

Title: Spirit Gives Life

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 4/20/25

Good morning. Let's pray, shall we. Holy Ghost, you have raised Christ from the dead, and you have lifted up His name, Jesus, above every name. We are gathered here under that name. We are adopted into that name. We have been bought by the blood of Jesus to be grafted in to be His bloodline, to be His children, to be His priests, to be His kingdom. We honor what you have done. You did not leave Him, but you raised Him from the dead, that we would have victory in all things through Jesus the Christ. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Today I will be reading out of the English Standard Version (ESV). The Gospel of Jesus is the hope of all the ages. The hope of ages past, the present age, and the age to come.

Acts 2:22-33, 36- ESV

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This, Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and you killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. For David says concerning Jesus, "I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced. My flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life. You will make me full of gladness with Your presence." Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would set one of his descendants on his throne. He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus, God raised up, and of that, we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." Amen.

Verse 36, *"Let all of the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him," this is Jesus, 'both Lord and Christ. This Jesus, whom you crucified. Now, when they heard this, they were cut to the heart."*

The glory of this day is when your soul realizes that your actions killed Jesus. You and I, we killed Jesus. A man who walked on the Earth, full of life, full of blessing, only doing good, healing the sick, casting out the demons, cleansing the lepers, and raising the dead. Whenever anyone asked, "Are you willing, Lord?" He said, "Yes, I'm willing." He was full of grace and truth, revealing how good God is. God is not an angry God. God is a Father who is heavenly in the heavenly places. He loves the world so much that He would give His only Son to die for us. But, He didn't have to give up His life. He laid it in our hands and we killed Him. We said, "Crucify Him," and you realize that these sins that you have done have caused the Christ Man to be on the cross. The glory of this day is that, He paid the penalty of your sin so that death doesn't have to come to you.

But what happens if you sin again? The resurrection shows us that death has a victory. God can forgive the sin, but what happens when He goes into the grave? Can He overcome what happens to me if I sin again? Could He overcome the future? Could He overcome the future

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generations that were going to sin after Him? Because He paid the price for the sins committed, can He pay the price for the future? By His resurrection, He says, "I can because death doesn't touch Me. I'm alive and My blood flows, and I am now the High Priest with the blood that covers the sin of your soul forever. I have the keys. I shut the door and I open the door to whomever I let in, and whoever I want to stay out."

This is the victory. You must know the One who has the keys. He says, "Whatever door I open is open, and whatever door I shut is shut. Wherever I tell you to go, you will go. I have the keys to Hades and I have the keys to Heaven. I am the Door that leads to Heaven. I have an open door to Heaven. The door is never shut to Heaven." But, there will be a day when the door does shut. There will be a day when the door does close. It says that in the parables. "On that day, there will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth, and many in that day will pound on the door saying, 'Lord, Lord, did we not speak in your name? Did we not pray in your name? Did we not cast out demons in your name?' He says from behind the door, "Get away from me, you wicked and lawless servant. I didn't know you."

It is not about saying the name of Jesus. It is, do you know the Man? Do you know the God, Man? Do you know the Lord? Do you know the God, Jesus? This is what it is about. If you know the One who has the keys, He will let you in. He will lock that door of Hades, a cavern that comes and tries to overtake our souls. Do you see it? What a glorious day. We have all done things worthy of shame. We have all done things not worthy of saying. We have all done lewd things. We have all been immoral in our own eyes. We have all let ourselves down. We have all been ashamed at our hands. We have all been ashamed at the state of our own soul. But, Jesus sees inwardly and forgives the soul. Forgives and cleanses the soul. Cleans the conscience and makes us whole, not just healed physically, but healed inwardly. That is a miracle. No one could do that before. No one will do it again.

He is doing it today and tomorrow and the next day. "I will show you the works of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The devil has come for many centuries to steal, kill and destroy, but now, "I have come to bring life and life abundantly." This is the age of life and life abundantly. The letter brought death, but the Spirit brings life.

Acts 3:13-16 ESV

"The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob and the God of our fathers, glorified His servant, Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate when he had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name -by faith in His name- has made this man strong, whom you see and know. And the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."

Who is he talking about? There was a man that was lame at the entrance of the temple. This is showing that now the power of the name of Jesus, is the victorious power that overcomes anything. It wasn't by some works. It wasn't. It was just by the name of Jesus. Just saying the name of Jesus, causes life and life abundantly to come to this land. You see it?

Verse 17-21, *"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance." We acted in ignorance when we sinned. We acted in ignorance when we committed the sin that put Jesus on the cross. We acted in ignorance, "As did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out. That times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive*

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until the time of restoring all things about which God spoke about by His holy prophets long ago."

Notice the phrasing in verse 20, *"that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus."*

This is that ongoing revelation of Jesus. We all have to have a day when we see that Christ was sent for me. Christ is sent for me now. *"That you may find times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord and that God may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus."* There is only one. It is singular. The Christ appointed for you is Jesus, it says. It is the only one. But, you must have that appointed time. It says in Isaiah, *"The time when it is called today. Do not neglect the voice of the Lord when it is called today. Do not harden your heart to the voice of the Lord."* You must have that appointed day, that appointed time. Is it just one time? No, you can encounter the Christ over and over and over. Wow. What a day.

Romans 5:6-10 ESV

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person, one would dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." Amen.

In Corinthians it says, *"The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."* If we have been reconciled to God by the death of Jesus, how much more shall we be saved by His life. On Easter, the Resurrection Sunday, how much more we will be saved, that there is one that can raise Himself from the dead.

How did God get raised from the dead? It was actually the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God gave life to Jesus's mortal body. The Spirit of God breathed and opened His lungs again to breathe. It is His own Spirit. That is how we know it was His own self, because God's not separated. He is three in one. It doesn't make sense. But, it was His own Spirit man that birthed or breathed Him to life again. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord.

John 10:10 ESV

"The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. I have come, that you may have life and life abundantly."

Then in Corinthians it says that, *"The letter kills, but the Spirit brings life."* We know that Jesus came to bring the Holy Spirit. *"The devil came to steal, kill and destroy your life, but I have come to bring you the Spirit and the Spirit more abundantly."* The Spirit brings life, and the flesh brings death. The only way that you will improve yourself, the only way that you can change yourself, the only way that you can come out of the body of flesh and the body of sin, is to die and to be raised to life by the Spirit daily. *"Take up your cross and follow Me. Those who will not do it are not worthy to be called My disciples."* The call to walk with Jesus is a call to die daily and to live abundantly by the breath of the Spirit of God. This is not a new gospel. This is the gospel of the Kingdom. Yes, you have to see your grave now. Yes, you have to see your grave, now. Who has seen their grave? I have seen my grave. You say, "Grant, what are you talking about?"

Romans 6:3-4 ESV

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

What brought Jesus back to life? The Holy Spirit. So, who is going to raise you up to life, day by day, day by day, day by day, the Holy Spirit? You are a Spirit filled Bride. The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” It is not the Bride on her own, of her own initiative, of her own flesh, saying, “Come.” No, it is, “I have died, and I am being raised into glory day by day.” This mature spirit filled glorious Church is so full of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit and the Bride in unison say, “Come.” Where is that? The very last page of the book of Revelation in the Bible.

Verse five, *“For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”*

Listen to this last sentence. *“We know that our old self was crucified with Him.”* Self can be your soul man. It is your old self, your old identity, your old ways, your old strongholds. There is this notion with the soul that when you are baptized, it is a spiritual death. We understand that part of your soul went down, but you still have that body of sin. Do you see it? We know that our old self was crucified with Him. That is a spiritual thing, because we didn't physically go do that. That was a spiritual thing, that in the Spirit, I am going down into the grave with Jesus. His crucified body is in my place. So spiritually, this soul of sin, the soul of corruption, the soul of bondage, the soul of lewdness, the soul of of pride and haughtiness, this soul of my old self that I hate, goes down into the grave of the water baptism and comes up as a prophetic act of cleansing, a whole resurrection life. My Spirit man is new, completely made new, righteous, pure, clean, white, made by God, and born again. But, then it is still covered in that body of sin. That tent of sin is trying to work against the Spirit man now inside you, the Holy Ghost.

Now, there is that war that we read about in Revelation. This body doesn't do what my Spirit man says to do. Because, in order that the body of sin might be brought to complete enslavement of the Spirit, that's a working out of your salvation. So that eventually you can see your grave, be resurrected, and still have to walk out the wrestlings of your body of sin. That is kind of a bummer, but God is with us to teach us to walk by faith. Because, by faith the name of Jesus is the powerful name. We read that in Acts chapter three.

Now we know and understand from Philippians that you work out your salvation by walking out what has happened in the grave by the Spirit and is now going to happen in the flesh. In Philippians, the Apostle says, *“That I might attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already been perfected, or I have already attained it, but I lay hold of that which Christ, Jesus has already laid hold of for me.”* The resurrection of the dead. How do you do that? You die, because the only way to life is to die and let the Spirit make you live. Did you see it? Holy Spirit is the key to the resurrection life. The Holy Spirit is the key to life and life abundantly.

Romans 8:11 ESV

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,” say, ‘dwells in me,’ “then He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

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So the body of sin is going to keep encountering the Spirit of life that raised Jesus from the dead and Who is going to say, no, no, no, no, you have no victory over me, body of sin. You are conquered because I raised Jesus from the dead. That is the Spirit of God who dwells in you. You say, "Is He dwelling in me?" That is the question. You have to know He is dwelling in you. There are Christians who don't know the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There are Christians who have never heard of this. There are Christians who don't know if they want the indwelling of Holy Spirit, because if you ask Him to indwell you, then you must die. Religion will cost you nothing, but the fullness of life will cost you everything if Christ is in you.

Verse 10-11, "But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

The promise of the Holy Spirit and the promise of empowerment to life, is by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You must abide in me. You must have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. You cannot change into a better person internally in your soul by your own methods.

We understand this in the natural. We send our children to school to be educated. What are we sending them to actually? To be disciplined, to go daily, to do a task and better themselves by physical practice. The physical practice of literacy, math, repetition, and problem solving. Going to school develops their outward character. It develops their discipline so that they can be good citizens in our community. Be able to flourish in that community by reading and writing and math, becoming mathematicians. These are the physical steps of discipline that we give to our children by sending them to school. That they would get an education, and that education brings discipline to their life to make them flourish physically.

In the spirit realm, you can be born again and not go through the disciplines of the Spirit needed to flourish and to have life abundantly. You can be born again, a babe in the Spirit. But, unless you have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you will not mature to flourish in the spiritual realm of Heaven. You won't understand what's going on when the devil steals, kills and destroys your life. You won't have an understanding of discernment. You have no literacy of the Spirit. You have no mathematic skills. You have no arithmetic skills to problem solve what's happening spiritually in your life. You are weak, you are sick, you are naked, and you are blind. This is from Revelations three. The Spirit has not been allowed in your life to kill the flesh and give you life and life abundantly. So, the better covenant has not been applied to your life, and the devil still looks like he still kills and destroy your life. The Spirit is what brings life and life abundant. The letter kills, but the Spirit brings life.

The benefit of being educated by the indwelling of the Spirit is that it actually changes you into who you think you are. We don't look at ourselves negatively. We know we have potential. We look at ourselves and think, "I know I can be better. I know I can see what God has made me to be. The devil will tell you otherwise. Sometimes he has broken the will, and broken the soul to not believe it anymore. Deep inside every child there is that thought "I know who I could be. I know who I'm called to be. It wasn't to this. It wasn't to what this flesh lets me down with."

The Gospel that we are supposed to be presenting, is that the Spirit sets you free and free indeed. That you are a child of God to have life and life abundantly. But, the child is to mature to a son of God. The sons of God are to mature into a Kingdom of priests, who are holy, intimate, mature, and steadfast in the Lord. Do you see it? You must be born again, by the Holy Spirit, so that you may be educated and empowered by that same Spirit Jesus is.

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Jesus says baptism shows us this. He goes to John the Baptist, His cousin. John was the last prophet of the Old Testament. He is called John the Baptist because he enacted a brand new teaching, or a brand new doctrine, or a brand new thought. The Jews were saying, "This is a new thing. God is doing a new thing, to be baptized." To be baptized is the only thing that Jesus said was going to carry on from the Old Testament to the new, because John enacted it. So, we baptized. Jesus said, "I must fulfill all of the Old Testament." I must do this, because this is the new thing of God, "repentance." Because repentance was the thing that the Israelites lacked through all their history, a true heartfelt repentance, a true heart change of repentance, and to "rend your hearts Israel, and not your garments." John the Baptist, made a way for them to rend their hearts.

Jesus says, this is the fast that I have chosen, and it is in baptism. When Jesus went and was baptized, it opened the door for Him to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, because He fulfills the requirement of laying down your life. Boom! Into the grave, I will go. I will rend my heart to God. It must be fulfilled, John. It must be fulfilled. When it is fulfilled, immediately, it opened the door for the Holy Spirit to infill Him and indwell in Him. Immediately, because He was walking so purely with God that once He came out of the water, then the indwelling of the Holy Spirit came upon Him and in Him. Then He walked by the Spirit fully from that day forward, it says. He gave us the ministry of a man, fully immersed in the Holy Spirit, fully empowered by the Holy Spirit, and walking with God to the cross. Not just to the cross, but out of the grave and into the heavenly realms. He is still walking in the Spirit as a Man, fully in the flesh. What? Pay attention here. Say, "pay attention." Good.

John 20:19 ESV

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"

This is what we are celebrating today. He is alive, and He walks in to them in the flesh.

Verse 20-23, *"When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"*

Wow. They received the Holy Spirit. This is awesome, but wait a minute. Was Jesus in the room when they received the Holy Spirit? Long pause, no answer. You tell me, is Jesus in the room when they received the Holy Spirit? You're hesitating. It says that He is. He is there. *"He breathes on them, and He says, receive the Holy Spirit,"* because I'm coming to bring you life and life abundantly. *"The devil came to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life and life abundantly. The letter kills, but the Spirit brings life."* They did it. He's done it. He's done it. Say, "He did it." What does He say?

Acts 1:5 ESV

"So when they had come together, they asked Him, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?'"

He has risen from the dead. This is a great time to do that.

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Verse 7-8 “He said to them, it is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the Earth.”

Wait, is Jesus confused? He already gave them the Holy Spirit. We read it. Did you read it? It was Jesus in the room when they received the Holy Spirit? Yes. What is He talking about? Why do they need it again? Why do they need it again? Something is missing.

Acts 2:1 ESV

“When the day of Pentecost (40 days from the day of Passover) arrived, they were all together in one place.”

Jesus has ascended into Heaven. Jesus is gone. Jesus is not on the Earth. They are all together in one place. There is 120 of them in the upper room of the temple.

Verse 2-4, *“And suddenly there came from Heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

I thought you said Jesus was in the room? He is not in the room. What are we talking about? The disciples had to be born again. So, *“When they were all together, Jesus came and breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Be born again. When you forgive, I will forgive. If you withhold forgiveness, it will be withheld.’”*

There is authority in a child of God, birthed and born again by the Spirit of God. But the child of God must have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *“This is the promise of the Father. I must go, that He would come.”* Because, *“I have come, that you would have life. I breathe on you life. But, I didn't just come to give you born again, eternal life. I came to give you the Spirit abundantly that you would have life, and life abundantly, that you would have the Spirit and the Spirit abundantly.”*

You see it? This is the age of the Holy Spirit. This is the age of the Holy Spirit. The Israelites got the glory of the Father. For a short time, the nation of Israel got the glory of Jesus. But now, the Church has the glory of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the sovereign Lord. It is God. God is Spirit. This is to be our God. We must be infilled. This is the age of the Holy Spirit.

Hence, why it is so important in the Parable of the Ten Virgins. You must have the oil. You must have the oil. You must be in the practice of getting your own oil and trimming your own wicks. You must be educated by the Spirit. You must be in the practice of staying up in the night watches, and keeping your own lamps burning, it says. How do you keep your own lamp burning? By dying and coming alive by the Spirit. You must be empowered by the Spirit. You must be led by the Spirit. You must be filled by the Spirit. Because, *“If the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, He will give life to your mortal body as well.* It is the age of the Holy Spirit.

You must have more and more of the oil of the Spirit in your life. You must, because five of them, said, *“I don't want to keep this up. I don't want the infilling of the oil in my lamp.”* When it came to the end, they had to have the oil as fast as they could. They went to where they thought they could get it, not knowing that the oil is when you die, and you are raised.

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When you are pressed by God, then you are crucifying the flesh. When you are pressed it brings out the oil of God. Because life comes by the Spirit. The Spirit of God breathes life into you and raises you up daily.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins reveals to us that we are in the era of acquiring our own oil of the Holy Spirit. Disciplining ourselves to keep our lamps lit. It is about walking and keeping and abiding in the Spirit more and more. This is true life, and the Spirit of God brings everlasting life. Amen. Thank you Jesus.

Let's stand and thank Him. Let's honor Him. If you need to know the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the infilling of God in you, we are here. If you need to know Jesus as Lord and Master, we are here. If you need prayer for anything else, we are here.

“Holy Ghost, you are the Spirit that gave life to Jesus's mortal body, and you have called us to die that we might live and have life more abundant. I thank you, Jesus, that it is not by what we can do, it is not. We cannot make ourselves better. You are the only One that can make us holy. You are the only One that can make us righteous. You are the only One that can give us peace. You are the only One that can cleanse us and make us whole. You are the only One that can bring salvation to guilt and condemnation. You are the only One that can bring a whole conscience that is healed and whole. You are the only One that can bring true joy in our life, true satisfaction in our life, and true joy in the time of evil. You are the only One that can bring a true fear of the Lord that presses us to hunger and know God and gives us a thirst for righteousness. It is by the Spirit of God. We thank you for a heart that is willing to surrender that you have given to us. We can choose to say, yes. Do what you have to do, so I can know this freedom in this life. We thank you, Father. We thank you for that call. We thank you for the, “yes,” in our hearts that changes our history and changes our future. We say, “Yes, God.” We loose that yes upon this house. We loose that yes upon the city. We loose that yes upon this area and in this region. That there would be a call to say, “yes” to the Lord and Him alone. No other name to say yes to but Him. Jesus, the name above all names, the Exalted One. Not a form of religion or a form of Christianity. Jesus, Himself, gets the yes. In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.