

Igniting the Fire: The Holy Spirit and God's Promises
PASSION 2014 Atlanta Francis Chan

<http://youtu.be/OP-fgMsxhIU>

Francis shares about trusting in the promises of God. He has promised us that He will put the Spirit of God inside of us. We are partakers of the divine nature, but we must make every effort to supplement our faith with virtue. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness, but we must strive to add those virtues to ourselves. If we pursue these qualities, we won't waste our lives.

2 Peter 1:1-9, Ezekiel 36:26, Ezekiel 37, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 2 Kings 6

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Live your life filled with praise. "Help me to thank you deeply." John the Baptist- "Behold, there He is." Some people are saying to John, "Some of your followers are going to Jesus." "They are supposed to be going with Jesus."

I dropped my oldest daughter at college." You are with Jesus. Draw near to Him." As a Dad, I pictured my oldest daughter, "What would I feel, if she said, 'Dad, is there any other way? This is killing me, is there any other way.'" I try to imagine her saying that. Three times?

I tried to think as a Dad, "How could I deal with that?" "Not my will, but Your will be done." It was the will of the Lord to crush Him." You did that for me? I want to thank him, praise Him.

We're just telling us, "Go with Jesus." Your parents, youth pastors, drive you to the feet of Jesus.

This afternoon, I'm going to go to Africa. One of the coolest things about this trip, is I am going with this interesting guy. Great businessman, in free time, he hires evangelists, rescues trafficked children, gives clean water, feeds the poor. He'd go to prostitutes, educate them, they'd become nurses. He'd walk these girls up the aisle on their wedding day.

He told me one of his secrets. I wake up every day, and say, "this is going to be the best day of my life." It sounds exhausting. I like having a few throwaway days, or years...when I graduate, marry, have my kid. God can make everyday better than the last. You have control over that. God, the next time I pray, I want it to be the most intimate time in your life. Make it the best. Keep on increasing. The things that make your life the best, are under your control. You can decide to be close to him.

2 Peter 1:1 "...a servant and apostle

To those (you) have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours. "Francis, you have a faith of equal standing with me." You are not inferior to the great men and women of the faith. People say to me "that's easy for you. You're Francis Chan..." That's not scripture.

v.3 "His Divine power has provided all things that pertain to life and godliness." Do you believe that? God gave you everything. That doesn't mean you don't have limitations. Chris Tomlin could never beat me at basketball....

I will never be the best athlete, but there is no reason why you can't be given everything you need from God. Purist mind. Thought life-purist white. Covenant with your eyes. Make this the purest year. Through the knowledge to His own glory and excellence. That's what He saved you for.

v.4 By which He has granted you His precious and very great promises, partakers of the Divine nature. Read my promises. What did I tell you? My Spirit would enter into you. You have the Divine nature.

Do you ever read about Old Testament miracles. God, could I just see one of those? Fire from heaven, walk through fiery furnace. Do you ever look in New Testament. Let me see the walking on water one. God, I just need one. But I realize for the miracles, then I have a faulty understanding of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament heroes were longing to be us. God inhabits us! They wanted a piece of that. Ezekiel 36:26: new heart, new spirit. I will put my Spirit in you and you will walk in my statutes." They are going to be a slave to righteousness.

Chapter 37, Valley of Dry Bones-sinews, flesh, come together. God just put these people together.

I brought some chicken bones. This pile of chicken. What if right now, you saw these chicken bones, rattling and coming together. Flesh and feathers, chicken starts going. Best passion ever.

That's what people should see when they see you. What happened to you. I've gotta believe this. A new generation of this miracle. Divine nature. Pastors are here to drop you off at the feet of Jesus.

Has that happened in your life?

"Having escaped the corruption that I in the world. Make every effort to supplement...." V.5 Make every effort! This is not a passive effort. The Bible says, God does this, but then, now you make every effort. Do something. Supplement your

faith with virtue. Appropriateness. Godliness. These glasses should help me to see. This key should fit in that lock. The natural outcome.

Go after it. Add to that knowledge. You don't naturally know the Bible, you make every effort. Student of the Word of God. I hate reading. I don't like it. I'd rather snuggle with a cat and I hate cats. But God says to. I'm going to force myself. Commit to reading your Word. Ten minutes a day, read whole Bible. Apps listen to Your Bible. Push play.

"God, I want to know you." Get into the whole book.

Know what God's character is. Add to your knowledge self-control. I have so many people blame the Holy Spirit for their lack of effort. "I told God to take away my lust, and He didn't." What does the Scripture say? Make every effort for self-control. Don't look at this website. There are times when God takes away an addiction. That's the exception. Others have to fight. There is a way of escape from temptation.

Perseverance. There are days you want to quit. Just take me home, I can't resist. God says, "Make it through another day."

Steadfastness, godliness. Every effort to worship. I've got four daughters and one of them got a Taylor Swift CD and I started to like it. When am I going to get that CD back, Dad. "Never, ever, ever, ever."

We are the most distracted people ever. I am going to worship Him. Add this godliness to me. There is a "Do not disturb" person.

Add to that brotherly affection. People are going to irritate you to death. Youth pastors, students are going to drive you crazy. You are going to bother each other. "make every effort." Theological differences, but brotherly affection must not separate us. Isn't this who you want to be? Toward enemies, pure, steadfast, self-control. I can have it all. He says in v.8 if these qualities are yours and increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful.

Don't you want to do great things for God's glory. Pursue these qualities and you will not be unfruitful and ineffective. Fifth year of college, still haven't declared a major. Yes you do know-perseverance, steadfastness, godliness.

I don't want to grow old and collect sea shells. Be the most intimate with Jesus. My favorite part of this passage.

v.9 "Whoever lacks these qualities you are so nearsighted you are blind." Only see what is right in front of them. If I dropped your smart phone. You crack the screen. This whole weekend is ruined for you. Never mind, that you have God hasn't given everything you need. One day we are going to be together. One who died for us because you cracked your screen. You are blind.

We are not going to live that long. Some of us will not be here next year.

2 Cor. 4:17: Our light and momentary troubles. It doesn't feel this way. "They are achieving an eternal weight of glory." Look at the unseen. The things you see are transient.

When you look in the mirror. You are not going to be the same. Everything is temporary. I've been praying 2 Kings 6 over you. Story has Elisha have an army going to kill him. Elijah, "Lord, give him eyes to see." The servant saw the unseen army. And the army who was real, God struck them blind.

Give them eyes to see. Take their eyes off the world, the temporary. Can you see if Peter were here, we are all the same. We've been dropped off at the feet of Jesus.

Two weeks ago, had the best prayer time of my life. What I did, look to the things that are unseen. Closed my eyes, nothing else, what's left, when I can take everything I see and touch. My soul? Angels and demons? That's what's left, worshipping in spirit and in truth.

Bow your heads. Close your eyes. Don't be nearsighted right now.

Thought we don't see Him, we love Him.