

Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Christian faith reached the shores of Britain and Ireland around the year 400 AD. Men like Ninian, and Patrick, and Columba risked their lives to spread the Gospel of Jesus among the Celtic nature worshippers. And the spiritual awakening that ensued had powerful and far-reaching effects. Celtic Christianity snatched the Brits, and Welsh, and Scots and Irish from the darkness of paganism into the light and truth of the Bible.

Tradition says this brave brand of Christianity had a special name for the Holy Spirit. They called Him, “An Geadh-Glas” – a Gaelic phrase. It means “The Wild Goose.” To these fearless Christians, not only is the Holy Spirit the gentle dove who rested on Jesus at His baptism, He’s also the wild goose who roams the skies and lands wherever He pleases.

I like “The Wild Goose” as an idiom for the Holy Spirit. A wild goose can’t be *trained* or *tracked*. You don’t control him or bend Him to your will. The same is true with the Spirit of God. He’s sovereign. The Holy Spirit has a mind of His own. He does whatever He wills.

A wild goose is noisy, and raucous, and aggressive. His honk is loud and challenging. Up-close, a wild goose can be unnerving – even scary. At Jesus’ baptism the Spirit cooed like a dove, but in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, He swooped down from heaven, and filled the disciples with new wine. Filled with joy, they become ecstatic in their praise and bold in their witness. Later, these Christians were accused of a morning drunk. Today, there’s an Irish Whisky called “Wild Geese.” I wonder if there’s a connection.

In Acts 2, *the Goose was on the loose*. The Spirit stirred up the party. He made the disciples bold, and daring, and a threat to the enemy.

The other day, I had a firsthand, close encounter with a wild goose. There’s a lake near my house, and wild geese live on the lake. I was jogging through the neighborhood, minding my own business, when suddenly, one of these geese decides to land right next to me.

He might’ve honked, but I had on my headphones. The goose was in the air behind me, and sailed by - 4 inches from my head. His trajectory landed him 3 feet in front of me. That wild goose scared me to death.

If I hadn’t *ducked* - the goose would’ve hit me... It was nearly my *swan song*... it was definitely *fowl play*... I’m just not *down* with the idea that wild geese are roaming our neighborhood... it gives me *goose bumps*. I’m actually looking for insurance. I’ve taken a *gander* at AFLAC... And when I run now, I’m scanning the sky for geese, ready to jump out of the way. I’m nimble. You could say, I’m playing it “*loosey goosey*.”

Enough with the PUNishment – here’s my point - Celtic Christianity got it right. Our faith needs to be flexible. We should all live *loosey goosey*... The Wild Goose and Gentle Dove is still in flight... and you never know when God the Holy Spirit might drop in on you! God wants us to be led by the Spirit – and live in the Spirit – and walk in the Spirit – and be filled with the Holy Spirit. In a sense, the Christian life is **a wild goose chase**.

Today is the 11th installment of our teaching series, “**Essentials: What Christians believe and why it matters.**” Our subject is the **Holy Spirit**.

Each week we have a statement that summarizes our belief. Here is today’s creed - **We**

believe the Holy Spirit is God - a person, not a force. He brooded over the waters at creation. Through the Spirit, God makes new creations today. The Holy Spirit took over where Jesus left off at His ascension. He testifies of Jesus and does the acts of Jesus. As the Helper, He assists us in worship, with-ness, and witness.

First, note the Holy Spirit is a person. In the Bible, the Spirit is never labeled an “it” – always a “He.” The Holy Spirit is not an *impersonal force* or *universal consciousness*. He’s not a *power*, or *vibe*, or *aura*. Some Christians mistake a certain atmosphere for the Holy Spirit. They will comment, “I felt the Spirit in that place.” As if the Spirit is an exposed wire or energy current - rather than a person to know, love, and respect.

Notice too, the Holy Spirit is always a “He.” Yes, *God is Spirit; thus He lacks the physical features associated with the sexes*. Yet the Bible always reveals God in the masculine gender. When God interacts with His people He assumes the role of male, and relates to us in largely masculine ways.

And please remember, the Holy Spirit is God. In episode one of the **Essentials** I talked about God as a Trinity. He’s one in essence and substance, yet three in consciousness and personality. The one true God exists in three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Spirit.

2Corinthians 3:17 mentions, “The Lord who is the Spirit...”

In Acts 5:3 Peter tells Ananias that Satan has filled his heart to lie *to the Holy Spirit* - while in verse 4 he turns around and tells him that he's lied *to God*. Obviously, in Peter’s mind, he considers the Holy Spirit to be God.

Throughout the Bible, God’s attributes are equally shared by the Spirit. Whatever the Spirit speaks is always considered the word of God... The Holy Spirit is a *member-in-good-standing* of the Godhead.

In John 14:16, on the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prepped His disciples for His departure. He introduced to them His replacement - the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told them, “I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper...” And Jesus strategically used a specific word. In the Greek language two words are translated “another” – *another of the same kind*, and *another of a different kind*. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “another” – just like Jesus. The Spirit carries on the nature of Jesus. The NT calls Him “the Spirit of Jesus” and “the Spirit of Christ.”

In other words, the Holy Spirit picked up where Jesus left off...

Let me encourage you to read John 14-16. This is Jesus’ *magnum opus* on the Holy Spirit. Here He outlines His **person**, and **purpose**, and **power**.

In John 14:17 Jesus says the Holy Spirit will be with His disciples and dwell in them. He’ll be a father to us. He won’t leave us as “orphans.” The Holy Spirit conveys the love and protection and nurture of God.

Three times in chapters 14-16 Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth.” In 16:13 Jesus says the Spirit of truth will “guide you into all truth.” The Spirit inspires Scripture, and gives us insight into Scripture.

In 16:14 Jesus tells us the Spirit’s role is to “glorify” and represent Him. He notes this again in 15:26, “The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” Here’s the unity and beauty of the Trinity... Each person of the Godhead has a role to play. The Spirit comes from the Father and points to the Son - *but none of these three are ever in competition*. The Trinity is the perfect bond of love and submission.

This is why the Spirit at times seems to be the **Godhead’s silent partner**. So often the Holy Spirit takes a backseat to the Father and to Jesus. But this is His role. He never attracts

attention to Himself – or His own message. The Holy Spirit's job is to speak for God, convict people of sin, and point them to the Savior. I call Him [the unsung hero of the Godhead](#).

This is why a charismatic church that ends up preoccupied with the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts - *to the exclusion of Jesus* - is not in tune with the Spirit they claim to possess. A Spirit-filled church is all about Jesus!

Because the Holy Spirit keeps such a low profile the Bible uses six idioms to help us get to know the Spirit and recognize His influence. Add these to **Wild Goose... [dove, oil, wine, water, fire, wind](#)**.

At Jesus' baptism the Father spoke and the Spirit landed as a [dove](#).

When the Bible opens, Genesis 1:2, we see the Spirit of God "[brooding](#)" over the waters. It's the picture of a mother bird *hovering* over her chicks.

Today is Mother's Day, and it's good to note that the dove is associated with motherhood. Many of the biblical concepts associated with the Holy Spirit are functions related to mothering and child bearing...

In John 3 it's through the Holy Spirit that we're born again. We receive the [new birth](#). The Spirit generates and sparks the life of God in us. Hebrews 5 talks about new believers receiving [the milk of the Word](#). The concern for others – the passion for intercession that the Spirit brings to our hearts is referred to in Galatians 4:19 as [labor pains](#).

One of my favorite passages is Isaiah 49:15. God assures His people, "[Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.](#)" Sooner would a nursing mother forget her child than God neglect His people. Isaiah is saying that "[God is a Father with a mother's heart!](#)"

Our heavenly Father is the perfect single parent. He combines the *strength* of a Father and *sensitivity* of a mother. And it's the Holy Spirit that conveys God's motherly instincts – gentleness and tenderness. AB Simpson writes, "[Human fatherhood expresses a need which is met in God the Father. Human brotherhood - and the higher, closer fellowship of a husband and bride - are met in Christ, the Son of God. But human motherhood has its origin in the Holy Spirit.](#)" The Spirit is like a dove.

The Spirit is also like [olive oil](#). In ancient times oil soothed, moistened, cooled, softened, healed... Likewise, the Holy Spirit does all the above... He *soothes troubled minds*, and *softens calloused hearts*, and *moistens our thoughts*, and *cools down our temper*, and *heals our wounds*.

Oil was used to dedicate kings and prophets when they assumed office. Zechariah 4:6 was spoken to Zerubbabel before he began to rebuild the Temple. It's "[not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.](#)" Oil was a reminder that every *work of God* needs the *Spirit of God*.

Another biblical picture of the Spirit is [wine](#). Ephesians 5:18, "[Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...](#)" Paul is contrasting two experiences with similarities. *Distilled spirits* and *the Holy Spirit* both affect *my words, my walk, and my wits*. Wine slurs my words - it shakes my walk - it clouds my wits. The Spirit has the opposite affect – He cleans up my speech, and steadies me, and clears my head.

And like wine the Spirit produces joy... *without the vomit and hangover!* It's been said, "[A drunk starts out to get mellow, then gets ripe, finally ends up rotten. A Christian filled with the Spirit starts out rotten, ripens with fruit, and ends up mellow - enjoying God's peace and rest.](#)"

Another biblical picture of the Holy Spirit is [water](#). The Spirit cleans and refreshes. Water is

also a symbol of movement and power. In John 7:37 Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." Literally, "rapids of white water..." Jesus is promising us that life with the Holy Spirit is a rush.

There was an OT cleansing known as "the ashes of the red heifer." A cow was sacrificed and burned. Its ashes were then mixed with water and sprinkled on the item to be cleansed... Here's the message - Jesus is the sacrifice, but how are the effects of the cross impact my life today? It's through the water – the Spirit conveys the work of the cross.

The Holy Spirit is also like **fire**. In Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples flames of fire rested over their heads.

Fire always speaks of **passion**. And passion is the Spirit's business. The Spirit of God produces spiritual heat. He melts icy hearts, and warms cold, lonely lives. The Spirit supplies the fervor of revival.

Here's a sixth biblical idiom for the Holy Spirit – the **wind**. Again in Acts 2 the outpouring of the Spirit was signaled by "a rushing, mighty wind." The Greek word translated "Spirit" is "pneuma" – from which we get words like "pneumatic" or "pneumonia" – it relates to wind or breath.

In John 3:8 Jesus said to Rabbi Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." In other words, the ways of the Spirit are as unpredictable as changes in the wind. Watch a flag over a ballpark on a windy day – *it blows out, then in - right, then left* – you're never sure which way the wind blows.

Likewise, the Holy Spirit is sovereign. He's God. What matters is His agenda – not mine... He calls the shots - not me... You can't corral the wind and box it up. Neither can you box in or control the Wild Goose.

Let's go back to John 16 and Jesus' final instructions to His disciples. In verse 7 the Lord makes an astonishing statement. It always boggles my brain. He told His disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." *How could Jesus' departure ever be seen as an advantage?*

This is strange... *Bases are loaded – we're behind 3 to 2 – its Chipper's turn to hit...* But instead of grabbing a bat and driving in the winning runs, the batting champ says to his team it's to their advantage that he leaves...

How can this be? Here's the answer... **Jesus' departure paved the way for the Holy Spirit's arrival.** Jesus was one man, in one place, at one time. But the Spirit lives in every Christian, in every country, in every century. I love the prayer of Augustine, "Jesus, You ascended from before our eyes, and we turned back grieving, only to find you in our hearts."

Jesus' ministry was limited by space and time - *not so with the Spirit*. Earlier Jesus told His men, "the works that I do (you) will do also; and greater works than these (you) will do, because I go to the Father." It's not that any one of us will do *more* or *mightier* acts than Jesus – but through the Spirit, Jesus works through every believer all over the earth. And the over-all impact of a Spirit-filled Church **is more and mightier**.

It almost sounds blasphemous, but it's true – *the ministry of the Holy Spirit is an advantage to the physical presence of Jesus!*

Jesus *taught and modeled* a better way to live. But the Holy Spirit is able to enter our spirit, and *imbed* that better way inside our hearts. Jesus *showed* us how - but the Spirit *empowers* us to be and do.

It was an advantage for Jesus to leave, and send the Holy Spirit in His place. **The Spirit is the**

Super-Sub. When the Lord departed the Jesus movement didn't miss a beat. Just as the disciples totally depended on Jesus, believers today need to depend on the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is an **essential** doctrine of the Christian faith - but equally so, He is the key to a vibrant and victorious life with God.

I like to summarize the Spirit's influence under three categories... The Helper helps us... in **worship**, in **with-ness**, in **witness**. Through the Spirit I **adore Jesus** – I **abide in Jesus** – and I **acquire from Jesus**. Let's explore these three categories, and then we'll close...

First, the Holy Spirit revolutionized **worship**.

Because of the Holy Spirit, Jesus dismantled a system of worship that frustrated and limited Israel for 1000 years. He sets us free to worship!

In John 4 Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the town's watering hole. She's drawing *liquid water*, but Jesus promises *living water*. The Holy Spirit does more than soothe a parched throat – He refreshes our soul.

But that's when the woman asks a question. On which mountain should she worship? At the time worship was *all about location, location, location*. Jesus told her, "Woman... *the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*"

Jesus releases worship from *location*, and ties it to *longing*. The Father *longs* for true worshippers. We *long* for God. If our hearts are open to the Spirit and our minds are guided by the truth we can worship God anytime, anywhere. Through the Holy Spirit the human heart becomes a Temple.

This is why the flames of fire appeared above the heads of the disciples on Pentecost Sunday. In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit brings a NT Temple online.

Twice in the OT God dedicated a place of worship. Moses anointed the tent in the wilderness, and fire fell from heaven and charred the sacrifice. At the grand opening of Solomon's Temple God again sent the fire.

On the Day of Pentecost the followers of Jesus gather to worship. And again fire fell on the sacrifice – this time on living sacrifices. Believers who'd given their all to Jesus, were filled with the Spirit of worship.

And many of them spoke in tongues – which is a gift of worship. 1Corinthians 14 tells us that tongues is not a message from God, but a means by which we can praise and worship God in an uninhibited style.

Jesus told the woman at the well, worship was all about longing, and tongues allows us to express **our longing** without filtering it through **our language** or **our logic**. It's a beautiful gift for a heart on fire for God.

In 1Corinthians 12:30 Paul makes it clear not every Christian filled with the Holy Spirit will speak in an unknown tongue. But if you long to *freely and fully* worship God, I encourage you to ask Jesus for this gift.

The Spirit of God assists us in our **worship**, AND He helps in **with-ness**.

The Holy Spirit makes us holy, and connects us to God. It's through His influence that we have fellowship *with* God. Jesus lives *with* us and in us, through the person of the Holy Spirit. This is what I call **with-ness**.

In John 14 Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our "**Helper**." The Greek term is "**parakletes**" - a compound word. "**Para**" means "*alongside*", and "**kletes**" means "*to call*". The Holy Spirit has

been called to come alongside us. A Christian is a person who lives *with* the Holy Spirit.

Think of a parent teaching their child to ride a bike. They've got to steer straight, and pedal, and maintain balance, and know when to slow down, and be able to stop and start again. It takes a lot of parental support. And this is the Holy Spirit's job. He's *with* us – right by our side – His hands are near the handlebars. He helps us learn to live out our faith.

Again, I like a quote by AB Simpson. He calls the Holy Spirit, "[A God at hand, by our side, a God that we may call upon in every emergency.](#)"

Ultimately, God's answer to our weakness and folly is the Holy Spirit. One author writes, "[The Holy Spirit is in office on earth, and all spiritual interaction with God comes through Him.](#)" The Spirit is God's *with-ness*.

Romans 8:14 says it best, "[For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...](#)" It's the Holy Spirit who reveals God to us.

The Spirit enables us to sense God's presence – feel His forgiveness - be assured of His acceptance. He replaces *my desires* for *His desires*.

And living with the Spirit rubs off on us. The more we're with the Holy Spirit the more we become like Jesus. Attitudes get shaped. Fruits of the Spirit like love and joy become apparent. 2Corinthians 3:18 says we're "[transformed into the \(God's\) image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.](#)" The Holy Spirit is the **essential** in a relationship **with** God.

And thirdly, the Spirit of God is what makes us a **witness** for God. In the book of Acts after the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost the Church became bold and daring. The love of God drove out their fears, and propelled them to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Just days earlier these same men were hiding behind closed doors. Their Lord had been crucified and they were afraid they'd be next. But a miraculous change occurred. Overnight the disciples went from *fear to fearless* – *from kittens to lions*. They were filled with boldness. It was the result of what the Bible calls [the filling, or baptism of the Spirit](#).

The Bible mentions three experiences we can have with the Holy Spirit.

In John 14:17 Jesus mentions the first two experiences. He says to His disciples regarding the Spirit, "[He dwells with you and will be in you.](#)" He's **with** us before we're saved – the Spirit convicts us of sin and testifies of Jesus. When we're saved the Spirit comes to dwell **in** us.

He's *with us* and *in us*. Yet later in Luke 24:49 Jesus again told His disciples to expect the Holy Spirit, "[Behold I send the Promise of the Father upon you.](#)" Notice, the Spirit is **with** and **in** – and now **upon**.

In John 20:22 Jesus' first followers believed in the risen Christ and He breathed on them. He told them, "[Receive the Holy Spirit.](#)" But what was a breath that day became a mighty wind later. In Acts 2 the Spirit came **upon** the same people and filled them with boldness.

It wasn't that they received more of the Spirit. They had a different experience with the Spirit. The *indwelling* of the Spirit is like a fresh breath, but the *infilling* - or baptism - is a mighty gale-force wind. Corrie Ten Boom once said, "[Just as it takes two batteries to energize a flashlight, it takes two experiences to energize a Christian - the first battery is regeneration, and the second battery is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.](#)"

It's every Christian's right and privilege to not only be inhabited by the Spirit, but to be filled with supernatural power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the original language of the NT spiritual gifts are called "[charismata](#)" – or "[grace gifts](#)." The baptism and gifts of the Spirit are no more earned than our salvation. The blessings of the Spirit are free gifts. We receive them when we

have faith enough to ask. *We have not because we ask not.*

And while we're on the subject, let me say a word about spiritual gifts... A spiritual gift is not a *natural ability* or a *learned skill*. It's a supernatural enabling provided by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowers us to *know* or *do* or *speak* in a way that we would never be able to manufacture on our own.

Spiritual gifts are like ordinary blessings on steroids. For example, the "word of wisdom" is a supernatural allocation of wisdom. The "gift of faith" is faith plugged into a spiritual outlet. *Spiritual gifts are like power tools.*

And the NT divides spiritual gifts into three categories – **spiritual motivations - special ministries - supernatural manifestations**. 1Corinthians 12:4 reads, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord, and there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all"

Paul mentions "gifts" – these are *spiritual motivations*. Gifts like teaching, or mercy, or giving, or exhortation – they color our service. He speaks of *special "ministries"* – Ephesians 4 lists apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor-teacher. These are all offices in the Church. And Paul talks about "activities" - which is the Greek word "*energeo*" or "*energies*". These are the *spontaneous manifestations* of the Spirit. Gifts like healing, miracles, faith, tongues, prophecy, and knowledge.

We believe all the supernatural gifts experienced in the NT Church are available to the church today. They're acquired through the Holy Spirit.

Sadly, in many ways the modern charismatic church has given the Holy Spirit a black eye. When craziness goes on under the banner of the Spirit believers and nonbelievers are turned off to the person they need most.

Here's what happens... A person turns on TV - he sees an evangelist slap a guy on the forehead – the guy hits the deck - and starts flopping around like *a brim on a dock* – and he wonders, "*How weird is this?*" Hyper-emotionalism and religious theatrics give the *Holy Spirit* a bad rap... What's often credited to the Holy Spirit is not *holy* or *spiritual*.

In Luke 11 Jesus referred to the things of the Spirit as good gifts. "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?... 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!"

When you receive from the Holy Spirit you're always glad you did.

Let's recite our statement together - *We believe the Holy Spirit is God - a person, not a force. He brooded over the waters at creation. Through the Spirit, God makes new creations today. The Holy Spirit took over where Jesus left off at His ascension. He testifies of Jesus and does the acts of Jesus. As our Helper, He assists in worship, with-ness, and witness.*

Jesus, fill us with the Spirit and let the wild goose chase begin...

BONUS MATERIAL

The Bible provides a long litany of tasks the Spirit does for the believer. Here are ten specifics the Spirit carries out in the life of every Christian...

First, *the Spirit generates in us the life of God.*

Second, *the Spirit guides us into the truth of God.*

Third, *the Spirit conveys to us the love of God.*

Fourth, *the Spirit reveals to us the presence of God.*

Fifth, *the Spirit transforms us into the image of God.*

Sixth, *the Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God.*

Seventh, *the Spirit assures us of the glory of God.*

Eighth, *the Spirit produces in us love, joy, peace - the fruit of God.*

Ninth, *the Spirit infuses us with the power of God.*

Tenth, *the Spirit blesses us with the supernatural gifts of God.*

If you want to experience the *life of God* - and understand the *truth of God* - and know the *love of God* - and sense the *presence of God* - and reflect the *image of God* - and walk in the *will of God* - and behold the *glory of God* - and grow the *fruit of God* - and be fueled by the *power of God* - and use the *gifts of God*... then you need the *Spirit of God!*

The disciples had spent 3½ years with Jesus. They'd sat under the best teaching to ever fall on human ears. They were mentored, and prepped, and commissioned, and tutored by the Master Teacher, Jesus.

Yet still they weren't ready to be His witnesses.

This is why Jesus sent them back to Jerusalem to wait for power from on high. It's essential for them and us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In 2 Samuel 5 David readied his men to attack the Philistines, but first prayed for guidance. God told him to hide his troops in a grove of mulberry trees, and not attack until he heard wind rustling the tops of the trees.

The wind was God's cue to attack. Before we make a move we need to wait on the fresh breeze of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person like the Father and Son. He has a mind, will, and emotions - and since He has emotions He can be upset or grieved!

When the ancients wanted to start a fire they had three methods - simple friction, the rays of the sun, or a lightning strike.

If you lose the Spirit's fire there are three ways for it to be rekindled...

First, rub together the sticks of repentance - create some friction in your heart. Second, focus a magnifying glass on the Son of God. Set your lens on Jesus and He'll reignite a passion. Or third, pray for a lightning strike from heaven - a bolt to fall and fire up your life!