

Fanning the Flame of the Holy Spirit

How to Actively Use the Holy Spirit God Has Given You

Daniel Deininger — May 24, 2026 — UCG Montana Pentecost Service

Opening: The Flame Was Given to Spread

Acts 2:1 NKJV - When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:2 NKJV - And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 NKJV - Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 NKJV - And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:5 NKJV - And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:6 NKJV - And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Acts 2:7 NKJV - Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

Acts 2:8 NKJV - "And how [is it that] we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"

Acts 2:9 NKJV - "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Acts 2:10 NKJV - "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 NKJV - "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Acts 2:12 NKJV - So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

Acts 2:29 NKJV - "Men [and] brethren, let [me] speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Acts 2:30 NKJV - "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

Acts 2:31 NKJV - "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Acts 2:32 NKJV - "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

Acts 2:33 NKJV - "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Acts 2:34 NKJV - "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,

Acts 2:35 NKJV - Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '

Acts 2:36 NKJV - "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 2:37 NKJV - Now when they heard [this], they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 NKJV - Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:39 NKJV - "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:40 NKJV - And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

Acts 2:41 NKJV - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added [to them].

Yesterday's Message — A Brief Recall

Yesterday, on the Sabbath, we gave a message on being sealed with the Holy Spirit — the day the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples in Jerusalem as tongues of fire. We saw that:

- The Holy Spirit is God's seal — His mark of ownership and identity upon you
- It is the engagement ring from the King of Kings — a pledge of your future inheritance
- You are already sealed. The 144,000 of Revelation 7 await what you already carry

Today's question: Now that the flame has been given — what are you doing with it?

2 Timothy 1:6–7 NKJV —

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Paul does not say "receive the gift." He says **stir it up. Fan it into flame.** The Greek word (*anazopyrein*) means to rekindle, to bring back to full blaze. The implication is clear: the flame can diminish if neglected. God gave us power, love, and a sound mind — not passivity.

I. God Expects Fruit — Not Just a Flame

The Vine and the Branches — John 15

John 15:4–5 NKJV —

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:8 NKJV —

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

The expectation is not just fruit — it is **much fruit**. The branch that stays connected to the Vine cannot help but grow. The key is the connection: daily prayer, daily study, daily surrender to the Spirit working within you.

What Is That Fruit? — Galatians 5:22–23

Galatians 5:22–23 NKJV —

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The Nine Fruits of the Spirit — Your Growth Targets

These are not personality traits — they are the natural produce of a life connected to Christ through His Spirit. Ask yourself honestly: which of these is growing in you? Which needs more cultivation?

- **Love** — The foundation. God's own love poured into our hearts (Romans 5:5)
- **Joy** — Not circumstantial happiness but deep, settled confidence in God's promises
- **Peace** — The peace that passes understanding, guarding our hearts and minds
- **Longsuffering (Patience)** — Enduring difficult people and circumstances without breaking
- **Kindness** — Practical, active goodwill toward others
- **Goodness** — Moral integrity and uprightness in all dealings
- **Faithfulness** — Reliability, trustworthiness, keeping our commitments to God and others
- **Gentleness (Meekness)** — Strength under control; not weakness but disciplined power
- **Self-Control** — Mastery over our impulses, appetites, and reactions

Adding to Your Faith — 2 Peter 1:4–10

2 Peter 1:4–5, 8, 10 NKJV —

...that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature... But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love... For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful... Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.

Peter gives us the ladder of divine character. Notice his language: “**giving all diligence.**” This is not passive. This is deliberate, intentional effort to build godly character — the character of a Bride preparing herself for the King. And the promise is extraordinary: “**you will never stumble.**”

II. The Parable of the Talents — Matthew 25:14–23

Three servants were each given talents according to their ability. Three of them put what they received to work. And when the Master returned:

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” — Matthew 25:21, 23 NKJV

These servants did not start with ten talents. They started with five and two. They worked with what they had — and it multiplied. The Holy Spirit works the same way. You do not need to be perfect to begin. You need to begin.

The servant who buried his talent was not wicked in the dramatic sense — he was simply passive. He did nothing. And that was enough to lose what he had been given. The warning is not about dramatic failure but about quiet neglect.

The question for each of us: What are you doing with what God has placed in you?

III. Oil in Reserve — The Wise Virgins

Matthew 25:1–4, 10 NKJV —

1 — Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 — Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 — Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 — but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. [verses 5–9 — the bridegroom delayed; the foolish sought oil but found none] 10 — And those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

The wise virgins were not distinguished by their enthusiasm in the moment. They were distinguished by **advance preparation**. They had oil in reserve. When the Bridegroom came, they were ready — not scrambling.

This is the picture of the Bride who has been using the Holy Spirit. She has been studying. She has been praying. She has been building character. When Christ returns, she is not caught unprepared.

The time to fill the lamp is now, not then.

IV. Counted Worthy — Luke 21:34–36

Luke 21:34–36 NKJV —

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

To be **counted worthy** is not automatic. It is the fruit of a life spent fanning the flame. Watching and praying — not as a one-time event but as a daily posture. The Spirit God has given you is the very power that enables you to live this way.

2 Peter 1:10 NKJV — *“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”*

V. How to Fan the Flame — Practical Direction

It is not enough to know we should grow. We need direction. Here are three disciplines that directly feed the flame of the Holy Spirit in your life:

1. Prayer — Staying in Conversation with God

Practical Steps for Prayer

- **Set a specific time** — Morning, noon, and night. Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10); David declared "evening and morning and at noon I will pray" (Psalm 55:17). These are our models
- **Increase gradually** — If you pray 5 minutes, aim for 10. If once a day, add a midday pause
- **Keep a prayer list** — Write down requests and answers. Seeing answered prayers builds faith
- **Pray the Scriptures** — Use Psalms or Paul's prayers as your own. Let God's words shape yours
- **Listen as well as speak** — Allow time for stillness. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Elijah heard God not in the wind or fire but in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12). Prayer is a conversation — wait and listen as well as speak

2. Study — Going Beyond Reading

Practical Steps for Bible Study

- **Read with a purpose** — Choose a topic, book, or theme. Don't just read — study
- **Cross-reference** — Let the Bible interpret itself. Use a concordance or the UCG study tools
- **Write it down** — Record one insight and one application from each session
- **Apply before you move on** — Knowledge without application is incomplete. Ask: what do I do with this?
- **Use available resources** — ucg.org has booklets, Bible studies, and sermon transcripts. Use them

3. Application — Living the Fruit

Practical Steps for Growing the Fruit of the Spirit

- **Do an honest assessment** — Which fruits of the Spirit are strong in you? Which are weak? (See the worksheet)
- **Pick one fruit to focus on** — For the next 30 days, be intentional about growing in that one area
- **Work through 2 Peter 1's ladder** — Faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love. Where are you? Where are you going?
- **Measure progress, not perfection** — The servant who doubled two talents heard "Well done" just as much as the one who doubled five

The Bride Is Preparing

You have the seal. You have the ring. You have the flame. Now fan it.

The Bridegroom is coming. The wise virgins had oil in reserve because they prepared **before** the moment arrived. This is your time to prepare — not to sit in wait mode, but to actively become the Bride of Christ.

Stir up the gift that is in you. Fan the flame. Bear much fruit. Make your calling and election sure.

Discussion Questions

- **Fan the Flame** — Paul told Timothy to “stir up” the gift of God within him. In what practical ways have you noticed the flame of the Spirit growing brighter in your life? What has contributed to that growth?
- **Much Fruit** — Jesus said the Father is glorified when we bear much fruit. Looking at Galatians 5:22–23, which fruit do you feel is most developed in you right now? Which one do you sense God is calling you to cultivate more intentionally?
- **Peter’s Ladder** — In 2 Peter 1, Peter urges us to “give all diligence” to build the qualities of divine character. Where do you find yourself on that ladder? What is the next quality you need to add with more intentionality?
- **Oil in Reserve** — The wise virgins were ready because they prepared ahead of time. How is your “reserve” right now — in prayer, in study, in spiritual readiness? What would it take to build that reserve more deeply?
- **Well Done** — Imagine hearing “Well done, good and faithful servant” when Christ returns. What would need to be true of your life between now and then for you to hear those words? What is one specific step you can take this week?

Additional Resources for Further Study

The following resources are recommended for going deeper on the themes of this message:

1. [**The Holy Spirit — God’s Empowering Force \(UCG Booklet\)**](#)

A thorough biblical study of the Holy Spirit’s nature and purpose. The essential reference for understanding what God has placed within you and how it works.

2. [**Power to Change: Part 1 — The Work of the Holy Spirit \(Gary Petty\)**](#)

Gary Petty explains that the Spirit gives us the capacity to change — but does not override our free will. We must actively choose to submit to it daily. Directly supports the practical application of this message.

3. [**The Bible Says You Can Lose Your Salvation \(Rick Shabi\)**](#)

Rick Shabi examines the conditional nature of the seal — God’s power within us requires our continued faithfulness. A sobering and motivating companion to the message on fanning the flame.

Fanning the Flame of the Holy Spirit

A Self-Assessment for Using the Holy Spirit God Has Given You

Name: _____ Date: _____ Review Date: _____

This worksheet is designed to help you honestly assess where you are in your spiritual growth, set goals, and track progress over time. There are no wrong answers — only honest ones. Come back to it in 30 or 90 days and see how you have grown.

Rating Scale:

1 — Rarely / Not yet	2 — Occasionally	3 — Regularly	4 — Consistently	5 — Deeply / Thriving
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Section 1 — The Three Disciplines of Fanning the Flame

Prayer

Area of Growth	Where I Am Now(1–5)	Where I Want to Be(1–5)	One Practical Step I Will Take
Consistency of daily prayer			
Length and depth of prayer			
Keeping a prayer list / tracking answers			
Listening in prayer (not just speaking)			

Bible Study

Area of Growth	Where I Am Now(1–5)	Where I Want to Be(1–5)	One Practical Step I Will Take
Consistency of daily study			
Depth (studying, not just reading)			
Cross-referencing and using study tools			
Applying what I study to my life			

Section 2 — The Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)

Area of Growth	Where I Am Now(1–5)	Where I Want to Be(1–5)	One Practical Step I Will Take
Love — actively loving God and others			
Joy — deep, settled peace in God's promises			
Peace — trusting God through difficulty			

Longsuffering — patience with people and trials			
Kindness — practical goodwill toward others			
Goodness — moral integrity in all areas			
Faithfulness — reliability toward God and others			
Gentleness — strength under control			
Self-Control — mastery over impulses and reactions			

Section 3 — Peter's Ladder of Divine Character (2 Peter 1:5–7)

Area of Growth	Where I Am Now(1–5)	Where I Want to Be(1–5)	One Practical Step I Will Take
Faith — trusting God's word and promises			
Virtue — moral excellence and courage			
Knowledge — growing in biblical understanding			
Self-Control — disciplined over appetites and habits			
Perseverance — enduring faithfully under pressure			
Godliness — reverence and devotion toward God			
Brotherly Kindness — warm affection for fellow believers			
Love — the capstone; Christlike love for all			

Section 4 — My Goals: Making My Calling and Election Sure

Based on your assessment above, write one specific, actionable goal for each area:

Prayer Goal	
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Study Goal	
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Fruit to Cultivate	
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Character Quality (2 Peter 1)	
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Review Date	
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“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful” — 2 Peter 1:8