

How to Experience God's Presence Daily
God's Vision For Us - Part 1
Life Church St. Louis August 17, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Genesis 1:2 (ESV) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Luke 3:21–22 (ESV) Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1. Step Out of Religion into Relationship

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 (ESV) But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 (ESV) Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. Obey Christ's Call to Be Baptized

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:41 (ESV) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

3. Be Filled with the Spirit for Power and Prayer

Acts 1:8 (ESV) 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 end of the earth.

Acts 2:4 (ESV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Romans 8:26–27 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

4. Meet with God's Spirit Every Day in Word and Prayer

John 6:63 (ESV) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Ephesians 6:17–18 (ESV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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Introduction

1. Why do you think many people who identify as religious have never truly experienced a relationship with God?
2. What does it mean to see the Holy Spirit actively working in creation and in your own life? (Genesis 1:2)
3. How does Jesus' experience with baptism and the Holy Spirit serve as an example for us today? (Luke 3:21–22)
4. What can we learn from the way the early church received the Holy Spirit and began their mission? (Acts 2:1–4)

1. Step Out of Religion into Relationship

1. How does understanding salvation as a gift change the way we approach God? (Romans 6:23)
2. How does God's love, shown even while we were sinners, impact your view of grace? (Romans 5:8)
3. What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord and believe in His resurrection? (Romans 10:9)
4. In what ways have you been tempted to rely on religion instead of relationship with Jesus?

2. Obey Christ's Call to Be Baptized

1. What do Jesus' final instructions reveal about the importance of baptism in the life of a disciple? (Matthew 28:19–20)
2. Why do you think Peter emphasized baptism so strongly when calling people to respond to the gospel? (Acts 2:38)

3. What stands out to you about the immediate obedience of the first believers? (Acts 2:41)
4. How can you respond today to Jesus' call to follow Him through baptism or renewed obedience?

3. Be Filled with the Spirit for Power and Prayer

1. Why is receiving the Holy Spirit essential for fulfilling our mission as witnesses for Jesus? (Acts 1:8)
2. What does the gift of a prayer language say about God's desire for close communication with His people? (Acts 2:4)
3. How does the Spirit help us when we feel weak or unsure of how to pray? (Romans 8:26–27)
4. What role does Spirit-led prayer play in your spiritual growth and daily walk with God?

4. Meet with God's Spirit Every Day in Word and Prayer

1. Why is God's Word described as both spirit and life for the believer? (John 6:63)
2. How can combining God's Word with Spirit-led prayer help you stand strong in your faith? (Ephesians 6:17–18)
3. How does Scripture equip us for the life God has called us to live? (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
4. What changes can you make to create more consistent daily time with God through His Word and prayer?

Conclusion

1. Which of the four steps do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to take next in your own life?
2. How can you make experiencing God's Spirit a regular and growing part of your daily walk with Him?