still exists and waxes strong because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes the Church stronger in the face of crisis. Let us look at the works of the Holy Spirit in the lives of some good people. Mother Mary conceived a son through the power of the Holy Spirit, breaking the natural way of conception. Even if our sickness has gone beyond medical treatment, the Holy Spirit can heal us if we trust Him and invite Him into our lives. After the death of Jesus, the apostles were filled with fear and as a result, they locked themselves up in the upper room but when they received the Holy Spirit their fears were dispelled, and they preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ with great courage and boldness. Are you afraid of anything or worried? INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DISPEL YOUR FEARS AND STRENGTHEN YOU. Jesus Christ has the power and is ever ready to assist us with the Holy Spirit if we desire the Holy Spirit and pray. Look at what Jesus said: “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth...” (John 14:16-17). When Samuel finished anointing David, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David, and from that day on the Holy Spirit helped him to achieve a lot; he became the greatest king Israel has ever had and a king after God’s own heart. (1 Samuel 16:13).

However, we need God's approval and assistance to live according to God’s plan. The Holy Spirit is always available to help us. Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit gives us the power to accomplish a lot of things: Priests need the Holy Spirit to direct them in their ministries, farmers need the Holy Spirit to direct them in their farm work, teachers need the Holy Spirit to help them understand the best way to teach their students, students need the Holy Spirit to help them learn better, all categories of workers need the Holy Spirit to strengthen them and help them make better or fruitful decisions and families need the Holy Spirit to maintain their love and help them forgive each other when anyone errs. WE CANNOT PLEASE GOD WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins (John 16:8-15), that is, helps us realize how sinful we are and see the need to seek God’s forgiveness and mercy. Today’s Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) presented us with the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation; Jesus after His resurrection came to His Apostles, breathed on them, and told them to receive the Holy

Spirit and that whose sins they forgive are forgiven. The Holy Spirit empowers priests to forgive sins in the name of the Trinity. During priestly ordinations, the ordaining bishop and all present pray that God bless the candidate for the priesthood with the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower them to administer the sacraments. King David knew the importance of the Holy Spirit, which is why when he sinned against God, he begged Him not to take away His Spirit from him (Psalm 51:11). DAVID REVEALS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN LEAVE A PERSON WHO TREATED OTHERS UNJUSTLY OR WICKEDLY. The Holy Spirit helps us greatly in our prayers (Romans 8:26). We don't know how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit does. WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES OR ACTIVITIES. Jesus says to us; "So I say to you, ask and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who searches finds and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg will give a scorpion? If you then who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:9-13). COME HOLY SPIRIT, WE NEED YOU, COME HOLY SPIRIT WE PRAY, COME WITH ANOINTING AND POWER, COME IN A MOST SPECIAL WAY.