



LCS talk 7:
Empowered by the Spirit

A. INTRODUCTION



1. We started to learn how we can truly **live Christ**, by repentance and faith, and by living the two greatest commandments. These are not easy to do, and we need a power beyond ourselves. That is the **power of the Holy Spirit**.
2. Further, as part of living Christ, we are called **to share Christ**. We are to proclaim the good news of salvation in Jesus. We are to evangelize. The agent of evangelization is the **Holy Spirit**.



B. What the Bible says about the Holy Spirit.

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1. Many people during the prophet Ezekiel's time were enmeshed in sin and spiritual lifelessness, like many Christians today.
This is what God said to them:

- a) **Ez 36:26.** God's promise of the Holy Spirit.
- b) **Ez 36:27.** God's promise of help and power to do what is right.
The Holy Spirit gives us the power.



EZEKIEL 36:26-27

V 26 I will give you a new heart and a new mind.

I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart.

V 27 I will put my spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you.

B. What the Bible says about the Holy Spirit.



2. The Holy Spirit that God promised through Ezekiel, Jesus gave to his disciples. With the Holy Spirit, we gain:

- a) A new nature, spiritual power. **Gal 5:16-23**. The inward dimension. We are able **to live Christ**.
- b) Power to serve. **Acts 1:8**. The outward dimension. We are able **to share Christ**.

a. New nature, spiritual power, the inwards dimension

Gal. 5:16-23

“What I say is this: **Let the Spirit direct you lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature.** For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do. If the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law. What human nature does is quite plain.”



Gal. 5:16-23

It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and Indecent actions; in worships of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, And ambitious. They separate into parties and group; they are envious and get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn you now as I have before; **those who do these things will not Possess the Kingdom of God.**



Gal. 5:16-23

But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control. There is no law against such things as these. And those you belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. **The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives, We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.**

b. Power to serve – outward dimension

Acts 1:8

“But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and **you will be witnesses for me** in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

B. What the Bible says about the Holy Spirit.



3. God wants all men to have this new life. God sent His Son into the world so that we could be given the source of the new life, the Holy Spirit.



C. Introductory explanation prior to praying for the empowerment of the the Holy Spirit.

1. We are here to claim God's promise of the Holy Spirit

LUKE 11:9-13

And so I say to you . **“Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and will be opened to you. For the one who ask receives and the one who searches finds , and to him who knocks it will be opened.”**

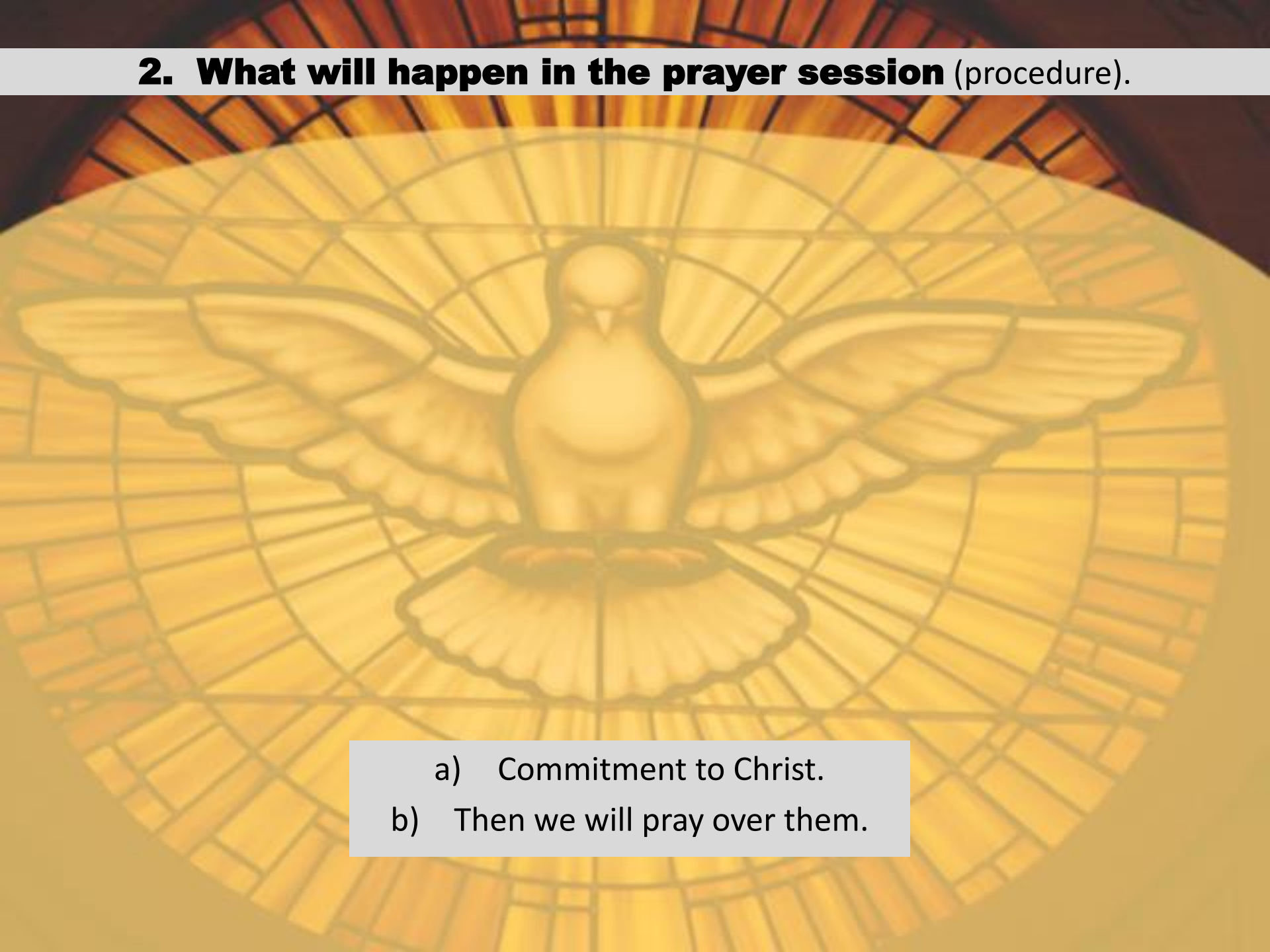
Many of you are father, if your son asks, for a fish, will you give him a snake instead ?

1. We are here to claim God's promise of the Holy Spirit

...LUKE 11:9-13

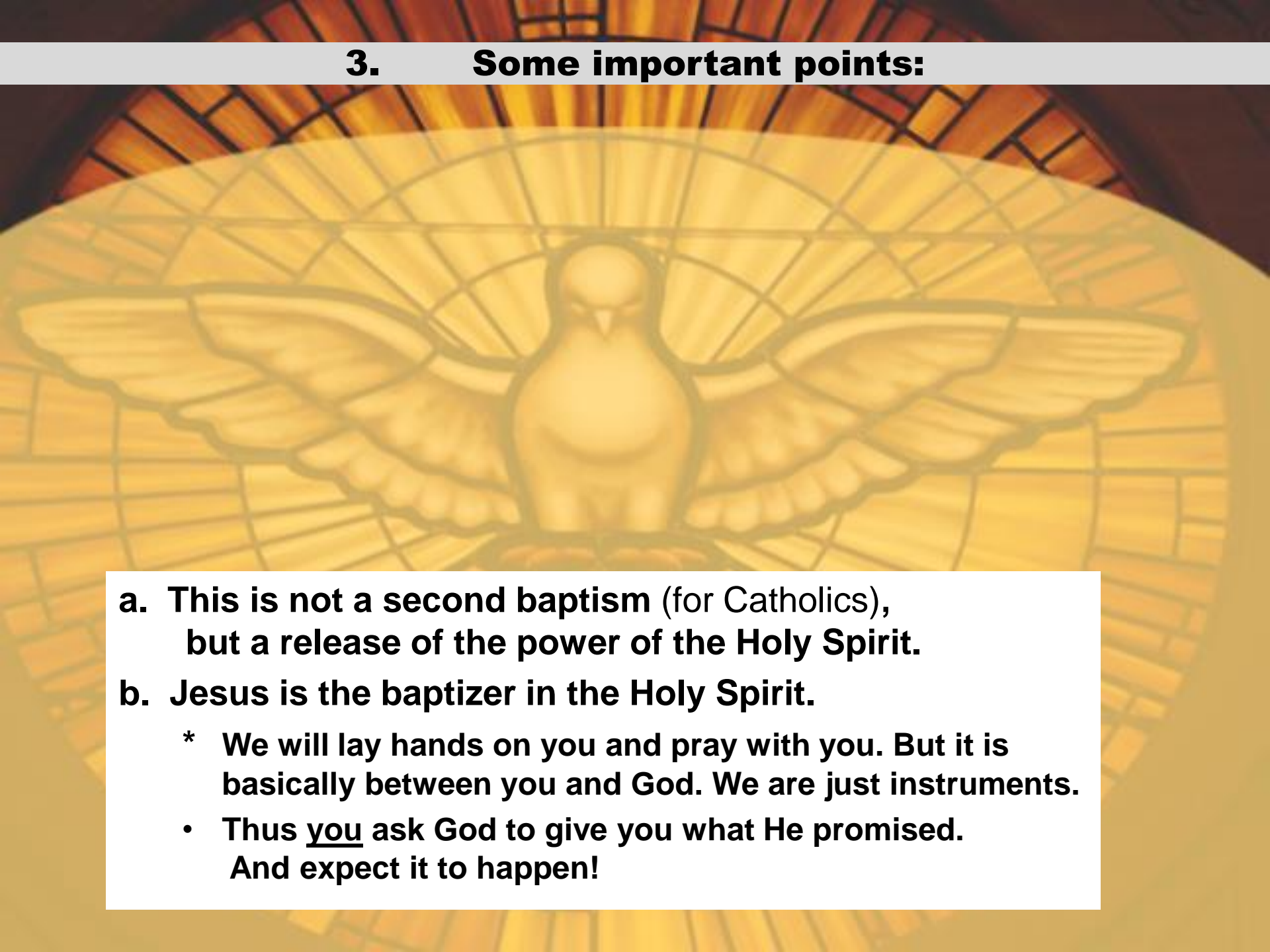
And if your son asks for an egg will you give him
A scorpion? Even you evil people know how to
Give good gifts to your children. **How much
more, then, will the Father in Heaven give
Holy Spirit to those who ask HIM!**

2. What will happen in the prayer session (procedure).



- a) Commitment to Christ.
- b) Then we will pray over them.

3. Some important points:

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- a. This is not a second baptism (for Catholics), but a release of the power of the Holy Spirit.**
 - b. Jesus is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit.**
 - * We will lay hands on you and pray with you. But it is basically between you and God. We are just instruments.**
 - Thus you ask God to give you what He promised. And expect it to happen!**

3. Some important points:

b). ...

- * We will pray with you. But it is basically between you and God. We are just instruments.**
- * Thus *you* ask God to give you what He promised. And expect it to happen!**

c) Different things will happen to different people.

- * Don't seek a particular kind of experience.**
- * Just turn to the Lord and receive the new life of the Holy Spirit from Him.**



D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

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1. Be aware of obstacles to receiving God's gifts.

- a) An unrepentant attitude. Refusing to admit sin as sin.
- b) Feeling unworthy. As such, we draw away from God's offered embrace.
- c) Fear.
 - * Of what others will think, of looking foolish, of being overtaken.
 - * Of what God might ask of us.
- d) Doubt. That God promised and will give the Spirit if we ask.
- e) Pride. Attitude of not wanting or needing God's gifts.

D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS



2. You know what you need. Ask for it.

- a) More courage to live the Christian life, strength to fight temptation, more knowledge of God, etc.
- b) Also, God is offering you various gifts. **1 Cor 12:4-11.**
 - * Note: expound quickly on each gift.
 - Be open to whatever God wants to give you.



1 Cor. 12:4-11

There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good Of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of **wisdom**, while to another person the same Spirit gives a **message full of knowledge**.

...1 Cor. 12:4-11

One and the same Spirit gives **faith** to one person, while to another person he gives the **power to heal**. The Spirit gives one person the power **to work miracles**; to another, the **gift of speaking God's message**; and to yet another, the **ability to tell the difference** between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the **ability to speak in strange tongues**, and to another He gives the ability **to explain** what is said. **But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person."**

D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

3. Some important right attitudes:

a) **Relax.**

The more relaxed you are, the easier it is to receive God's gifts. It is harder to put something in a clenched fist than in a relaxed and open hand.

b) **Don't be afraid.**

The Lord is here with us, and He loves you very much. He wants you to experience His love in a new way.

c) **Don't be concerned about how you might act as you respond to the Spirit's promptings.**

* Don't entertain thoughts that you might look or sound foolish if you begin to praise God in a new way, by raising your hands or speaking in tongues.

D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

4. Receiving the gift of tongues

a) **Tongues is a gift of praise.**

It is one of God's gifts. That is what makes it important. God wants you to have this gift. So desire it.

b) **Yielding to the gift.**

* As we are praying over you, at one point we will sing "Spirit of the Living God." After that song, let us all praise God, in your own words. Follow my lead.

• Then start speaking out in tongues. If necessary, begin by uttering meaningless sounds (e.g., la-la-la). The Holy Spirit will form these sounds into tongues. (Analogy: it is easier to manipulate the steering wheel of a car when it is in motion rather than stationary).

D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

4. Receiving the gift of tongues

b) ...

- * Do not be analyzing the sounds or focusing on the experience. Just focus on the Lord and offer Him your utterance as prayers of praise.

- * Resist the temptation to think that it is just you and not the Holy Spirit forming the sounds.

c) Thus to sum up: you first of all desire the gift of tongues, because it is a gift from God; then you ask for it in faith; and then you cooperate with God's Spirit by opening your mouth and speaking out.

D. RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS



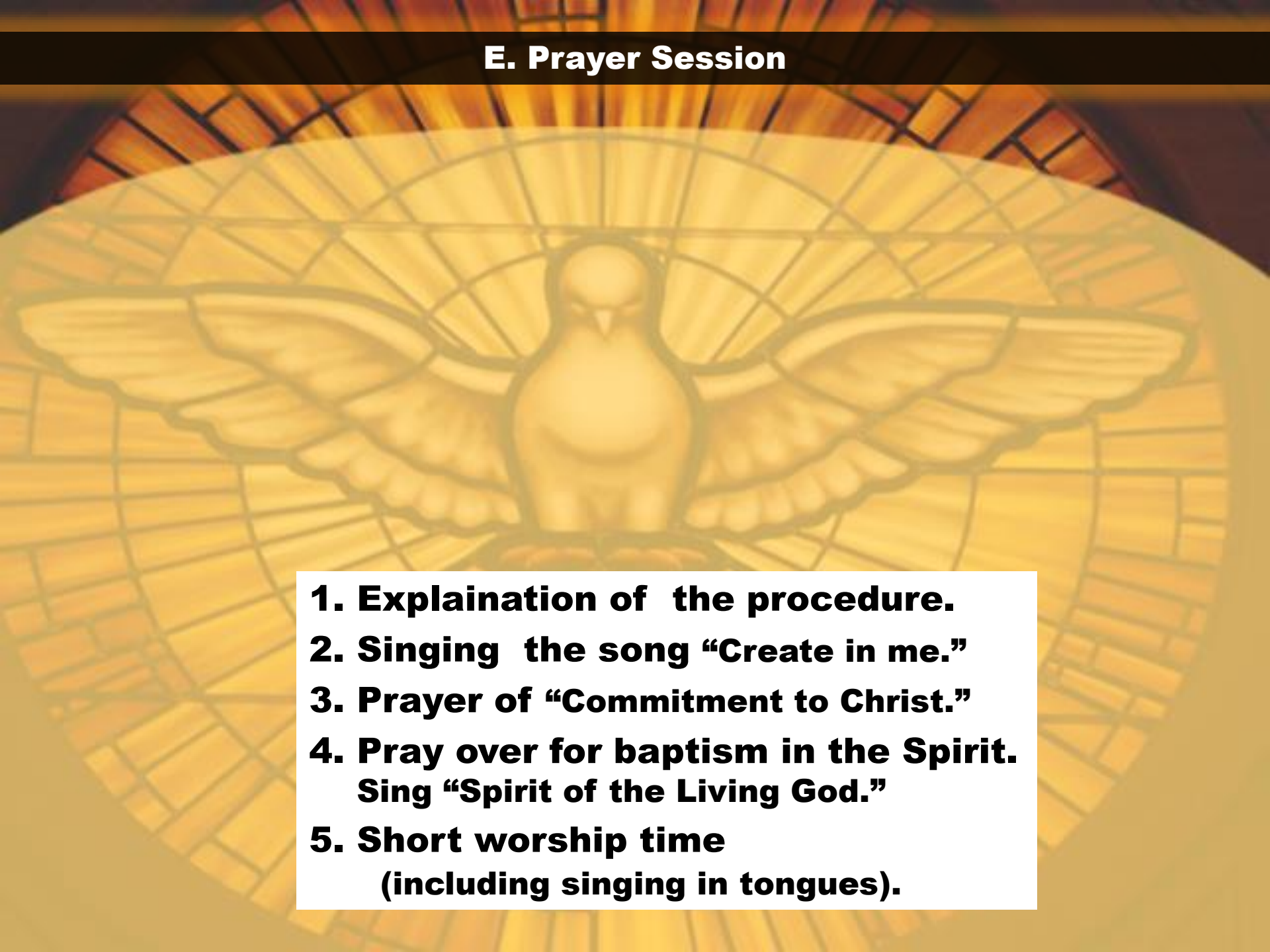
5. Final words:

- a) God wants you to have His gifts because He loves you and wants to live in you by His Holy Spirit. Desire God's gifts!
- b) God offers and gives His gifts. Our part is to accept. Let us all give the Holy Spirit a welcome into our lives.



E. PRAYER SESSION

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- 1. Explanation of the procedure.**
 - 2. Singing the song “Create in me.”**
 - 3. Prayer of “Commitment to Christ.”**
 - 4. Pray over for baptism in the Spirit.
Sing “Spirit of the Living God.”**
 - 5. Short worship time
(including singing in tongues).**



PRAY OVER SESSION

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

Do you renounce Satan and all wrongdoing? (response: I do)

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died to free us from our sins, and that he rose to bring us new life? (response: I do)

Will you follow Jesus as your Lord? (response: I will)

(All together) Lord Jesus Christ, I want to belong to you from now on. I want to be free from the dominion of darkness and the rule of Satan, and I want to enter into your Kingdom and be a part of your people. I will turn away from all wrongdoing, and I will avoid everything that leads me to wrongdoing. I ask you to forgive all the sins that I have committed. I offer my life to you, and I promise to obey you as my Lord. I ask you to baptize me in the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.



PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Lord, we praise and thank you for this time when you gather us in your name. Thank you for bringing us together in this seminar, where we have met you and have been learning about your way of life. We know that you desire so much more for us, because of your great love for us and your wonderful plan for our future. We are here now to receive the continued blessings that you have already prepared for us.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Lord, we pray for your protection first of all. We know the evil one is not happy with what you are doing in our lives, and would like to keep us from drawing closer to you. In your name we bind all the evil forces that are hovering around this place. We ask you to direct your angels to draw their fiery swords and keep the enemy away for this place. Lord, keep us safe and secure in your love and care.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT




Lord, we are sinners. We acknowledge our failures before you. We truly repent of how we have fallen short of your righteousness. We confess our weakness and lack of resolve in living the Christian life. We truly appreciate how time and again you have forgiven us and brought us back to yourself. We ask that you continue to deliver us from sin and evil. Strengthen us in our weakness. Keep us persevering despite obstacles. Keep us always in your tight embrace.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT




Lord, we are a wounded people. We have undergone experiences in life that pained us, scarred us, and kept us in bondage. We have memories of events that discourage us, weaken us, and keep us from moving forward. We may have been abused as a child. We may have been bullied in school. We may have been abandoned by parents and loved ones. We may have been rejected by peers. We may have experienced rejected or lost love.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT




We may have been disappointed by those we look up to. We may have been betrayed. We may have been grieved by our children taking the wrong path. Lord, you know what in our past bothers and afflicts us. [(Addressing the participants) Brethren, take a few moments to present your own pain to God (pause for 7 seconds).] Lord, we ask for your healing hand upon our hearts and minds and souls. Remove the poison that lingers. Make us whole in spirit. Thank you, Lord, for the inner healing that only you can bring.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Now we come to you, Lord, for your most important promise. You said that we only need to ask and we will receive, knock and the door will be opened, that you would give your Holy Spirit to those who ask. We are before you now as a people who are asking. Lord, we need your Spirit in our lives. We need your Spirit in order to attain the victory that you have already won for us. We need your Spirit so that we might truly know you and live your way of life. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



[(Addressing the participants)] Brethren, in your hearts, in silence, ask the Lord to give you the Holy Spirit, as we continue to pray for you.] Lord, we ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people here. You promised, they have asked, and so we pray for a renewed outpouring of your Spirit in their lives. Just as on Pentecost, fill them and empower them with your Spirit. Pour your Spirit upon them. Baptize them with your Holy Spirit.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT




[(Addressing the participants)] We will now sing “Spirit of the Living God.” Continue to ask God for a renewed infilling of His Spirit.] (Sing “Spirit of the Living God.” At the end of the song, the guitarist continues to strum, while the service team members praise God aloud, leading to singing in tongues. During the praising and singing in tongues, encourage the participants to do so as well.)

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Thank you, Lord, for the outpouring of your Spirit upon your people. Thank you, Lord, for your great blessing. Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness upon us all.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Lord, now that we have received your Holy Spirit in a new way, we look to living a more vibrant Christian life. We desire to love you and serve you more. We know you are there to help us, by your abundant grace, and also through gifts you give us. Help us in our weakness. [(Addressing the participants) Brethren, you know what you need or what you desire. Ask God for these. (Pause for 7 seconds)]. Thank you, Lord, for hearing the prayers of your people. Bless them with everything they need to live for you.

PRAYING OVER FOR BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT



Lord, please continue to grant your people the grace to be strong Christians, committed to your way of life and to the service of your Kingdom. Keep them always in your loving embrace. Fill their hearts always with your peace and joy.

All these we ask and pray, in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.



F. CLOSING EXORTATION

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1. **Different people have different experiences.**

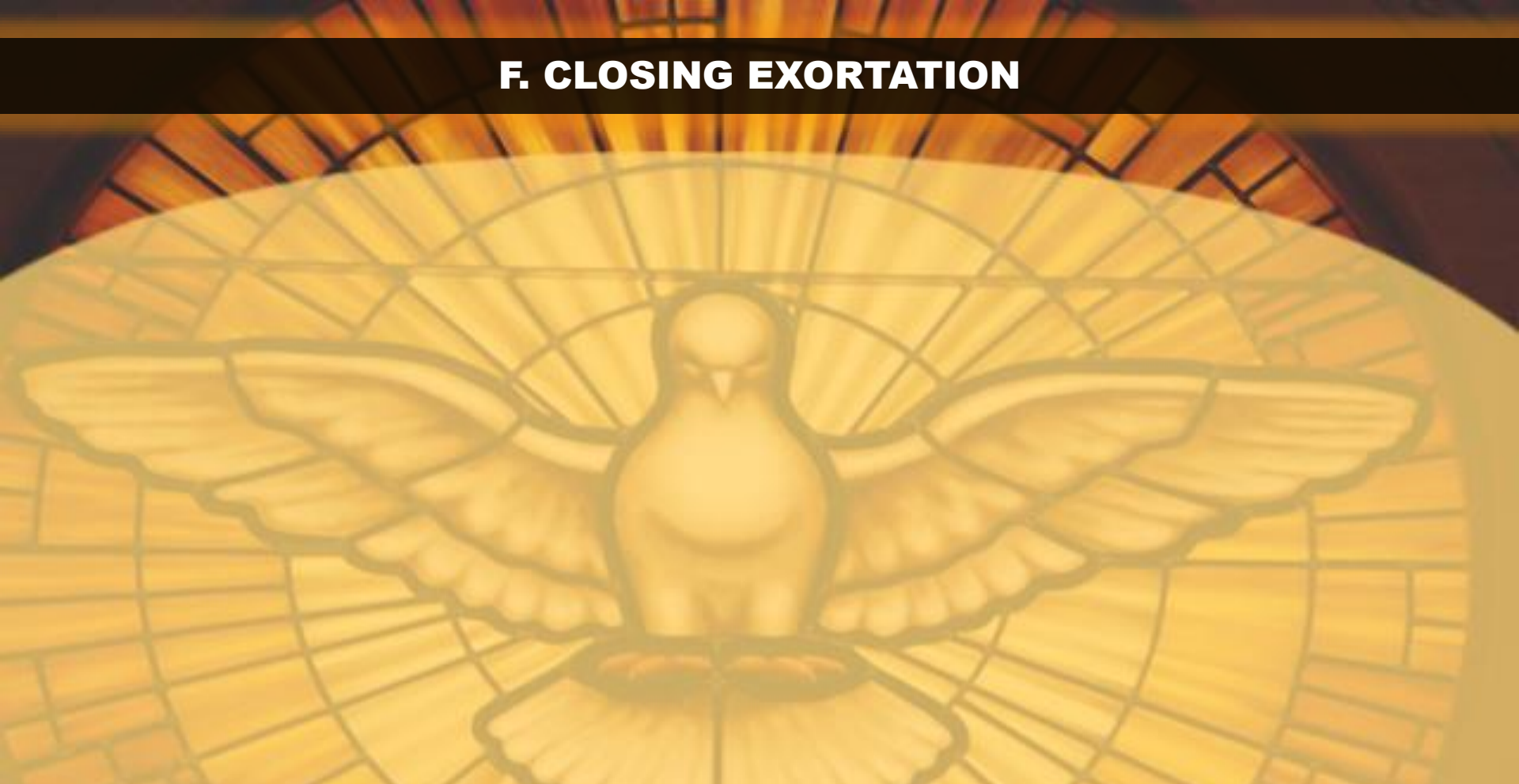
- a) Feeling is not the important thing. Rather, look for the new way that God is at work in you and respond to it (e.g., a new desire for prayer, for Scripture, etc.).
- b) If you did not speak in tongues, do not worry about it. Do not equate being baptized in the Spirit with getting the gift of tongues.
- c) Continue to be open to the Lord forming your praise into tongues

F. CLOSING EXORTATION



2. Be aware that Satan can tempt you to doubt.
 - a) Satan is seeking to rob everyone of God's gift. For him the next best thing to keeping you from getting is to keep you from using it.
 - b) Do not let feelings of doubt bother you. Just remember the fact that God promised it and that you asked for it..

F. CLOSING EXORTATION



- 3. Do not expect all your problems to go away all at once, though many will. The Holy Spirit will make a big change in you, and you will see it. But not everything will change. Some things will take a while to get worked out. But now you have a new power to use in working them out.**

F. CLOSING EXORTATION



- 4. Be faithful to a regular time of daily prayer. Spend a good portion of your prayer time in praise and thanksgiving in your own words. Pray in tongues everyday.**

F. CLOSING EXORTATION



5. What happened today is just a beginning.