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SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

George Croly, 1780-1860

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6)

Although it is always thrilling at Christmas to recall events of our Savior's birth, or at Easter to celebrate His triumph over death, we must not forget Ascension or Pentecost. If Christ had never ascended to make intercession for us or had never sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and guide us, our relationship with the heavenly Father would be most incomplete.

One of the finest of all hymns for the Pentecost season is "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart." It was written by Anglican minister George Croly, who was known among his associates as a "fundamentalist in theology, a fierce conservative in politics, and intensely opposed to all forms of liberalism." The hymn first appeared in 1854 in Croly's own hymnal, *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship*. It was originally titled "Holiness Desired."

Each stanza contributes an important truth for our spiritual benefit:

Stanza One – A desire to change the focus of one's life from things temporal to things spiritual.

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart: Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, and make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Stanza Two – The total dedication of one's self to God.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King? All, all Thine own—soul, heart and strength
and mind. I see Thy cross – there teach my heart to cling: O let me seek Thee, and O let me
find.

Stanza Three – A prayerful concern for knowing fully the Spirit's abiding presence.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh, teach me the struggles of the soul to bear – to
check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Stanza Four – A most beautiful metaphor of a Spirit-filled life: "my heart an altar, and Thy love the flame." Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame: The baptism
of the heav'n descended Dove – my heart an altar and Thy love the flame. **AMEN.**

Pray even now that the Holy Spirit will give you a greater love and devotion for Christ and will teach and personalize more fully the truths of this hymn. Carry this musical prayer as you go. AMEN.

Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Amazing Grace -366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions
by Kenneth W. Osbeck

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

