

Descriptions of the work of the Holy Spirit

Taken from *Joy Unspeakable* by Martin Lloyd-Jones (published by David C Cook)

Thomas Goodwin (1600-80), described by Lloyd-Jones

A father is walking down the road with his son's hand in his own and the child is enjoying the presence of his father and knows that he is loved. Then, without the child doing anything special, moved only by the father's love, the father reaches down and scoops his son off his feet and up into his arms. He hugs the child tightly, showers him with kisses, tells him he loves him more than life itself and sets him down again. The child already knew his father loved him, there was no doubt. But oh the added measure of assurance, the joy of knowing that love is not based on anything you have done but simply flows out of the heart of the father. That is what it means to have God near.

John Owen, Treatise on communion with the Holy Ghost, 1657

Of this joy there is no account to be given but that the Spirit worketh it when and how He will. He secretly infuseth and distils it into the soul, prevailing against all fears and sorrows, filling it with gladness, exultations, and sometimes with unspeakable raptures of the mind.

William Guthrie (1620-65)

It is a glorious divine manifestation of God unto the soul, shedding abroad God's love in the heart. It is a thing better felt than spoken of. It is no audible voice but it is a ray of glory filling the soul with God as He is Life, Light, Love and Liberty, corresponding to that audible voice "O man, greatly beloved", putting a man in a transport... This is such a glance of glory that it may in the highest sense be called the "earnest" or the "firstfruits" of the inheritance (Ephesians 1:14)... almost wholly conforming the man unto His likeness, so swallowing him up that he forgetteth all things except the present manifestation. Oh how glorious is this manifestation of the Spirit!

Blaise Pascal, found after his death on a sheet of paper sewn inside his shirt

This day of Grace 1654:
From about half past ten at night, to about half after midnight,
Fire.

God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob,
Not of the philosophers and the wise.
Security, security. Feeling, joy, peace.
God of Jesus Christ.
Thy God shall be my God.
Forgetfulness of the world and all save God.
He can be found only in the ways taught in the Gospel.
Greatness of the human soul.
Oh righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee but I have known Thee.
Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy.

I have separated myself from Him.
My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?...

That I be not separated from Thee eternally.

This is life eternal: that they might know Thee the only true God, and Him whom Thou hast sent, Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ.

I have separated myself from Him; I have fled, renounced, crucified Him.

May I never be separated from Him.

He maintains Himself in my only in the ways taught in the Gospel.

Renunciation total and sweet.

John Wesley, diary entry 1 January 1738

Mr Hall, Hinching, Whitefield, Hutching and my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane with about sixty of our brethren. About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exulting joy and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His Majesty, we broke out with one voice, "We praise Thee O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord."

D.L. Moody, *The Life of D.L. Moody*, 1900

I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York — oh, what a day! — I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand.