

YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 2:12 “we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.” (NASB)

The “we” that begins 1 Corinthians 2:12, the verb “received” and the direct object “the Spirit who is from God” leave no doubt that this verse is addressed to Christians. In fact, the phrase “received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God” identifies the plural subject “we” as the recipients who have received knowledge of “things freely given to them by God” through the Holy Spirit.

You, dear reader, joined together with all your fellow believers in Jesus Christ are the “we.” You have received the Holy Spirit from God to reveal to you the mind of God. Jesus said of the work of the Holy Spirit, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

When you received the Holy Spirit, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God” (Romans 8:15-17) Paul, in Titus, wrote about this work of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

Jesus describes what the Holy Spirit freely gives you, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15) After all, You cannot say that Jesus is Lord unless the Holy Spirit tells you. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Prayer: Dear Father, send Your Holy Spirit to me to teach me all I need to know about You, Your Son and my adoption as Your child. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living life-imparting Spirit, You we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit ever forming In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working Through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning and absolving, Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit ever binding Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending, You we worship and extol.
(LSB 650)