

## Introduction

A friend of mine told this story one day. He said that “he did not listen to his father one Sunday morning because he had decided that he was his own man. Moreover, he made up mind that he didn’t want to go to church. They had words with each other, so his father left the house to go to church. After, seeing the father leave, his mother confronted him and pulled her rank on him. She said, “if you live under this roof, you will obey us. I am going to give you 5 minutes to get dressed and to be at the corner before your father gets there.” Friend snapped out of his defiance and thought about the repercussions of being disobedient, got dressed, and made it to the corner before father and ready to go to church with him and his father was happy. In turn, when we listen to the holy spirit, God is pleased.

- Arrest attention – My topic today is “Listen to the holy spirit.” His voice is “still and small of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper and it can pierce even the very soul and cause the heart to burn.” (Saints 2010)
- Established rapport – I want to thank God who is the head of my life and Jesus who is the giver of his holy spirit. To Professor Acosta for his wonderful teaching methods and great class that I will miss and all my classmates and whoever is watching this message.
- Falling condition focus – The book of Ephesians is one of the ancient churches in Asia, however “it involves no controversy and deals with no specific problems in any particular church.” (The Holy Bible: Old and new testaments 2003) Moreover, for the purpose of this message the falling conditions are stated as follows: Once you

believe in Jesus Christ as your savior, you will receive the holy spirit. Point 1 – Without Jesus Christ interceding for you; you cannot get favor from God. Point 2 – Without the holy spirit, you are lost without a GPS, and Point – 3 without the guidance of the holy spirit, you miss the blessings of God.

- Big idea – Are you listening for the holy spirit?
- Introduction of the scripture

Let us open our bibles to read Ephesians 1:16 – 17, and I’ll be reading the NIV version. Then, I will pray for the sermon and the preached word.

- Transition to point 1.

Point 1 – Without Jesus Christ interceding for you; you cannot get favor from God.

Anchor to text – The letter to the Ephesians Church in Ephesus is an accolade to this church for their faith and love to all the people of God in their times. As the Apostle Paul was incarcerated in Rome, he was thanking the Ephesians for their support. The scriptures do mention that Christians “continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, as if you yourselves were suffering (Hebrew 13:3) Some tend to see this letter as something else, but the fact of the matter is it’s Paul’s prayer and thanksgiving his response to their loving kindness and faith in Jesus Christ and love toward all saints of God.

Explain / argue – The Apostle Paul had favor from God since was under house arrest during the time of the letter to the Ephesians. It was customary in that time for Roman prisoners to maintain themselves including food and clothing (Acts 28:30). So, “Paul depended on his friends, and fellow believers to supply his food.” (olivetree.com n.d.) If you don’t have in faith to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior, he can not intercede

for you in your circumstances. Without dependance on him, what is your hope for tomorrow?

Illustrate – “Things happen to those of faith so that we might possess qualities of mind, character, and heart that would otherwise not be available to us...Jesus says in John 15:5, without me you can do nothing. The fruits of Gods’ spirit can be produced through only in cooperation with God in his purpose as we proceed on our pilgrimage. (Commentary n.d.) You have hope for tomorrow if you rely on God for all your needs.

Application – God reigns on the unjust as well as the just, but the difference if you are a believer in Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, then you have favor with God. This is the difference between the believer and the unbeliever. Transition to point 2.

Point 2 – Without the holy spirit you are lost without a GPS.

Anchor to the text – God the father will give you the holy spirit who is your guide to all truths.

Explain / argue - Not even the Lord Jesus could nothing without the holy spirit. When he did his ministry on Earth, he said, “the father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. “If Jesus needed the holy spirit (John 14:10), then it means you can do nothing without the holy spirit. Nothing works without the holy spirit, there is no life without him.

Illustrate – Paul in Romans 8 gives more insight on the spirit. The spirit gives peace of mind. The spirit leads the believer, is the agent of our adoption into the family of God, the spirit confirms my spirit that I am a child of God. The spirit interceded for me when I pray according to the will of God. We ought to thank the Lord, I do not have the live my life without the holy spirit in darkness and in sin.

Application – Why do we need the holy spirit? The holy ghosts help us avoid temptations and help us stay clean from sin. The holy ghosts warn us so we can stay safe from danger. He comforts us and leads us through challenges. We need to follow the prompting of the holy ghosts to travel safely through life. (ofjesuschrists.org'- n.d.) Transition to point 3.

Point 3 – Without the guidance of the holy spirit, you miss the blessings that God intends for you.

Anchor to text – God will give the seal of the holy spirit so that you can walk with him.

Explain / argue – There is no physical work that you can do to receive the holy spirit. Except confess by saying, “I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and savior. In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he is asking the question is the law or believing in Jesus Christ for receiving the holy spirit. “This is the only thing I want to find out from you; did you receive the spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith (Galatians 3:2).

Illustration – When Christians profess a belief in God, they are accepting Jesus Christ as lord and savior of their lives. After this, they receive the indwelling and the gift of the holy spirit which cannot be removed. Jesus said to the disciples before his ascension back to God the father in heaven, “I’ll never leave you or forsake you.”

Application – This is a covenant between the believer and God. Don’t miss the blessing of the holy spirit! There are 7 blessings from the holy spirit; they are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and the fear of the lord (Isaiah 11:2). Would you like to receive these gifts of the holy spirit? Transition to conclusion.

Conclusion,

Summary – We receive the gifts of the holy spirit if we believe in Jesus Christ. All you need to do is believe. Jesus becomes your advocator to the father in heaven speaking on your behalf for you. God said that “no one can come to me except through Jesus Christ (John 14.6). without the holy spirit, you are lost. You can do nothing without the holy spirit. He is Gods’ power. We get peace of mind guidance, adopted into the family of God, we need the holy spirit to avoid temptation and sin, protection from harm, danger, and comforts throughout life. In addition, we receive 7 blessings from the holy spirit that are critical Christian characteristics.

## Bibliography

(Commentary n.d.) (Saints 2010) (ofjesuschrists.org'- n.d.) (olivetree.com n.d.)

