



Theme: A Better Life in the Holy Spirit

"Baptism and the Holy Spirit"



You also can get these Meditation Moments each day directly on your phone. Just text "**med moments**" to **970-426-0700** to receive the **daily Meditation Moment** each morning and start your day grounded in faith and peace.

Weekly Memory Verse:

¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. – Mark 1:10

Meditation Moments for Monday, August 25 – Read Mark 1:9-11. Mark's gospel is concise and action-oriented, so it's no surprise that he gave the shortest account of Jesus' baptism we have. The text simply tells what happened, not what led to it or how the participants felt. But what happened set the stage for Jesus' entire ministry. He was baptized; the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove, and the voice from heaven affirmed his divine sonship.



Mark used the Greek verb "schizo" to portray what Jesus saw happen to "heaven," which in New Testament Greek meant the place where God dwells. Mark 15:38 used the same verb, saying the Temple veil was torn in two as Jesus died. Another image for this description is defining a moment where it feels like heaven and earth touch. It is both a holy and active scene being described. Have you ever had a moment in life where it felt like heaven and earth touched? In what ways has Jesus' life and death "torn open" heaven for you, and allowed you to move into a closer relationship with God?





We sometimes think that the Holy Spirit didn't show up until Pentecost, after Jesus' resurrection. However, the Bible, using words that also mean "breath" or "wind," describes God's Spirit at work throughout history, even at creation in Genesis 1:2. In what ways have you sensed God's Spirit guiding, comforting or encouraging you?

(Meditation Moments for August 25 to 30, 2025 – For more, go to www.summitdurango.org)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that because of your baptism, your life, death and resurrection, I, too, may hear God say to me, "You are my child, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." May I hear these words daily from you. Amen.


Tuesday, August 26 – Read **John 3:1-8**. Nicodemus, a religious leader, came to Jesus at night with questions. This story is a great reminder of how God wants us to come with questions as that helps to deepen our faith. Jesus replies using the metaphor of being "born again" to explain the vital truth of spiritual rebirth through the Holy Spirit. This challenged Nicodemus' prior understanding of faith and salvation, just as it may challenge ours. Jesus said faith isn't just about following rules, but about experiencing a deep, personal renewal from the Holy Spirit.

 Nicodemus' physical birth made him a Hebrew. Jesus said that joining God's kingdom took being "born again" through the Spirit. N.T. Wright says his commentary *John for Everyone, Part 1*, "The spirit is on the move, like a fresh spring breeze (... the word for 'wind', in both Hebrew and Greek, is the same word as you'd use for 'spirit') letting the breeze in can be very inconvenient, especially for the Nicodemus's of this world who suppose they have got things tidied up, labelled and sorted into neat piles." How can you open your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit's renewal today?

 In his *Daily Bible Study Series: The Gospel of John, Volume 1*, Scholar William Barclay told of a man whose life the Spirit changed from constant drunkenness to working and caring for his family. Skeptical friends said he surely didn't believe in miracles. He replied, "I don't know whether [Jesus] turned water into wine when he was in Palestine, but I do know that in my own house and home he has turned beer into furniture!" In what ways has the fresh wind of the Spirit most changed your life for the better?

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit! Blow through the stale, neglected corners of my heart and mind, making me anew in your image and giving me the power to bless all those who know me. Amen.

Wednesday, August 27 – Read **Matthew 3:5-11, 15-16 and John 20:19-22**. Today's passages showed two pivotal moments at the beginning and continuation of a new spiritual era. First, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, giving us more details than we read about in Mark's Gospel on Monday. Then, the resurrected Jesus empowered his disciples. From John's prophecy of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit to Jesus breathing the Spirit into his disciples, God's presence was transforming and empowering believers. The spiritual era John pointed toward, and Jesus made fully real, continues today through the Holy Spirit's work.

 John said the coming One, Jesus, would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Scholar William Barclay in his commentary *Daily Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew*, noted that John was, "thinking and speaking, not in terms of the Christian doctrine of the Holy Spirit, but in terms of the Jewish doctrine of the Spirit." Hebrews believed God's Spirit brought life, power, new creation, God's truth and the ability to understand that truth. How did those ideas set the basis

for Jesus' teaching about the personal Holy Spirit? Which of those gifts do you most value?



John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, and Jesus himself submitted to baptism to "fulfill all righteousness." Later, the disciples waited as Jesus told them to before receiving the Holy Spirit. In your spiritual journey, too, preparation and obedience are crucial. What steps can you take to prepare your heart for God's work in your life? How might obedience to God's leading open new doors for spiritual growth?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I open my heart to your baptism of me with the Holy Spirit. Create in me a new life of power, truth and a willingness to understand what you are teaching me. Amen.*

Thursday, August 28 – Read **John 14:16-18 and 26-27**. In Biblical Greek, the word *paraklētos* (like the Hebrew *rûah*) had multiple English analogs. *Paraklētos* can be translated most directly as, "one called alongside," especially to help in a court setting. Another way to think of it is as an "advocate," or someone that does for us what we might not be able to do for ourselves. English translators most commonly use the words Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, or Companion. For the disciples, it was impossible to imagine Jesus' ministry going on without him present. Just before his crucifixion, Jesus stressed that he was not abandoning the disciples. He promised them the Holy Spirit as the "paraclete," a Companion who would fill the role Jesus had filled, different yet the same. Jesus knew his disciples would face a frightening, hostile world after his departure, but he promised them the Holy Spirit as a constant source of comfort and guidance.



Jesus said in verse 27 words that we often say at funerals, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid." They could have that peace even when facing hostile threats like we read about in Mark 13:9-11. Has the kind of "peace" the world offers left you feeling empty and purposeless? How might your daily life change if you actively sought the Holy Spirit's wisdom and peace in your decisions, relationships, and challenges?





Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a teacher who will remind us of his teachings. The Holy Spirit did not and does not replace Jesus, but rather, in a way beyond our full understanding, is Jesus' presence with us, now and until the end of time and space as we know it, or "forever" as we read in verse 16. In a recent challenge or decision, how might actively seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance have shaped your approach? What can help you regularly "tune in" to the Spirit's teaching in your daily life?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you promised, "I won't leave you as orphans, I will come to you." Thank you for always being my Companion and Comforter, even when my circumstances seem overwhelming. Amen.*

Friday, August 29 – Read **John 7:37-39**. The Feast of Tabernacles was a celebration remembering God's provision in the wilderness. Priests drew water daily at the Pool of


Siloam, and poured it out in the Temple, reciting Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Against that backdrop Jesus dramatically invited all who believed in him to drink "living water." Jesus boldly declared himself the source of living water, inviting all who were thirsty to come to him.

 Israel was observing an annual ritual, which could become just "going through the motions." But Jesus' call was personal. "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me ..." Jesus offered himself as the source of living water, promising the Holy Spirit to those who believe. When have you felt spiritually thirsty? How could opening your life to the Holy Spirit's presence quench that thirst and transform your daily life?

 Jesus spoke about "rivers of living water" flowing from within believers, referring to the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. This imagery suggested an abundance that overflows, impacting not just the individual, but those around them. How might the Spirit's work in your life extend beyond personal transformation to influence others? In what ways can you be a channel of God's love and grace to those in your community?

Prayer: *God in three persons, blessed Trinity, I am grateful for all the ways you reveal yourself. You save and forgive me, quench my inner thirst, and guide me in all my steps. Amen.*

Saturday, August 30 – Read **John 16:12-15 and Matthew 28:18-20**. In the closing moments of his earthly ministry, Jesus prepared his followers for a new chapter. John recorded Jesus' teaching about "the Father," himself and "the Spirit," not as three separate beings, but one God in three persons. The greatest theologians can't articulate this concept in ways that the human imagination can readily process. The three persons of the Trinity are close in a manner that goes beyond the closest human relationships. Today's passages captured the promise of the Holy Spirit and the Great Commission. These words offered the disciples comfort and direction in uncertain times. Jesus' promise of the Spirit's guidance and the call to share his message still resonate today. Our sermon series reminds us of God's presence through the Spirit offers wisdom, understanding, and transformative power for our daily lives, at every stage of our faith journey.

 Some popular sources claim a secretive church council "invented" the Christian belief in the Trinity in a dark corner of the 4th or 5th century. But in Matthew 28:19, Jesus the victor, risen from the dead, made the Trinity central in his Great Commission: "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." He didn't explain the Trinity; he just stated it as reality. Based on that reality, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would guide his followers into all truth, giving them power to share his message worldwide. Scholar N.T. Wright wrote in his book, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*, "Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet." Do you find the mystery of the Trinity an obstacle to faith, or can you value it as a way of expressing God's constant guiding presence with you? How does trusting that Jesus has ultimate

authority and is always with you affect how you face challenges or doubts in your life? How might this trust shape your approach to serving others?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, guide me by your Spirit each day. I ask for a teachable spirit so I might know more about you and your will for me. Thank you for being patient with me. Amen.*