



**6.14.2014**

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## **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REAL**

**He Listens & Answers You. Will You Respond in Return?**

With the Pentecost Sunday Celebration still in our hearts, we recognize more than ever the need to have a clear head, body and heart for God. Part of that realization is the recognition and reflection that a time for a change of heart is at hand in each of us.

Today we have a presentation and discussion on how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, allowing us to become an Earthen Vessel that is filled with God's Spirit.

Charlie Connor has been in the Parish of St. Hilary for 20+ years. He is a cradle to grave Catholic who has an interesting walk with God that we may identify with. He will share an eyewitness account on how he came to understand what work God was calling him to, how God was calling to him and specifically, what Charlie needed to do to answer that call.



We touch other's lives each day. Why not do it filled with the Spirit?

Let us pay close attention to the Scriptures, Catechism and Charlie Connor.

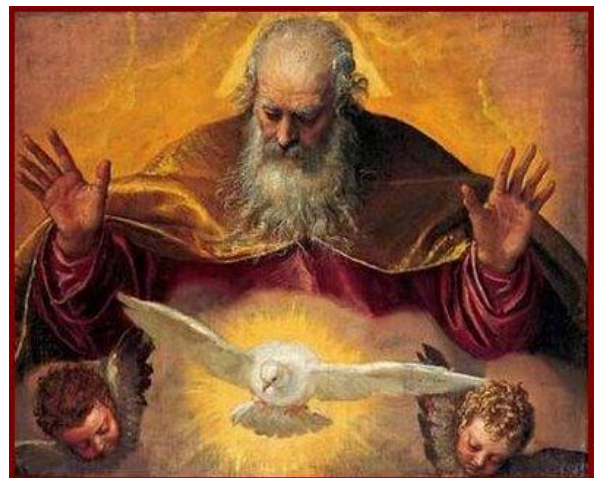
May God bless us with His Wisdom and His Work and the wherewithal to complete the mission.  
Amen

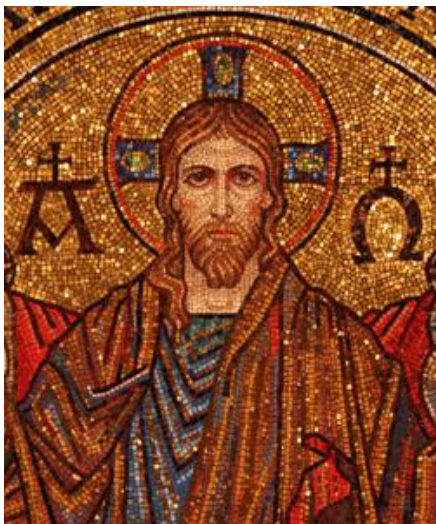
### **1 Kings 19:11-13**

Then the LORD said: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by.

There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a tiny whispering sound.

When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak, went out, and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah?





## Matthew 7:7-11

The Answer to Prayers.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish?

If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him.

The Word of the Lord

## Catechism Our Greatest Help – The Holy Spirit

**1831** The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful compliant in readily obeying divine inspirations.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God... If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.



**1832** The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: “charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.”

**1833** Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. (The Holy Spirit leads a virtuous man.)



**2742** “Pray constantly... always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” St. Paul adds, “Pray at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints.” For “we have not been commanded to work ...but it has been laid down that we are to pray without ceasing.” This tireless fervor can come only from love. Against our dullness and laziness, the battle of prayer is that of humble, trusting, and persevering love.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT ONLY REAL

He Listens & Answers You

By Charlie Connor



*Bow your heads and let us pray to the Holy Spirit together Brothers:*

**Come Holy Spirit and fill my heart with your gifts.  
Let my love be true and my charity be generous.  
Help me in all my needs and grant me knowledge to do what is right.  
Advise me in my doubts, strengthen me in my weakness, protect me  
when I am tempted and console me when I am afraid.  
Graciously hear me O Holy Spirit and pour your light into my heart,  
mind and soul.  
Help me to live a holy life and grow in goodness and grace. AMEN!**

Gentlemen, since this is the Saturday after Pentecost, it seems appropriate to talk about the Holy Spirit. I would like to relate a personal story to you explaining how I believe the Holy Spirit spoke to me and how it makes perfect sense to me that He is trying to talk to each of us.

Let me start by saying that I am as big a sinner and maybe bigger, than any of you here. I just want to share with you some of my experiences and how that led me to the Holy Spirit.

It started with a question that seemed to recur and even pestered me. Perhaps this is a question that some of you ask yourselves: Do you want to eliminate confusion from your life and have true peace in your soul? After I finish, I will be passing out some tools to help you understand better.

My walk with the Holy Spirit grew on steroids beginning in 1998 or 1999. At the time I didn't recognize how the Holy Spirit was acting in my life, but looking back it is quite clear in hind-sight. My wife mentioned a book that was referenced on the religious radio station WCRF titled "Secrets of the Investment All Stars". So, being interested in investing, I bought the book and read it. Most of it just told how successful many of them were but didn't really divulge any secrets except the section on Bill O'Neil. Even his piece didn't make sense at first and required a second reading before I was able to understand what he was trying to say.



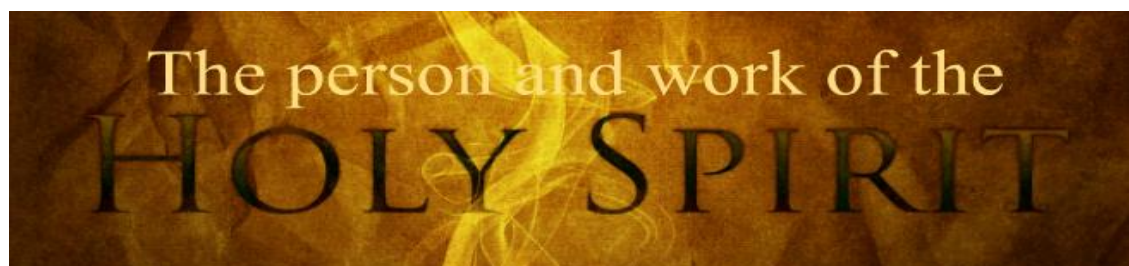
I believe there are many themes in all of God's works, one of those being Generosity. Well, I believe that Bill O'Neil is one of the most generous people in the world because he was the only one referenced in the book that told you what he did, wrote books, gave seminars, publishes a paper "Investors' Business Daily" (IBD) and developed tools that are available to everyone to help them invest wisely. I also believe there is no such thing as coincidence. As I look back, I can see God's hand in many areas of my life.

I went to the suggested seminars, bought his book and other suggested titles and subscribed to the paper. Along comes the lousy Stock Market in years 2000 to 2003. We all know how those went badly for investors. I was able to keep some of my bacon out of the fire, but my business was getting hurt badly and my family and I had to make some serious changes because for a period of time I wasn't getting paid. That was a very difficult time for me. My ego was being fed by my providing nothing but the best things for me and my family.

All of a sudden, we could not afford to continue on the same path. My 3 older girls had to stop going to college for a while, we put our home up for sale, and all the toys were sold. Looking back at that period of time, I know that it was the Holy Spirit that supported me when I didn't have the strength.

Fortunately, the bad times did not last forever, and there were some very fruitful lessons learned by each family member. For example, my two middle girls became residents of Arizona and finished up at ASU on resident tuition. My oldest finished at the U of Akron and my youngest became a Buckeye. During this time it seemed safest for me to assume that I knew nothing for sure and I wiped the slate clean. I was looking for wisdom, assumed I knew nothing for sure, and searched for knowledge from trusted sources. Aren't Wisdom and Knowledge two of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, along with Fortitude? I needed as much Fortitude as I could get.

One of the questions I had for God was: "Is negative thinking more accurate than positive thinking?" I got the answer a short time later when my wife and I were going to visit our girls in AZ. The day before we left as I was on my way to work, I asked God if there was a book he would like me to read. I got the answer 30 minutes later in my IBD. The title was: "Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway". It was a great title for someone in my state of mind at the time. In the book, the author explains that positive thinking is much more accurate than negative thinking. Thanks, I needed that!



I began to follow a path of more Positive Thinking in my life.

Fast Forward to the fall of 2005. One Friday afternoon I was visiting my daughter in Columbus where she worked at a small store in Easton Mall. I was sitting in the Starbucks inside the Barnes and Noble book store. I was renting my table with a Cappuccino and reading my IBD. After finishing my coffee, I closed the paper and asked God: "When I get good at this investing, what do You want me to do with the money?"

Shortly thereafter, I started wandering around the book store, stopped at one of the tables with books laid out on it and one of those books practically levitated into my hands. Its title is "The Greatest Salesman in the World" by Og Mandino. I responded, "Hey God, I'm not the sales guy, my partner is".

I started to go through the book anyway as I was standing there. The introduction includes a brief history of Mandino's life. In many parts to his life-story you could have replaced his name with mine including some very dark times where suicide was considered. Those dark times for me personally were history by this time but I couldn't put the book down.

The story of the book tells about one of the wealthiest men in biblical times. Hafid is his name and his accountant is Erasmus. As Hafid is old now and wants to close his business he gives his instructions to Erasmus who gets a strange look on his face. Hafid tells him he had that same look on his face when Hafid hired him. Erasmus acknowledges that he thought Hafid was crazy when he was instructed to calculate the profits at the end of each year and then give half of the profits to the poor.

Eureka! I had my answer 20 minutes after asking it. Give half or 50% of the profits to charity.

Three or four days later I was having lunch with my late friend Bruce Hunsicker at the Diamond Grill. As you may know, they only take cash, a check or a business card. It was my turn to buy. So I handed the waitress some cash. As I am telling Bruce this very story about my recent experience at the book store in great detail the waitress brings me my change. Included in the coins is this 50 cent piece.



When was the last time you got a 50 cent piece anywhere? It is literally 50% of a Dollar.

I saw that as further confirmation to my question.



Now let's fast forward to April of this year. My question to God is: "If I am supposed to give 50% away, how is it going to work because, I don't seem to be making much progress in my portfolio?" Instantly, God says use margin while investing. I respond are You nuts? He says trust me. And of course, margin ratios are...50%.

Every question I have asked earnestly of God with a clear mind & heart has been answered with full force and clarity by the Holy Spirit. Every time I turned to God for guidance, my path was made clear. Perhaps it is a path I may not have chosen for myself, but it is the RIGHT path; the one God has in mind for me.



Here are some suggestions as you make your walk with God:

1. Be Bold, No such thing as coincidence!
2. Pray, in quiet, and be ready to "listen" to Him speak in your own language at any time during the day in any manner that He chooses. It could be something you read, hear, or see, or that tiny voice that says "why don't you try this?" It could be that feeling in your gut.
3. Ask questions; be prepared for it may take a LONG time to get the answer. It may not be the answer you want or thought you wanted, but be ready for the answer. Remember: there is a time for everything.
4. Take heart, Emmanuel-God with Us! The Paraclete is well known as tongues of fire! They are not lukewarm.

Third person of the Holy Trinity is sometimes the most forgotten and neglected. However, He may be the most important person to us while on earth. He is God's way of speaking to us! God the Creator, God the Redeemer, God the Sanctifier. Without the Sanctifier, we do not get into Heaven! The Holy Spirit is our comforter and companion!

By following the Holy Spirit, our reward becomes peace, happiness and joy in this life and the next.



### **The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

1. Fortitude: Courage to do what is necessary, strength of mind that allows one to endure pain or adversity with courage
2. Counsel: Advice or guidance especially as solicited from a knowledgeable person. Ask Him your questions
3. Understanding: Comprehension
4. Knowledge: Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study
5. Piety: The state of being religiously devoted to God.
6. Fear of the Lord: A healthy respect for His awesome power.
7. Wisdom: Understanding of what is true, right, or lasting. Common sense; good judgment. The ability to use all of the other gifts in the proper proportion.

Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened.

The Holy Spirit does talk to me, not in words but in promptings that fill my heart and penetrate my entire being. May you find that He is waiting to speak to you...in Love, Peace and Joy. Amen.

### **Questions to Focus on:**

- 1 Are there people in your life to whom you need to listen to more?

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- 2 Give an example of where your willingness to listen, or other's were willing to listen to you, made a difference.

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- 3 What are some ways of listening to the Holy Spirit? Do you have a Quiet Place & Time to sit and listen?

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A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.  
We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

## Men's Group Calendar

6/28/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
7/12/2014	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
7/26/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
8/9/2014	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
8/23/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
9/13/2014	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
9/27/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
10/11/2014	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
10/25/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library



### LISTEN AND SILENT

What do these words have in common? Both have the same letters.

It is important to go to a Quiet Place...in order to listen to that still quiet voice of the Holy Spirit.

May God Bless You.  
St. Hilary Men's Group.





Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. Amen

#### **ACTION PLAN**

This week I will do my best to be a Man of the Holy Spirit by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Asking God for strength to resist temptation and sin

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant

"REPENT THEN, AND TURN  
TO GOD, SO THAT YOUR  
SINS MAY BE WIPE OUT,  
THAT TIMES OF  
REFRESHING MAY COME  
FROM THE LORD."

ACTS 3:19



*Lord, help me to pray not as an exercise of my will, but a surrender to Yours.  
Thank You for Your goodness to me. Amen.*