

“Holy Spirit Communicator, Transformer, & Uniter”

Acts 2:1-8, Exodus 3:2-8a, Ezekiel 36:26, Romans 8:22-27 & 12:1-2

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Prayer for Understanding Holy Spirit our advocate, guide, and friend, please inspire us. Help us to hear your Word and understand. Amen

The Holy Spirit has 32 names in scripture. Today we are going to explore the Holy Spirit as Communicator, Transformer, and Uniter.

The Holy Spirit is speaking to you through every moment of love, joy, hope, peace, wonder, awe, and delight. If you are having a challenging time hearing God, then go exploring. Be curious. The Holy Spirit is constantly expressing God's grace to each of us. During work, the Holy Spirit got Moses' attention. Moses was curious to explore and listen. **Exodus 3:2-8A NLT** “The Lord appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it did not burn up. “This is amazing,” Moses said to himself. “Why isn’t that bush burning up? I must go see it.” When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to Moses from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your parents—the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebecca, and the God of Jacob and Rachael.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord told Moses, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them.”

The Holy Spirit is speaking to you through your moments of amazement. Make time to pause, be silent, and listen. God is fully aware of every person, what each of us is thinking and feeling. God is active in our lives, loving us and the cosmos into pure goodness.

Words are not needed to communicate to God for the Holy Spirit perfectly interprets every feeling, longing, desire, breathe, and emerging thought. Sometimes prayer is being angry at God. Sometimes prayer is exhaustion, imaging God holding you. Prayer is being aware of your feelings. Prayer is imaging God taking your burdens. Prayer is dreaming about your future. **Romans 8:22-27 NLT** “For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as God's adopted children, including the new bodies God has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we do not need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we do not yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we do not know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And God who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.”

The Holy Spirit is our transformer. In the beginning, the Holy Spirit transformed chaos into the cosmos. The Holy Spirit is transforming every tear into joy, every hurt into completeness, every brokenness into wholeness, every grief into reunion, every suffering into shalom. The Holy Spirit is restoring all that is lost. The Holy Spirit is resurrecting every death. The Holy Spirit is preserving every delight, joy, goodness, and love for all to enjoy for eternity. The Holy Spirit will expand the glory of the cosmos for eternity. The prophet Ezekiel declares, **Ezekiel 36:26 NLT** “God will give you a new heart, and God will put a new spirit in you. God will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” The Apostle Paul writes, **Romans 12:2 NLT** “Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” **Romans 12:1-2 MSG** “So here is what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Do not become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You will be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around

you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

The Holy Spirit is our uniter. Today we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church, our unity as many people all one in God. **Acts 2:1-8 NLT “On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!”**

God is determined to unite all of us. The Holy Spirit did not give them a common language, instead each person was understood by everyone else when they spoke in their unique language. God created us with a wide range of variety. God honors our diversity. We are to keep our diversity and be united. The Holy Spirit is gifting each of us to understand everyone else. The Holy Spirit is gifting the cake lovers to understand the pie lovers, the walkers the bikers, the dog lovers the cat lovers, and vice versa. The Holy Spirit is gifting the traditional worshipers to understand the praise worshipers and the praise worshipers the traditional worshipers. God created some people to enjoy traditional worship and others to enjoy praise worship. The Holy Spirit is giving us the ability for all worshipers to understand each other. The Holy Spirit unites all worshipers, no matter the style of worship, into one harmonious family.

Too often we deny the gift of understanding by our desire to prove our way as better. Too often we deny the gift of understanding by trying to change someone, fix someone, or save someone. Jesus has already saved us. Too often we deny the gift of understanding by formulating what we will reply, instead of actively listening.

On Pentecost, no one was forced to change, to be like another. Each person was gifted to express their true self. All people were gifted to understand everyone.

The Holy Spirit is the creative force. The Holy Spirit brought the entire cosmos into existences. The Holy Spirit gave you the ability to create. The Holy Spirit gave you unique creative gifts. The Holy Spirit is creating one worldwide harmonious community including every person. The Holy Spirit is uniting all people across time and space.

God is one and many. One God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. God is single and community. Each person of God is distinct and one by understanding, love, and joy. Each person of God is equal to the other two. God is perfect symmetry. God is one and many. The Holy Spirit is giving us breathe to be one and many, to honor our diversity and unite us all in peace, love, and joy. The Holy Spirit will make all people simultaneously one and many. We will all simultaneously be one in worship and many in our expressions of worship. The Holy Spirit will simultaneously make all people equal and unique. The Holy Spirit is connecting you with people who are unlike you.

All people simultaneously being one and many may seem impossible. All things are possible to God. We are created in God’s image to become one people and many individuals.

I gave some easy examples of understanding others earlier. Most people struggle to understand a few uniquenesses. Most people struggle to view certain aspects of another as equal to their way. We are called to partner with the Holy Spirit in being simultaneously one and many. The Holy Spirit is gifting us to understand all people, white and brown and black, rich and poor, citizen and immigrant, democrat and republican, vaccinated, and unvaccinated, American and Native American and Asian American, all genders, all sexual orientations. Often a good first step to utilizing the Holy Spirit’s gift of understanding is to listen to someone in the group you do not understand. Avoid reading about them, talking about them, evaluating them, judging them, avoiding them, ignoring them, instead listen to one of them. You are going to be one with them for eternity in heaven. Let us bring more of heaven to earth today by understanding each other. Amen