

Asking for the Spirit

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

- Context:
 - Spoken by Jesus during His earthly ministry
 - The Spirit had not yet been given in the sense that all Christians have the Spirit (John 14:17, Acts 2:38, Romans 8:9 – 16).
 - Jesus' comment was directed to "the disciples," but the concepts appear to be generic, not limited to "spiritual gifts" such as those described in Romans 12:6 – 8, Ephesians 3:7, 4:7 – 16, Acts 8:20, 10:45, 11:17, 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 9, 28, 30, 31, 13:2, 14:1, 12.
 - Jesus had spoken briefly concerning being "born of the Spirit" previously (John 3:5 – 8, 4:23 – 24)
 - Prophets of old also had spoken of this concept (Joel 2:28, Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 39:29)
 - By the time Luke wrote, teaching about the indwelling Spirit was well known.
- A guaranteed method of asking for the Holy Spirit is to invoke the promises of God concerning ways in which the Spirit assists us. The following list is limited to promises specifically attributed to the Spirit. We can ask for anything, but not all applications are promised.
 - Help with our prayers (Romans 8:26 – 27)
 - Enlightenment (Hebrews 6:4 – 5)
 - Overcome the flesh (Romans 8:13, 1 Thessalonians 4:8, James 4:5)
 - Transformed into the image of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Strengthened in the inner man (Ephesians 3:14 – 19)
 - Led (Galatians 3:18)
 - Collectively built into a dwelling place for God (Ephesians 3:22)
 - Sanctified by the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2, Romans 15:16)
 - The ability to love as God loves (Romans 5:5)
 - Hope (Romans 15:13)
 - Joy (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
 - Renewal (Titus 3:5)