

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

What are some of the greatest gifts you have ever received? It's okay to think of physical presents—the great new outfit, the electronic game, the gift certificate. It's also okay to think of some gifts from God like our beautiful world, our senses, our families, and the gift of life itself.



But now we're at the end of our study of Walter Scott's "Five-Finger Exercise," and we discover that after hearing the gospel, repenting, and being baptized, God gives us forgiveness and the Holy Spirit.

What kind of gift is the Holy Spirit? God's Spirit doesn't come wrapped in a package under the tree or at our doorstep.

The Holy Spirit is a part of God's nature. You may hear the phrase "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," or "in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit" at the end of a prayer. These are different parts of God's nature, and different ways that God is revealed.

The Holy Spirit is a giver of gifts. God loves to give us good things! Some of these gifts are attitudes about life that help us love God and other people.

The Holy Spirit is a guide through life's ups and downs. When we feel close to God, or to the risen Christ, it is God's Spirit that helps us feel that presence. When we are depressed or frightened, God's Spirit gives us strength and hope. Even when we don't realize it, the Holy Spirit helps us and gives us what we need most.

Prayer of preparation: *Dear God, you are so awesome, so wonderful. You are more than I can ever imagine. Make me aware of the power of your Spirit within me. Tune me to the voice within my conscience, that voice that is not mine, but yours. Help me to discover the gifts I have which come from you, and open my life so that I can pour them out. Amen.*