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Markus McDowell

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A Prayer for the Spirit In the Church

MARKUS MCDOWELL

This is a request for the Spirit to be among us which focused on the Spirit's work as described in a number of New Testament passages. The prayer was written as an opening or closing prayer in a worship service, and could be recited by an individual or corporately by having the congregation reciting together the lines in bold.

O God of our ancestors, God of mercy
Hear us this day
As we offer our voices, our hands, our feet
To your glory and your purposes

O God, father of the Son, giver of the Spirit
Hear us this day
As we bow before you with a humble request
That you pour your Spirit out upon us

As the prophet Joel spoke, and as the apostle
Peter spoke
That your spirit will be poured out on all your
people
That sons and daughters, young and old,
slaves and free
Would be guided by your spirit and speak
your word

We read the Words of Jesus in the Gospel of
Mark
That the Spirit spoke through the early
Christians
May it be so with us.

We read the words of Jesus in the Gospel of
John
That the Spirit will come upon all his follow-
ers to guide them
May it be so with us

We read in Acts that the first church was
filled with the Spirit
May it be so with us.

We read in Paul's letter to the Corinthians
That the body of believers is the Temple of
the Holy Spirit
May it be so with us

We read that the gospel came to the
Thessalonians
Not only in word, but in the power of the
Holy Spirit
May it be so with us.

We read in 2 Peter that men and women of
the church
Are moved to speak God's message by the
Spirit
May it be so with us.

Oh, God of our ancestors, God of mercy
Hear us this day
As we offer our voices, our hands, our feet
To your glory and your purposes

O God, father of the Son, giver of the Spirit
Hear us this day
As we bow before you with a humble
request
That you pour your Spirit out upon us.

MARKUS MCDOWELL is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara and the Managing Editor for *Leaven*.