

# Life in the Spirit

## Lecture Notes

Assemblies of God School of Theology  
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## Preface

These lessons were developed while I was teaching at the Assemblies of God School of Theology in Lilongwe, Malawi. They have more recently been published as a book entitled *In Step with the Spirit: Studies in the Spirit-filled Walk*, with an added chapter on “Ministering in Spiritual Power.” (That book may be obtained from the Acts in Africa Initiative, [www.ActsinAfrica.org](http://www.ActsinAfrica.org).)

I had previously developed a course for the school entitled “Power Encounter.” (The book for that course, *Power Ministry: How to Minister in the Spirit’s Power*, as well as my lecture notes for the course, may be obtained at [www.ActsinAfrica.org](http://www.ActsinAfrica.org).) The two courses are companion courses. “Power Encounter” deals primarily with our outward ministry in the power of the Spirit, while this course, “Life in the Spirit,” deals primarily with our inner walk, although there is some slight overlapping.

I offer these lecture notes to you to use in your own ministry. Please feel free to adapt them to your own particular situation. May the Lord bless you as you study and teach the lessons contained in this course.

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Lesson One

## Meet Your Remarkable Friend

**Objective:** Know the Holy Spirit who gives you life.

### Outline

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit?
  - A. He is God
  - B. The Third Person of the Trinity
  - C. The Attributes of Deity
  
- II. Names of the Holy Spirit
  - A. The Spirit
  - B. Spirit of God
  - C. Holy Spirit
  - D. Counselor
  - E. Spirit of Christ
  - F. The Holy Spirit of Promise
  - G. The Spirit of Truth

### Introduction

1. In this course we will talk about how a believer in Christ may live a life under the direction and control of the Holy Spirit.
2. Before one can live a life “in the Spirit,” he must first become acquainted with the Spirit in whom he will live this life.
  - a. The Bible speaks of the “fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Cor.13:14).
  - b. A blessed privilege of every believer.
  - b. The Holy Spirit wants to be more to us than just a “tool which we use” to do the work of God, He wants to be our personal friend and guide.
  - c. We must become the tool which He can use to accomplish the will of God.
3. Before one can live a life in step with the Spirit it is essential that he have a clear understanding of just who the Holy Spirit is.
  - a. In this lesson we will meet our “remarkable Friend”— the Spirit of God.
  - b. We will answer the important question, “Who is the Holy Spirit?”

## I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

### A. He is God

1. Some conceive Him to be some power or force such as gravity, electricity, or even witchcraft.
2. The Holy Spirit is not such an impersonal force.
3. He is in fact God.

### B. He is the “Third Person of the Trinity”

1. What does this phrase mean?
2. In the Bible God is revealed as being a trinity, or tri-unity, of being.
  - a. Although God is one in His divine essence, He is three in person.
  - b. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Some passages in the Bible speak of God as being one.
  - a. Deut. 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one.”
  - b. Many other passages describe the essential unity of God (Deut. 4:35, 39; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa. 45:5, 6; Mark 12:29-32, John 17:3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5).
4. Other passages speak of God as being three persons.
  - a. Paul blessed the Corinthian believers with these words: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14).
  - b. Jesus commanded us to baptize new believers in the name of “the Father, and of the Son, of the Holy Spirit” (Mat. 28:19).
  - c. These are only two of the many references to the Trinity of God in the Bible. (See also Gen. 1:1; 26, 11:7; Isa. 48:16; John 14:26; Acts 10:38; Eph. 3:14-16; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:2, 3:18, 1 John 3:23, 24, Jude 20, 21, and Rev. 1:4, 5).
5. Just as the Heavenly Father is God, and Jesus the Son is God, so the Holy Spirit is also God.
6. Pentecostal scholar, Anthony Palma described the Holy Spirit as “God in action.”
  - a. When we speak of the power of the Holy Spirit we are talking about the power of God.
  - b. When we talk about the voice of the Holy Spirit we are talking about the voice of God.

### D. He Possesses the Attributes of Deity

1. As God, the Holy Spirit possesses all the qualities of deity. i.e. . . .
2. **He is eternal.**  
In Hebrews 9:14, He is called the “eternal Spirit.”
3. **He is omnipresent.**
  - a. This means that, like God, the Holy Spirit is present everywhere at once.
  - b. King David prayed to God, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there” (Psalm 139:7, 8).
4. **He is omnipotent**
  - a. Having all power.
  - b. The angel announced to Elizabeth, “Nothing is too hard for the Lord” (Luke 1:37).

5. ***He is omniscient***

- a. That is, all knowing.
- b. Paul stated that “the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:10).

## II. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### A. The Holy Spirit is a Person

1. Some people have no problem conceiving God the Father as a person, and they have not problem conceiving Jesus as a person, but they struggle in conceiving the Holy Spirit as a person.
  - a. This could be because of His name, the Holy Spirit, sounds like a thing rather than a person.
  - b. However, we must never forget that just as God the Father and God the Son are persons, the Holy Spirit is also a person.
2. In Romans 8 verses 16 and 26 Paul refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit Himself.”
  - a. Note: The King James Version wrongly translates this phrase as “the Spirit itself.”
  - b. All other translations correct this error.
  - c. Notice that Paul does not call the Holy Spirit, “the Spirit itself,” because the He is not a thing but a divine person.
  - d. It is always wrong to call the Holy Spirit “it.” We should always refer to the Spirit as “He” or “Him.”

### B. Like Father, like Son, like Spirit

1. Some people become confused when we say that the Holy Spirit is a person.
  - a. They think that we are saying that He is a human being, a person like you or me.
  - b. However, this is not what we are saying.
  - c. We are not saying that the Holy Spirit is a man, or that He has a human body.
2. When we say that He is a person, we are saying that He has a mind and a personality.
  - a. There are two theological words that we must understand.
    - 1) The first is ***corporeality***. This word means having a body.
    - 2) The other word is ***personality***, which means being a person.
  - b. When we say that the Holy Spirit is a person, we do not mean that He is a human being who has a body.
  - c. What we mean is that he has a mind, emotions, and will, the traits of personality.
3. Listed below with their verse references are several verses which speak of the personal attributes and activities ascribed to the Holy Spirit in Scripture:
  - He has a mind (Rom. 8:27).
  - He has a will (1 Cor. 12:11).
  - He leads (Gal. 5:18).
  - He teaches (John 14:26).
  - He convicts (John 16:8).
  - He guides (John 16:13).
  - He strengthens and encourages (Acts 9:31).
  - He helps believers in their weaknesses (Rom. 8:26).
  - He intercedes for believers (Rom. 8:26).
  - He testifies (Rom. 8:16).
  - He restrains (Acts 16:6).

- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- He can be blasphemed (Mat. 12:31, 32).
- He can be vexed and grieved (Isa. 63:10, Eph. 4:30).

## II. NAMES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. We can learn much about this remarkable Friend by studying the names He is given in Scripture.
2. Just as Jesus has many names. . .
  - a. i.e. Savior, Lamb of God, the Door, the Way, the Truth, the Life, Lion of Judah, Prince of Peace, etc.
  - b. Each of these names reveal something about His character and work,
  - c. Just so the Holy Spirit has many names which also reveal something about His character and work.
3. The Spirit is given at least seven major names in the Bible.
4. Each name tells us something important about His nature, work, and ministry.

### A. The Spirit

1. Scriptural Support
  - a. 1 Cor. 2:10: “The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”
  - b. John 3:5-10: Jesus talks about being “born of the Spirit.”
2. Significance of the Name
  - a. When we use the name Spirit we remember that He is not limited by a human body.
  - b. He is all places at all times.

### B. Spirit of God

1. One of the most common names for the Holy Spirit
  - a. Or the Spirit of the Lord
  - b. These two names are together used over 50 times in the Bible.
2. Scriptural Support
  - a. The first instance is found in the opening verses of the Bible, “and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Gen. 1:2).
  - b. Other examples are found in Jdg. 6:34; 1 Sam. 10:10, 16:13, 14; Isa. 40:13; Eze. 1:24; Mat. 3:6; Luke 4:18; Acts 8:39; 1 Cor. 2:14; and Eph. 4:20.
3. Significance of the Name
  - a. When we call the Holy Spirit the Spirit of God we are distinguished Him from all other spirits.
  - b. He is the Spirit who comes from God.
  - c. He is, in fact, God Himself.

### C. Holy Spirit

1. Another often used name in the Bible is the Holy Spirit.
2. Scriptural Support
  - a. King David prayed to God, “Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me” (Psa. 51:11).
  - b. Jesus commanded us to baptize new believers “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mat. 28:19).

- c. Other verse reverences include Isa. 63:10, 11; 1 Kings 11:13; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; and 1 Thess. 4:8.
3. Significance of the Name
- a. When we call Him the Holy Spirit we are reminded of His essential nature.
  - b. He is holy. This means that He is absolutely without sin or evil of any kind.
  - c. In Romans 1:4 He is called the Spirit of holiness. He is the one who imparts the holiness of God into the life of the believer in Christ (Ro. 8:13 and 15:16).

#### **D. Counselor**

1. Scriptural Support
- a. In His Upper Room Discourse Jesus four times referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Counselor” (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).
  - b. Here He used the Greek word, “parakletos.”
  - c. This word is sometimes translated, “Comforter,” “Helper,” or “Advocate.”
  - d. Literally means “one who walks along side another to help.”
2. Significance of the Name
- a. Jesus said that the Counselor would come and abide with us forever.
  - b. He is the one who takes the place of Jesus.
  - c. He will be everything to us that Jesus would be if He were here in person.

#### **E. Spirit of Christ**

1. Scriptural Support
- a. In Romans 8:9 Paul says, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”
2. Significance of the Name
- a. As stated above, the Holy Spirit is the one who comes in Christ’s stead.
  - b. He speaks of Christ and reveals Him to the unbeliever (John 15:26).
  - c. He supplies the faith the unbeliever needs to believe on Christ.
  - d. He imparts the Christ life to all who believe.
  - e. And He is the One who makes Christ real in the believer’s life.

#### **F. The Holy Spirit of Promise**

1. Scriptural Support
- a. Paul reminded the Ephesian believers that they have been “sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph. 1:13, NKJV).
2. Significance of the Name
- a. He is the Holy Spirit who have been promised to God’s people from ancient times (Joel 2:28, 29).
  - b. In Luke 24:29 the Acts 1:4 Jesus referred to the baptism in the Holy Spirit as “the promise of the Father.”

#### **G. The Spirit of Truth**

1. Scriptural Support
- a. Four times Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16, 17; 15, 26; and 16:13).
2. Significance of the Name
- a. Here Jesus says that it will be the job of the Spirit to live in us, to testify about Jesus, and to guide believers into all truth.

## **Conclusion**

1. In this lesson we have learned that the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force but a living Person.
2. He is God in action, the blessed Third Person of the Trinity.
3. His desire is to work in the lives of believers and help them in every area of their lives.
4. Because the Spirit is a person, He can be experienced.
5. As we continue through this book you will learn new and exciting truths about the life that the Spirit imparts.
6. You will learn powerful new truths about how you may live and walk under the Spirit's oversight.
7. Get ready to experience your new live in the Spirit.

## Lesson 2

# Life in the Spirit, Its Benefits and Prerequisites

**Objective:** Understand the benefits and prerequisites for a life in the Spirit.

### Outline

- I. Life in the Spirit Defined
  - A. In Relationship with the Spirit
  - B. Under the Influence, Guidance or Control of the Holy Spirit
  
- II. Life in the Spirit, Its Blessings and Benefits
  - A. Power to Witness
  - B. Abiding Presence of God
  - C. Divine Guidance
  - D. Overflowing Joy
  - E. Power Over Satan
  - F. Life of Blessing to Others
  - G. Power Over Temptation
  - H. Authentic Worship
  - I. Spiritual Gifts
  - J. Spiritual Fruit
  - K. Deeper Relationship
  - L. Physical Strength and Healing
  - M. Prayer Life Strengthened
  - N. Spiritual Man Renewed
  
- III. Life in the Spirit, Its Prerequisites
  - A. Be Born Again
  - B. Be Filled with the Spirit
  - C. Be Open to the Things of the Spirit
  - D. Hunger and Thirst for God
  - E. Ardently Pursue the Things of the Spirit

### Introduction

1. In Lesson 1 we were introduced to our remarkable Friend, the Holy Spirit.
  - a. We learned that the Holy Spirit is God, and that He is a divine Person.
  - b. We also learned that because of these wonderful truths, we can experience Him and know Him personally.
2. In this lesson we will seek answers to three important questions.
  - a. We must understand the answers to these questions if we are going to make progress in our life in the Spirit.

- b. These three questions are
  - What do we mean by the term "in the Spirit?"
  - What are the benefits and blessings of life in the Spirit?
  - What are some prerequisites for me living in the Spirit?

## I. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT DEFINED

1. Pentecostal Christians often make statements such as this:
  - a. "He was really in the Spirit when he was ministering."
  - b. Or they may accuse, "He was not in the Spirit when he did that."
2. And yet, there is a problem.
  - a. While we make such statements, most of us do not clearly understand what we mean by the phrase "in the Spirit."
  - b. If you were to ask most Christians what they mean by the term "in the Spirit," they would not know how to answer.
3. What, then, do we mean by the term "in the Spirit?"
  - a. In the New Testament the term "in the Spirit" or its companion term, "by the Spirit," is used at least 29 times where the word "Spirit" refers to the Spirit of God.
  - b. In these instances, the term means at least two things:
    - 1) To be in the Spirit means to be in relationship with the Spirit.
    - 2) To be under the influence, control or guidance of the Spirit of God.

### A. In Relationship with the Spirit

1. Ro. 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you."
  - a. Here the Bible is speaking of relationship.
  - b. It teaches that to be in the Spirit means to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
2. We come into this spiritual relationship with God when we are born again by the Spirit of God (John3:1-7).
3. In this sense, all Christians are in the Spirit.
4. Other verses indicating that to be in the Spirit means to be in relationship with the Spirit include Ro. 2:29; Gal. 3:3, and 1 John 3:24.

### B. Under the Influence, Guidance or Control of the Holy Spirit

1. To be in the Spirit also means, as we have stated, *to be under the influence, control or guidance of the Holy Spirit*.
  - a. This is the meaning that we will be most often using as we proceed through this book.
  - b. The phrase is used this way 20 times in the Bible.
2. When we say that a person is in the Spirit we could mean that he is *under the influence or control of the Holy Spirit*.
  - a. **1 Cor. 14:2**, Paul is speaking of ministering in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
    - 1) "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit [or Spirit] he speaks mysteries." (Footnote:"Spirit" or "spirit.").
    - 2) Here the apostle is clearly equates being in the Spirit as being under the Spirit's influence, as with one speaking in tongues.
  - b. **Rev. 1:10**:John is talking about his being under the Holy Spirit's influence when he says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day."

- c. **Acts 18:5**, “Paul was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.”
  - d. **Acts 20:22**, Paul again says he was “compelled by the Spirit” This time the Spirit was directing him to go to Jerusalem.
  - e. **Rev. 4:1-2**: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”
    - 1) This passage says that John was “in the Spirit.”
    - 2) Here the Spirit came suddenly upon him and seized control of his thought processes.
    - 3) While he was in this state of mind, the Spirit revealed truth to him.
    - 4) This happens again in 17:3 and in 21:10 where John says that he was “carried away in the Spirit.”
3. The term in the Spirit also means to be ***under the guidance of the Holy Spirit***.
- a. **Luke 2:25** the Bible says that the “Holy Spirit was upon” the old man Simeon.
    - 1) Then, in verse 27, it says that he “came by the Spirit into the temple.”
    - 2) He was under the Spirit’s guidance.
  - b. **Luke 4:1** speaks of how Jesus was guided by the Holy Spirit: “Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”
  - c. **Ro. 8:14**, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
  - d. As you can see in each of these instances, to be in the Spirit means to be under the leadership or guidance of the Spirit.
4. This influence of the Spirit of God is not the same for all people and at all times.
- a. It can come in different ways and with differing intensities.
  - b. Different Christians may sense and respond to the Spirit’s prompting in different ways.
  - c. Just because we have heard someone testify that he was influenced or directed by the Holy Spirit in a certain way, does not mean that we can expect Him to direct us in exactly the same way.
    - 1) God has a unique way of directing each of us.
    - 2) We should be open and flexible to His special direction in each of our lives.
  - d. Life in the Spirit is the glorious privilege of every believer.

## II. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT, ITS BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS

1. Great blessings come to the life of the Christian who discovers the wonderful Spirit-filled life.
2. Blessings also come to the church as more and more Christians learn to walk and live their lives under the Spirit’s control.
3. We will now list twelve blessings of living in the Spirit, and we will briefly comment on each:

### A. Power to Witness

1. One of the more obvious benefits of living a Spirit-filled life is power to witness.
2. Acts 1:8

3. The disciples before and after the Day of Pentecost
4. One of the great needs of the church today

#### **B. Abiding Presence of God**

1. The night before the day when Jesus was to be taken from His disciples and crucified, He gave them some wonderful promises (John 14:16-18)
  - a. He told them that he would not leave them as orphans.
  - b. He promised them that He send the Holy Spirit in His place.
  - c. The Holy Spirit would be “another Helper” for them just as He had been.
  - d. All of this would happen when they were filled with the Holy Spirit that He would send upon them.
2. 2 Cor. 13:14: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”
  - a. It means deep intimate friendship.
  - b. When Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be “another Helper” just like Him, he meant that the Holy Spirit would walk along beside us and help us just as He would if He were here in the flesh.

#### **C. Guidance from God**

1. The man who is truly living the Spirit-filled life can expect the Lord to speak to him and give him guidance.
2. As He did to Ananias in Acts 9:11: “So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise, and go to the street called Straight. . .’”
3. As He did to Paul and his missionary party: Acts 16:6-10.

#### **D. Overflowing Joy**

1. Twice the Bible speaks of the “joy of the Holy Spirit:”
  - a. Ro. 14:17, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter . . . but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
  - b. 1 Thess. 1:6, “you welcomed the message with the Holy given by the Holy Spirit.”
2. Joy is one of the fruit of walking in the Spirit is joy (Gal. 5:22).
3. The first Spirit-filled believers “ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (Acts 2:46) so can the one who has learned the secret of walking in the Spirit.

#### **E. Power over Satan**

1. It was by the Spirit of God that Jesus cast out demons (Matthew 12:28).
2. Jesus promised His disciples the same power, “I give you . . . power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19).
3. This power comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit.

#### **F. Life of Blessing to Others**

1. Jesus described the effect of being filled with the Spirit as being like a artesian well of life (John 7:37-38)
2. Those who come into contact with the truly Spirit-filled person will be blessed.
  - a. A warm Christ-like spirit
  - b. As the Christian walks in the Spirit, he will have a loving concern and interest in others.

**G. Power over Temptation**

1. The Bible promises power over temptation to those who have learned to “walk in the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1-4).
2. If we walk in the Spirit we “will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Gal. 5:16).

**H. Authentic Worship**

1. Jesus told the woman at the well that “God is Spirit” and that He must be worshiped “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).
2. Mary was prompted by the Spirit to speak wonderful words of praise (Luke 1:46-55).
3. Paul speaks of the Spirit of adoption which leads us into an intimate relationship with God and causes us to cry out “Abba, Father” (Ro. 8:15).

**I. Spiritual Gifts**

1. As the believer walks in the Spirit he can expect that the Lord will release spiritual gifts through him. (Cor. 12:7-10. )
2. This should be normal and it should be anticipated.

**J. Spiritual Fruit**

1. Gal. 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”
2. As a believer walks in the Spirit and yields His life to the correction of God’s Word these spiritual fruits will begin to develop and grow in this life.

**K. Relationship with God Will Grow.**

1. Just as the disciples relationship with Jesus grew as they spent time in his presence, so our relationship with God will grow as we spend time walking and living in the Spirit.

**L. Physical Strength and Healing**

1. The Bible speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit to give life to our bodies: “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit who dwells in you” (Rom. 8:11).
2. According to this verse the believer can expect three wonderful benefits from God as he walks in the Spirit.
  - a. He can expect that the Holy Spirit will give strength to his physical body.
  - b. He can believe that the Holy Spirit will bring healing to his ailing body when he is sick.
  - c. He can anticipate the resurrection of his body.

**M. Prayer Life Strengthened**

1. The disciples once asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray.”
2. We can also expect the Spirit’s help when we pray, (Ro. 8:26-28).

**N. Spiritual Man Is Renewed**

1. 1 Cor. 14:4, A person who prays in tongues “edifies himself.”
2. Jude speaks of two ways in which one builds himself up by praying in the Holy Spirit.
  - a. He builds himself up in faith (v. 20).
  - b. He keeps himself in the love of God (v. 21, see also Ro. 5:5).

3. **Summary Statement:** With so many wonderful benefits, how could someone not want to learn to walk and live in the Spirit. However, there are some things that a person must be and do before he can enter into the Spirit-filled life.

### III. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT--ITS PREREQUISITES

#### A. Must Be Born of the Spirit.

1. The first step to living in the Spirit
2. John 3:6, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

#### B. Must Be Filled with the Spirit

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an essential experience for anyone who would desire to live a life in the Spirit.
2. With this spiritual baptism comes power to "be witnesses" (KJV) unto Christ.
  - a. Being a witness is broader than witnessing per se.
  - b. Being a witness involves every area of the Christian life.
3. In addition to being initially baptized in the Spirit the believer who would desire to live in the Spirit must also learn to stay full of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

#### C. Must Be Open to the Things of the Spirit

1. Only those who demonstrate an openness to the things of the Spirit of God will be able to live in the Spirit.
2. Remember, the Spirit can be grieved and offended.
  - a. Like a gentle dove, He will silently depart when our attitudes are not right.
  - b. The person who has a closed mind or critical spirit will never be able to live in the Spirit.

#### D. Must Hunger and Thirst after God

1. Jesus, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness they shall be filled" (Mt. 5:6).
2. In John 7:37 He said, "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink.
3. Just as thirst for water draws animals to a river, thirst for God will draw us to God.

#### E. Must Be Willing to Ardently Pursue the Things of the Spirit

1. Concerning the disciples before they received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost it is said that
  - a. "They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God" (Luke 24:53).
  - b. They were ardently pursuing the Spirit. It is the same today.
2. Those who will live a life in the Spirit must also ardently pursue the things of the Spirit of God.

### Conclusion

A life in the Spirit the privilege and responsibility of every believer.

### Lesson Three

## **The Gateway to Life in the Spirit**

**Objective:** Realize the importance of the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit to a life in the Spirit.

### **Outline**

- I. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?
  - A. A Biblical Experience
  - B. A Subsequent Experience
  - C. A Normal Experience
  - D. A Powerful Experience
  - E. A Necessary Experience
  
- II. Why is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit So Important to a Life in the Spirit?
  - A. Opens the Way for Greater Effectiveness
  - B. Facilitates a Spiritually Sensitive Life
  - C. Creates a Greater potential for Spiritual Understanding
  - D. Brings About a Deeper Love and Consecration

### **Introduction**

1. In our last lesson we discussed the benefits that come from living a life in the Spirit.
  - a. We also discussed the prerequisites for such a life in the Spirit.
  - b. One of the prerequisites that we discussed was the necessity of being filled with, or baptized in, the Holy Spirit.
  - c. In this lesson we will discuss this baptism in the Holy Spirit and it's relationship to the Spirit-filled life.
  - d. We will answer two questions about this essential Christian experience:
    - 1) What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
    - 2) Why is the baptism in the Holy Spirit so important to a life in the Spirit?

## I. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We will say five things about this experience:

### A. It is a Biblical Experience

1. *It has its origin in the Bible.*
  - a. Not an invention of the modern Pentecostal movement.
  - b. Both John the Baptist and Jesus spoke of this experience.
    - 1) John: (Mt. 3:11), "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
    - 2) Jesus: (Acts 1:4), "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit?"
  - c. It was on the day of Pentecost that the disciples were themselves baptized in the Spirit: (Acts 2:1-4).
  - d. On that same day Peter declared that the experience is for all of God's people throughout the entire church age:(Acts 2:39).
2. *It is enjoined by biblical commands.*
  - a. A promise and a command ( The night of Jesus' resurrection)
    - 1) The promise:"I am going to send you what my Father has promised."
    - 2) The command was "Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).
  - b. On another occasion He repeated His command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised" (Acts 1:4).
  - c. Paul commanded the Ephesian believers, "Be filled with the Spirit." (Eph. 5:18)
  - d. Every believer is under the divine command to be filled with the Spirit. To do otherwise is to live in direct disobedience to the clear command of the Lord.

### B. It is a "Subsequent" Experience

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in addition and subsequent to the new birth.
2. On three separate occasions in Acts it is shown that the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are separate and distinct experiences.
  - a. *The revival in Samaria* (Acts 8:4-17).
    - 1) A thoughtful reading of the revival that came to Samaria under the ministry of Philip shows that the Samaritan converts were first saved, then they later received the Holy Spirit.
    - 2) We know that they were truly converted because of the following facts:
      - They had heeded the message of Christ. Acts 6:5 says that the Samaritans "paid close attention" to Philip's preaching of the gospel.
      - They experienced great joy. As a result of their receiving the message of the gospel "there was great joy in the city" (v 8).
      - They believed and were baptized in water: The text says, "But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women" (v. 12).
    - 3) These people would never have been baptized in water if they had not been truly born again.

- a) And yet, it is very clear that they had not yet received the Holy Spirit for in verse 16 the Bible says, “The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”
  - b) Later, when the apostles Peter and John prayed for them, they received the Spirit: “Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (v. 17).
  - c) There is clearly a time lapse between the Samaritans receiving Christ and their receiving the Holy Spirit.
- 4) We can only conclude that these are separate and distinct experiences.
- b. **Saul of Tarsus** (Acts 9:1-19)
- 1) Saul of Tarsus, or Paul, was converted on the Damascus road and then he was later filled with the Spirit when Ananias prayed for him.
  - 2) We know that he was truly converted when he encountered Jesus on the Damascus Road because of the following reasons:
    - He called Jesus “Lord” (v. 5). The Bible teaches that “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” At this moment, as Saul of Tarsus lay on the ground before the resurrected Christ, he made Jesus his Lord and Savior.
    - He obeyed Jesus and submitted to His will (vv. 6-9). One proof of a person’s being truly born again is submission to the will of Christ. Jesus commanded Saul to go into the city of Damascus to receive further instructions. Though he was now blind, Saul submitted himself totally to the will of his newly found Savior and followed His instructions explicitly.
    - Ananias called him “Brother Saul” (v. 17, 22:13). Ananias called Saul “brother” because he realized that he had become a member of the brotherhood of believers, the Church.
  - 3) It was later, that Ananias placed his hands on him and Saul received the Holy Spirit (vv. 17-18).
  - 4) Again, as in the case of the Samaritan believers, we see that Saul’s experience of being filled with the Spirit was after and separate from his new birth experience.
- c. **The Ephesian disciples** (Acts 19:1-7).
- 1) The twelve Ephesian disciples were saved and baptized in water, and then later filled with the Spirit when Paul laid his hands on them.
  - 2) The fact that they were truly converted is demonstrated by the following:
    - They are called disciples. When Paul arrived at Ephesus, the Bible says, “There he found some disciples . . .” (v. 1). When the word “disciple” is used in the New Testament without any modifying words (such as “disciples of John” or “disciples of the Pharisees”) it always refers to the disciples of Jesus. These men were believers in Christ.
    - They had already believed in Christ. In verse 4 the Bible states clearly that these men had believed the message of John the Baptist concerning Jesus and had put their faith in Him.
    - They were baptized in water. Verse 5 states, “They were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.” Even if these disciples were not truly converted when Paul found them, as some claim, certainly they must have been converted before they received water baptism.
  - 3) Then, the Bible says that after this, Paul laid hands on them and “the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”

- d. **Conclusion:** Having examined these three cases in the books of Acts we can only conclude that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience following and in addition to the new birth.

### C. It is a Normative Experience

1. When we say that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a normative experience we mean that it is an experience for all of God's children.
2. This fact is clearly demonstrated what one preacher called the "'Alls' of Pentecost:"
  - **Moses' wish for all the Lord's people.** When Joshua wanted Eldad and Medad to stop prophesying in the camp, Moses replied, "I wish that all of the Lord's people were prophets, and the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" (Nu. 11:29).
  - **Joel's prophecy concerning all of God's servants.** God spoke through the ancient prophet Joel: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, you old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." (Joel 2:28-29).
  - **The Spirits filling all on the Day of Pentecost.** When God poured His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).
  - **All of the household of Cornelius receive.** The Spirit was first poured out on Gentiles believers in Caesarea at the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius. The Bible says that "the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." They all received and spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 10:44-47).
3. After the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood to preach.
  - a. He quoted the prophesy of Joel saying that God would pour out His Spirit "on all people" (Acts 2:17).
  - b. Then, he concluded his sermon by saying, "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."
  - c. The promise of the Spirit's empowering is a universal promise for all of God's children.
  - d. Jesus said that this experience is for everyone who asks: "Ask and it will be given to you . . . For everyone who asks receives . . . If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11: 9, 10, 13).

### D. It is a Powerful Experience

1. The baptism in the Spirit is a powerful and life-changing experience.
  - a. Jesus said that it would come upon the believer as "power from on high" (Luke 24:49).
  - b. The expectant believer is consumed with and overcome by God's mighty power and presence.
  - c. Once a person is truly baptized in the Holy Spirit, his life will never be the same.
2. In his book *Renewal Theology* J. Rodman Williams describes the experience as "an invasion from without . . . and a penetration, a permeation" within the believer. He further describes it as the coming of "the dynamic presence of God" and a manifestation of God's glory (vol. 2, p. 203, 204).
3. It was a powerful, life-changing experience for Peter and the others who were filled with the Spirit in the book of Acts. Their lives were dramatically and permanently impacted.

4. And today, millions of people around the world can testify to the powerful effects that this experience has had on their lives.

#### **E. It is a Necessary Experience**

1. It is absolutely necessary that every Christian be baptized in the Holy Spirit today.
  - a. Jesus insisted that His disciples not leave Jerusalem until they received the Spirit (Luke 24; 49)
  - b. So must we insist on every Christian being filled with the Spirit today.
2. It is the believers source of spiritual life and power.
3. It is the gateway into the Spirit-filled life of which we are speaking in this book.

## **II. WHY IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT SO IMPORTANT TO A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT?**

1. Someone may ask, “Why this emphasis on the baptism in the Holy Spirit?”
2. Why should I be filled? What are some of the benefits that I can expect in my own personal life from being filled with the Spirit?”
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit will do the following four things in the life of the believer who receives.

#### **A. It Opens the Way for Greater Effectiveness**

1. Being filled with the Spirit opens the way for greater effectiveness in the work of the Lord.
2. It will empower the believer for effective service in three primary areas of his Christian service:
  - a. **Power to witness.**
    - 1) Power to witness comes with the infilling of the Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
      - a) This power to witnesses involves both motivation and ability.
      - b) And it has to do with both local evangelism and world missions.
  - b. **Power in prayer.**
    - 1) Several times in the books of Acts we see the Holy Spirit coming upon Spirit-baptized believers enabling them to pray with great power and effectiveness.
    - 2) The Bible says concerning the newly Spirit-baptized believers after the day of Pentecost that “they devoted themselves . . . to prayer” (2:42).
    - 3) We observe Peter and John “going up to the temple at the time of prayer” (3:1)
    - 4) In Acts 4:23-31 we read of a powerful Spirit-anointed prayer meeting that ended with over 5000 people (4:4) being filled with the Spirit and their meeting place being shaken by the power of God.
    - 5) Today, those who have been filled with the Spirit testify of a greater freedom, effectiveness, and power in their prayers.
  - c. **Manifestation of spiritual gifts.**
    - 1) Spiritual gifts are given to Spirit-filled Christians to enable them to effectively accomplish the will of God.
    - 2) Since the gifts of the Spirit are resident in the Spirit, and the Spirit is resident in those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, one can logically expect the manifestation of spiritual gifts in the lives of these Christians.
    - 3) In 1 Cor. 12:8-10 Paul list nine of these spiritual gifts.
    - 4) Around the world Spirit-baptized believers are ministering in the power and anointing of the Spirit with the aid of these mighty manifestations of the Spirit.

**B. It Facilitates a Spiritually Sensitive Life**

1. Not only will the baptism in the Holy Spirit empower the Christian for effective service, it will also enable him to live a life that is more sensitive to the things of God.
2. This spiritual sensitivity includes the following:
  - a. ***Sensitivity to sin, righteousness, and judgment .***
    - 1) Jesus said, “When he [the Counselor] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . .” (John 16:8).
    - 2) The Spirit-filled believer will have a greater sensitivity to sin in his own life. Once he has been baptized in the Spirit he will more keenly aware of the slightest personal transgression or departure from God’s will.
  - b. ***Sensitivity to God.***
    - 1) Not only will the Spirit-baptized believer be more sensitive to personal sin, he will also be more sensitive to God and His working in his life.
    - 2) Paul said, “We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us (1 Cor. 2:12).
    - 3) The man who is filled with and walking in the Spirit will be able to sense the manifest presence of God in his own life as well as in the life of others (Ro. 8:16).
  - c. ***Sensitivity to the spiritual needs of others.***
    - 1) Once a Christian has been filled with the Spirit, he will find himself more sensitive to the spiritual needs of others.
    - 2) At times the Spirit will help him to peer deep into the hearts and needs of hurting people.
    - 3) This was what often happened to Jesus.
      - a) The Bible says about Jesus: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
      - b) The Holy Spirit will also give us such spiritual sensitivity to the needs of others.

**C. It Creates a Greater Potential for Spiritual Understanding**

1. Another benefit of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a greater potential for spiritual understanding in the life of the Christian.
2. This greater understanding can be seen in three areas:
  - a. ***Greater understanding of the Word.***
    - 1) Paul said, “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
    - 2) Without the Spirit’s help we cannot understand those things which come from the Spirit.
      - a) We know that the Bible comes from the Spirit of God (2 Pet. 1:21).
      - b) Therefore, we must have the Spirit to understand the Word of God. Jesus said that “when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit will lead us into a keener and more intimate understanding of God’s Word.
  - b. ***Greater understanding of the moving of the Holy Spirit.***
    - 1) The Spirit is moving in the world today.
      - a) In some places His moving is bringing about a great harvest of souls.
      - b) In other places He is preparing the soil for the sowing of the gospel.
    - 2) Speaking figuratively about the Holy Spirit Jesus said, “The wind blows

wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

- 3) The Spirit is moving in the world, and the person who is filled with the Spirit can have divine insight on what He is doing.
- c. **Greater understanding of the needs of the church and society.**
  - 1) The Bible says concerning certain of David’s men, the men of Issachar, that they “understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chr. 12 ; 32).
    - a) These were men of clear spiritual insight.
    - b) The Holy Spirit can give such clear prophetic insight to His people today.
  - 2) Six times in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we are exhorted to “hear what the Spirit says the churches.” Two key questions for us today are
    - a) “What is the Spirit saying to the Church?” and
    - b) “How is He moving in society?”
    - c) We must be filled with the Spirit to be able to understand these things.

#### **D. It Brings About a Deeper Love and Consecration**

1. In Ro. 5:5 Paul says that “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”
  - a. Being filled with the Holy Spirit will produce a deeper love and consecration in the life of the believer.
  - b. You will experience this deeper love and consecration in three areas:
2. **Deeper love for Christ and a consecration to serve Him more perfectly.**
  - a. Your love for Christ will grow as you walk in the Spirit.
    - 1) Jesus told us that “when the Counselor comes . . . he will testify about me” (John 15:26).
    - 2) He also said, “He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you” (John 16:14).
  - b. As you come to know Christ more intimately, you will love Him more deeply.
  - c. As you come to love Him more deeply you will be inspired to serve Him more perfectly.
3. **Deeper love for the Word and consecration to obey it more fully.**
  - a. Not only does the infilling of the Holy Spirit bring about a deeper love for Christ, it also brings about a deeper love for the Word of God.
  - b. As you become better acquainted with the Author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit, you will love the Bible more.
  - c. **Illustration:** Once a young lady was given a book of love poems. After reading one or two of the poems, she became bored and put the book on her shelf. After some time she met a young man and fell in love with him. She soon learned that he was a poet, and that he had written the very book of poems that she had placed on her shelf. She again took up the book and began to read it. This time her heart was thrilled as each poem spoke directly to her heart. The book of poems now became her most cherished book. She had fallen in love with the author and now she loved the book. The same thing will happen with the Bible. As you grow to love the Author more and more you will also grow to love the Book more and more. The Holy Spirit will make its stories more vivid and its truths more precious. It will become a delight to obey its teachings.
4. **Deeper love for the lost and consecration to pursue them more ardently.**
  - a. Not only will the infilling of the Spirit cause the believer to have a deeper love for Christ and His Word, it will also cause him to have a deeper love for the lost and a

- greater commitment to reach them for Christ.
- b. When God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit it will include His love for the lost of the world.
  - c. Jesus told us to open our eyes, "and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).
    - 1) We must pray, "Holy Spirit, fill me today.
    - 2) Open my eyes to see the lost as Jesus sees them, and give me the consecration to reach out to them as He did."

## **Conclusion**

Lesson Four  
**How to Receive the Holy Spirit**

**Lesson Objective:** Enter into the Spirit-filled life by being baptized in the Holy Spirit

**Outline**

- I. Four Essential Ingredients for Receiving the Holy Spirit
  - A. You Must Ask
  - B. You Must Exercise Faith
  - C. You Must Yield Yourself to God
  - D. You Must Speak in Faith
  
- II. Four Things You Need to Know Before You Come to Be Filled with the Spirit
  - A. If You Have Been Born Again and Your Heart is Open to God, You Are Ready Now to Be Filled with the Spirit.
  - B. Being Filled with the Spirit Is Not Difficult
  - C. You Must Be Prepared to Leave Your Pride Behind
  - D. When You Are Filled with the Spirit You Can Expect to Speak in Tongues as the Spirit Gives You Utterance.
  
- III. When You Come to Be Filled with the Spirit, Do These Things:
  - A. Approach the Throne of Grace Boldly
  - B. Ask the Father for His Gift
  - C. Receive the Spirit by Faith
  - D. Sense The Spirit's Presence Inside
  - E. Begin to Praise Him with Abandon Allowing the Holy Spirit to "Gush Forth" Using Your Vocal Organs to Speak in a New Language
  - F. When You Once Begin to Speak in Tongues, Do it Enthusiastically, Trusting God to Do His Part
  
- IV. Seven Common Misunderstandings about Receiving the Spirit
  - A. Some Are Waiting for the Holy Spirit to Fall on Their Heads from Above
  - B. Many Believe That at Some Point While They Are Speaking in their Native Tongue, or Not Speaking at All, God Is Going to Overpower Them, Take Over Their Vocal Chords, and Forcibly Speak Through Them.
  - C. Some Think That by Their Much Praying and Agonizing They Can Convince God to Give Them His Spirit.
  - D. Some Think They Are Not Yet Holy Enough to Be Filled
  - E. Some Are More Focused on Speaking in Tongues than They Are Experiencing God
  - F. Some Have Been Preconditioned to Believe That Receiving the Spirit Is Difficult and Requires Much Agonizing Effort
  - G. Some Are Afraid of Receiving a False or Demonic Experience

## Introduction

### I. FOUR ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### A. You Must Ask

1. **Jesus's three promises concerning the Holy Spirit in Luke 11**
  - a. v. 13, "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"
  - b. v. 9, "Ask, and it shall be given you . . ."
  - c. v. 10, "For every one that asks receives . . ."
2. **You can ask in faith, knowing that you are praying in the perfect will of God.**
  - a. 1 John 5:14-15, "<sup>14</sup>Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."
  - b. Based on the above scripture, when we ask for the Holy Spirit we know that we are praying in God's will, therefore:
    - 1) We know that God hears us. (v. 14)
    - 2) We know that He will answer our prayer. (v. 15)
3. **The reason many have not received**
  - a. James 4:2, "You have not because you ask not."
  - b. Reasons why some have not asked for the Holy Spirit
    - 1) Ignorance of the truth
    - 2) Apathy to the truth
    - 3) Hostility to the truth

#### B. You Must Exercise Faith

1. **We receive the Holy Spirit by faith**
  - a. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would flow through those who believe on Him. John 7:37-39, "In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. <sup>38</sup>**He that believeth on me**, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. <sup>39</sup>(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified."
  - b. Paul taught that we receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
    - 1) Gal. 3:2, "This only I want to earn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or **by the hearing of faith?**"
      - a) NIV, "by believing the message"
      - b) This verse is a rhetorical question: The obvious answer is "We received the Holy Spirit by believing the message."
      - c) See also v. 5
    - 2) Gal. 3:14, "That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit **through faith.**"
2. **Faith is . . .**
  - a. Expecting God to do what he has promised.
  - b. Reaching out and taking what God offers.
  - c. Not something you think, or feel: faith is something that you *do!*

**C. You Must Yield Yourself to God**

1. To yield yourself to God means that you give yourself completely to him.
2. It is an act of the will.

**D. You Must Speak in Faith**

1. ***On the Day of Pentecost the 120 spoke out in faith . . .***  
Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit *and began to speak* in other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.
2. ***Speaking out in praise is an essential part of receiving the Spirit***
  - a. Prior to receiving: Luke 24:53, “They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.”
  - b. Upon receiving:
    - 1) Pentecost: Acts 2:11, “We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”
    - 2) Caesarea: Acts 10:46, “For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. . .”
3. ***Praise accomplishes two things:***
  - a. It opens the seekers heart to God: Psa. 28:7, “The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices . . .”
  - b. In brings the presence of God into the situation: Psa. 22:3, “But You are holy, Who inhabits the praises of Israel.”

**II. FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU COME TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT****A. If You Have Been Born Again and Your Heart is Open to God, You Are Ready Now to Be Filled with the Spirit.**

1. There are no other preconditions.
2. The only things hindering are your misunderstanding or your lack of desire.

**B. Being Filled with the Spirit Is Not Difficult**

1. John 20:22, “And when [Jesus] had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
  - a. Alternate translation: “He breathed *into* them . . .”
  - b. Here Jesus likens receiving the Holy Spirit to breathing.
2. Receiving the Holy Spirit is as easy as breathing!
  - a. Just as breathing is the natural thing for any man to do, for the born again believer, receiving the Holy Spirit it is the “natural” thing to do.
  - b. Simply, ask, believe, receive, and speak in faith.
3. Remember, when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you will not be receiving “another Holy Spirit.”
  - a. He is the same Spirit that already entered your life when you were born again. (John 3: 5-7; Ro. 8:9, 10).
  - b. He will now fill you and overflow in your life (John 7:38)

**C. You Must Be Prepared to Leave Your Pride Behind**

1. Many people are kept from receiving the Holy Spirit by their pride.

- a. Because they don't want to admit publically that they are not "spiritual."
- b. Because they are afraid of looking foolish.
2. James 4:5, 6: "The Scripture says . . . , 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?' But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"

#### **D. When You Are Filled with the Spirit You Can Expect to Speak in Tongues as the Spirit Gives You Utterance.**

1. This is the recurring Scriptural evidence throughout the book of Acts
  - a. Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."
  - b. Acts 10:44-46 ". . . for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."
  - c. Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."
2. The same thing still happens today when people are baptized in the Holy Spirit.
3. You can expect this wonderful blessing when you are filled with the Spirit.

### **III. WHEN YOU COME TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, DO THESE THINGS:**

#### **A. Approach the Throne of Grace Boldly**

1. Jesus has prepared the way for us!
  - a. Heb.10:19, 20: "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."
  - b. Because Jesus prepared the way for us to approach God, we can now be bold in seeking for the Holy Spirit.
2. We can be bold, knowing . . .
  - a. That we are asking God for what He has already promised. (Acts 2:33)
  - b. That we will not be condemned by God or turned away. (John 6:37)
  - c. That we have every right to expect to receive what He has promised. (Luke 11:10)

#### **B. Ask the Father for His Gift**

1. Pray a simple prayer, asking God to give you the Holy Spirit.
2. Remember, He is more anxious to give the gift than you are to receive it: Luke 11:13, "Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

#### **C. Receive the Spirit by Faith**

1. God has offered us His gift, but now we must receive it.
2. Receiving is an act of boldness and faith.
3. Our faith must be an aggressive (rather than a timid) faith.
  - a. Faith like Peter's: Who, when he saw Jesus walking on the water, cried out, "Lord if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (Mk. 14:24-29)
  - b. We must be ready to "step out in faith" and receive the Spirit.

#### **D. Sense The Spirit's Presence Inside**

1. Once you have asked the Holy Spirit to fill you, you should be aware of His coming it at your request!
2. You will be able to sense His presence inside you, filling you.
3. Once you sense His presence inside you, begin to speak forth in faith.

**E. Begin to Praise Him with Abandon Allowing the Holy Spirit to "Gush Forth" Using Your Vocal Organs to Speak in a New Language**

1. Let Him "gush forth!"
2. Let Him speak!
3. Don't let fear short-circuit your faith at this point.

**F. When You Once Begin to Speak in Tongues, Do it Enthusiastically, Trusting God to Do His Part**

1. As they did on the Day of Pentecost
  - a. Acts 2:1-4, 12-13
2. Let it flow!

**IV. SEVEN COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT RECEIVING THE SPIRIT**

**A. Some Are Waiting for the Holy Spirit to Fall on Their Heads from Above**

1. Don't look for Him to fall on your head...
2. He will rise up from inside, and gush forth in praise. (SEE:John7:37-39)

**B. Many Believe That at Some Point While They Are Speaking in their Native Tongue, or Not Speaking at All, God Is Going to Overpower Them, Take Over Their Vocal Chords, and Forcibly Speak Through Them.**

1. God will not force you to do anything.
2. Remember you will speak...God will give you the words.
3. You must speak forth in faith trusting God to fill your mouth.

**C. Some Think That by Their Much Praying and Agonizing They Can Convince God to Give Them His Spirit.**

1. The infilling of the Spirit is a gift to be received, not a reward to be earned.
2. Just reach out by faith and take it.

**D. Some Think They Are Not Yet Holy Enough to Be Filled**

1. They have heard people say, "The Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean temple."
2. And neither will Jesus! If your temple is clean enough for Jesus, it's clean enough for the Holy Spirit.
3. Confess any known sin and then get ready to receive. Let the fire of the Spirit sanctify you!

**E. Some Are More Focused on Speaking in Tongues than They Are Experiencing God**

1. Expect tongues, but focus on God and what He is doing in your life.
2. As you pray, sense His presence filling you.

**F. Some Have Been Preconditioned to Believe That Receiving the Spirit Is Difficult and Requires Much Agonizing Effort**

1. It requires only simply child-like faith.
2. Remember, it's as easy as breathing.

**G. Some Are Afraid of Receiving a False or Demonic Experience**

1. Jesus promised that if we asked the Father He would give us only "good gifts."

2. If you are humbly and sincerely seeking Him, then He will not allow you to have a false experience.
3. Listen to His promise: Luke 11:11-13, “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? Or if he asks for an egg will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, now how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
4. So, don't be afraid to ask!

**Conclusion:**

The blessing is yours. You can receive today. Simply reach out by faith and receive!

## Lesson Five

# Speaking in Tongues--What Good Is It?

## Outline

- I. What Is Speaking in Tongues?
  - A. Tongues Are Often Spoken about in the New Testament
  - B. Speaking in Tongues Defined
  
- II. Six Benefits of Speaking in Tongues in Private Devotions
  - A. Speaking in Tongues Builds One up Spiritually
  - B. Speaking in Tongues Helps Keep Us Conscious of the Presence of the Holy Spirit Within Us.
  - C. Speaking in Tongues Helps Us Learn to More Fully Trust God.
  - D. Speaking in Tongues Eliminates Any Selfishness from Entering into Our Prayers.
  - E. Speaking in Tongues Is a Perfect Outlet for Praise and Worship.
  - F. Speaking in Tongues Is the Scriptural "Initial Physical Evidence" of the Infilling of The Holy Spirit.
  
- III. Three Benefits of Speaking in Tongues in Public Worship
  - A. Here We Are Talking about the Gift of Tongues.
  - B. The Gift of Tongues Serves Three Purposes in the Congregation

## Introduction

1. **Story of my friend:** My friend and I had been talking for over an hour. The young Baptist preacher had come to my home to discuss being filled with the Holy Spirit. As we talked about the benefits of the Spirit-filled life he became more and more excited. Then I said, "When you are filled with the Spirit you will speak in tongues." I watched the expression on his face turn from excitement to dismay. Then he said solemnly, "Do I have to speak in tongues to be filled with the Spirit?" I replied, "No, you don't *have* to speak in tongues, you *get* to speak in tongues. It is not a punishment. It is a wonderful privilege of every Spirit-filled believer!" Then he asked me, "But what good is it? What good is speaking in tongues?" (D. Miller)
2. In this lesson we will seek to answer my friend's question.
  - a. We will first answer the question, "What is speaking in tongues?"
  - b. Then we will answer the question, "What good is it?"
  - c. In answering the second question we will
    - 1) Describe six benefits of speaking in tongues in the Christian's private devotions.
    - 2) We will discuss three benefits of tongues in public worship.

## I. WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES?

### A. Tongues Are Often Spoken About in the New Testament

1. **Jesus told His disciples that they would speak in tongues.**  
The Great Commission, Jesus said "they will speak in new tongues" (Mk. 16:17).
2. **The believers spoke in tongues on the Day of Pentecost.**

On the Day of Pentecost, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4).

3. ***Throughout the book of Acts we see believers speaking in tongues.***
  - a. House of Cornelius: “They heard them speaking in tongues and praising God” (Acts 10:46).
  - b. Ephesus (over 20 years later): “When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).
4. ***In 1 Corinthians Paul taught concerning the gift of tongues.***
  - a. Tongues are mentioned in the listings of spiritual gifts in 1 Cor. 12:10 and 28.
  - b. In chapter 13 Paul speaks of “the tongues of men and of angels” (v. 1).
  - c. Then, in chapter 14:11-33 he teaches extensively concerning the misuse and proper use of the gift of tongues in public worship.

## **B. Speaking in Tongues Defined**

1. ***Speaking in tongues is a spiritual experience.***  
It is a common experience of Spirit-filled believers whereby, under the direction of the Spirit of God, they speak in a language they have never learned (Acts 2:1-4).
2. ***It is supernatural in its origin.***
  - a. The Bible says that on the day of Pentecost there came a sound “from heaven” like a blowing wind (Acts 2:2).
    - 1) The disciples experience on that day, which included speaking in tongues
    - 2) It was “from heaven.” That is, it had its origin in heaven.
  - b. Paul speaks of speaking in tongues as a “manifestation of the Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:7).
    - 1) Speaking in tongues has its origin in the Spirit of God.
3. ***It can be any human language or dialect or heavenly languages.***
  - a. On the Day of Pentecost the people heard the 120 speaking in ***their own native languages***:
    - 1) “Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Are not all these men who were speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?’” (Acts 2:8).
    - 2) They were speaking in known human languages.
  - b. Or, speaking in tongues can be in a ***heavenly language***.  
In 1 Cor. 13:1 Paul says that when a person is speaking in tongues he could also be speaking “in the tongues of men and of angels.”
4. ***It is an experience for all believers.***
  - a. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience for all Christian believers, THEREFORE, its companion experience, speaking in tongues, is also an experience for all Christians.
  - b. Biblical Proof texts:
    - 1) On the day of Pentecost “all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues” (Acts 2:4).
    - 2) Jesus said that tongues is a sign that can be expected to “accompany those who believe” (Mk. 16:17).
    - 3) Paul told the Corinthian believers, “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues” (1 Cor. 14:5).

## **II. SIX BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES IN PRIVATE DEVOTIONS**

1. Speaking in tongues has both private and public functions.
2. The Bible speaks of six benefits that come from praying in tongues in ones private devotions:

**A. Speaking in Tongues Builds One up Spiritually**

1. The Christian receives spiritual strength and blessing by praying in tongues.
  - a. 1 Cor. 14:4: “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. . .”
  - b. Speaking in tongues is the only spiritual gift in which the Bible specifically states that the person administering the gift is himself edified.
2. Possibly this is why Paul exulted, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you” (1 Cor. 14:18).

**B. Speaking in Tongues Helps Keep Us Conscious of the Presence of the Holy Spirit Within Us.**

1. How important it is for the believer to be constantly aware of the presence of the Spirit in his life.
  - a. Such an awareness can be a source of great joy and confidence.
2. Jesus promised his disciples, “He [the Counselor] is with you and will be in you” (John 14:16).
  - a. The Holy Spirit abides in the life of every true Christian.
  - b. However, many Christians must admit that they seldom really sense his indwelling presence.
  - c. One remedy for this problem is prayer in the Spirit.

**C. Speaking in Tongues Helps Us Learn to More Fully Trust God.**

1. Speaking in tongues is an act of faith and abandonment to God.
  - a. In order to pray in the Spirit, the Christian must yield himself to God.
  - b. He must also put his complete trust in God, believing that he will guide his prayer.
2. As he prays like this in the Spirit, he learns to more fully trust in God and his grace.

**D. Speaking in Tongues Eliminates Any Selfishness from Entering Into Our Prayers.**

1. Try as we may we cannot totally eliminate selfishness from our prayer lives.
  - a. Our prayers inevitably turn inward to our own needs and concerns.
  - b. We too often forget the many needs of people around us and around the world.
2. Here again, the Spirit comes to our aid.
  - a. As we yield ourselves to Him, He will pray through us.
  - b. And He will pray according to the benevolent will of God (Ro. 8:27).
3. Our prayers will become, as were the prayers of Jesus, totally selfless and others-centered
4. More on this in our next lesson, “Intercessory Prayer in the Spirit.”

**E. Speaking in Tongues Is a Perfect Outlet for Praise and Worship.**

1. The Spirit of God will help us in our praise by lifting our hearts to God.
2. And a perfect outlet for Spirit-directed worship is prayer in tongues.
  - a. On the Day of the Pentecost the gathering crowd heard the disciples “declaring the wonders of God in [their] own tongues!” (Acts 2:11).
  - b. In 1 Cor. 14:16 Paul said that the person who speaks in an unknown tongue is “praising God with [his] spirit” and giving thanks to Him.

- c. Is it any wonder that he said, “So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit . . . I will sing with my spirit” (v. 15).
3. How wonderful it is to have the Holy Spirit come into our worship time and life our hearts to God in prayer in a tongue we have never learned.

**F. Speaking in Tongues Is the Scriptural "Initial Physical Evidence" of the Infilling of the Holy Spirit.**

1. As we learned in Lesson 4 speaking in tongues is also the initial biblical evidence that a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit.
2. The truly Spirit-baptized believer need never doubt whether he has received the Holy Spirit.
  - a. He doesn't need to blindly “take it by faith.”
  - b. He knows he has been filled because God gave Him a beautiful new prayer language as evidence of His Spirit baptism

**III. THREE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES IN PUBLIC WORSHIP**

**A. Here We are Talking About the Gift of Tongues.**

1. Often people confuse the different uses and purposes of tongues. This causes them to misunderstand the teachings of Scripture.
2. We have already talked about some of the benefits of tongues as a prayer language in a person's private devotions.
  - a. We have also talked about tongues as the evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Now we will turn to the uses of tongues in public worship.
  - c. Here we are speaking of the tongues as a gift of the Holy Spirit rather than tongues as a personal prayer language.
3. In 1 Cor. 14 Paul gives clear instructions concerning the benefits and uses of this wonderful gift.
  - a. He says that it is always to be used with the gift of the interpretation of tongues.
  - b. He further states that its primary purpose is the building up of the church.
  - c. Let's now look at three purposes of the gift of tongues in public worship.

**B. The Gift of Tongues Serves Three Purposes in the Congregation**

1. ***Tongues (with Interpretation) is a Method of Communicating Divine Truth to a Congregation.***
  - a. In 1 Cor. 14:5, Paul says that the gift of tongues, when followed by the gift of the interpretation of tongues, can be considered as a prophetic message to a congregation.
  - b. Through the combined use of these dual gifts God can communicate a prophetic word to a congregation of believers.
    - 1) In 1 Cor. 14:8 he compares speaking in tongues with interpretation with a battle trumpet calling the soldiers to battle.
    - 2) Then in 1 Cor. 14:21:Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah (28:11, 12) and says that God uses “strange tongues” to speak to his people.
  - c. This is what we commonly refer to in Pentecostal circles as a “message in tongues.”
  - d. It is a powerful way through which the Holy Spirit can communicate divine truth to a body of gathered Christians.
2. ***Tongues is a Means of Spirit-directed “Prophetic Prayer” for the Congregation.***

- a. Note that in 1 Cor. 14:2, 5 Paul says that when one is speaking in tongues, he is speaking primarily to God
    - 1) v. 2, For he “does not speak to men but to God.”
    - 2) Then in verse 5 he says that such a prayer in tongues should be interpreted “so that the church may be edified.”
  - b. While the typical Pentecostal church is familiar with “messages in tongues,” whereby God speaks to a congregation through the gift of tongues and interpretation,
    - 1) Most Pentecostal congregations are not familiar with this use of the gift of tongues.
    - 2) This is tragic especially since, according to Paul, this is the primary use of the gift of tongues.
  - c. This use of the gift of tongues is much like a message in tongues;
    - 1) However, it is a Spirit-directed prayer to God in an unknown tongue that, like a message in tongues, is interpreted into the language of the congregation.
    - 2) Think how a church can be blessed as it hears the Holy Spirit Himself praying for them through the gift of tongues and interpretation.
3. ***Tongues Can Be a Sign That God Is Present.***
1. 1 Cor.14:22: “Tongues, then are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers.”
  2. How can the gift of tongues serve as a sign for unbelievers in a congregational meeting of the church? (It can serve as a sign to unbelievers in two ways:)
    - a. First, when properly administered the gift of tongues makes the unbeliever to know that God is present in the congregation, and that He is ready to speak to His people
      - 1) Just as in ancient times a trumpet called signaled the fact that an important announcement was about to take place, tongues can be a signal to the unbeliever that something important and supernatural is taking place.
      - 2) The unbeliever is thus prepared to listen to the interpretation that follows.
    - b. There is a second way that tongues can serve as a sign to unbelievers.
      - 1) This happens when the speaker in tongues speaks in a language unknown to himself but known to an unbeliever who is present in the congregation.
      - 2) This is what happened on the day of Pentecost.
        - a) The people were amazed and wondered at the meaning of the tongues (Acts 2:11, 12).
        - b) This gave Peter the opportunity to stand up and explain what was happening (vv. 14-21).
        - c) In the book *Spoken By the Spirit* the author gives many testimonies of this use of the gift of tongues.
4. ***A WARNING concerning the use of tongues in public worship.***
- a. Beware, tongues can also serve as a negative sign to unbelievers in the congregation.
  - b. When it is not properly used according to the guidelines set forth by Paul in 1 Cor. 14, visitors to the church may even say that the Christians are out of their minds (v. 23).
  - c. For an extended discussion of the proper use of tongues in the church see the book *Power Ministry, A Handbook for Pentecostal Preachers*, by Denny Miller).

### **Conclusion**

1. Praying in tongues, whether it is used in private devotions or in public worship can be a tremendous blessing.
2. We should not neglect the used of this wonderful gift from God.
  - a. In our private devotions w should pray in the Spirit daily.
  - b. And in our church services we should welcome the proper used of the gift of tongues with interpretation.

## Lesson Six

# Intercessory Prayer in the Spirit

### Outline

- I. What Is Meant by the Term "Prayer in the Spirit?"
  - A. Any Prayer That Is Prompted by the Spirit
  - B. Prayer in Tongues
- II. How Intercessory Prayer in the Spirit Blesses the One Praying
  - A. Paul Cites One Blessing of Prayer in the Spirit
  - B. Jude Cites Two More Blessings of Prayer in the Spirit
- III. How Prayer in the Spirit Blesses Others
  - A. Because of Our "Weakness" We Struggle in Intercessory Prayer
  - B. How the Spirit Helps Our Weaknesses.

### Introduction

1. In this lesson we will be delving deeper into the realm of intercessory prayer in the Spirit.
  - a. In our last lesson we mentioned the intercessory used of prayer in tongues.
  - b. We talked about how prayer in tongues can provide a way for things to be prayed for which need prayer, but for which no one thinks to pray, or for which they know nothing.
2. In this lesson we will expand our discussion on this kind of prayer in the Spirit.
  - a. We will first answer the question "What is meant by the term prayer in the Spirit?"
  - b. We will then discuss how prayer in the Spirit blesses the one doing the intercessory praying.
  - c. And finally we will discuss how such intercessory prayer in the Spirit blesses others.

### I. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM "PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT?"

1. It will be well for us to first define our terms.
2. When the Bible speaks of prayer in the Spirit, it uses the term in one of two ways.

#### A. Any Prayer That is Prompted by the Spirit

1. Generally speaking, prayer in the Spirit can be any prayer that is prompted by the Spirit of God.
2. When an anointing of the Spirit comes upon a Spirit-filled believer to initiate, prompt, and direct his prayers this could be called prayer in the Spirit.
3. Paul speaks of such prayer in Ro.8:26-27:

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for us in accordance with God's will.*

4. This kind of prayer is prayer in the Spirit because it is prayer that is initiated and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
5. It is a "team effort" between an individual and the Holy Spirit.
  - a. The Holy Spirit directs and prompts the prayer
  - b. The Spirit-filled intercessor yields and cooperates.
6. In this context the Spirit-filled Christian is sometimes prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray for a certain need.
  - a. When praying for that need the Holy Spirit comes powerfully upon the intercessor and he prays in the Spirit for that need.
  - b. He is praying in the Spirit.
7. Sometimes he will pray in his own language, and sometimes he may pray in tongues. This brings us to our second definition of prayer in the Spirit.

**B. Prayer in Tongues**

1. More specifically, prayer in the Spirit is prayer in tongues.
2. The intercessory prayer described in Ro. 8:26, 27 is most probably prayer in tongues.
  - a. Very probably the “groans that words cannot express” spoken of by Paul is prayer in tongues.
  - b. In 1 Cor. 14:2, Paul made it clear that prayer in tongues and prayer in the Spirit are synonymous terms when he said,
    - 1) “For anyone who speaks in a tongue, does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his Spirit.”
    - 2) Note: NKJV reads “in the spirit.”
  - c. Again in verses 14 and 15 he says,
    - 1) *“For if I pray in tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.*
    - 2) In these verses Paul cites two kinds of prayer:
      - a) Prayer with the spirit
      - b) Prayer with the mind, or understanding.
3. In the following chart we compare these two kinds of prayer.

<b>Two Kinds of Prayer (1 Cor. 14:2, 14)</b>	
<b>Prayer with the Spirit</b>	<b>Prayer with the Mind</b>
Our spirit prays (v. 14)	Our mind prays
Prayer in tongues (vv. 2, 14)	Prayer in a language understood by the one praying
We don't understand what we are saying (vv. 2, 14)	We understand what we are saying

4. Lets look at how the differing English translations of the Bible render the phrase in Ro. 8:26, “groanings that words cannot express.”

<b>Various Translations of Ro. 8:26</b>	
New International Version	“. . . with groanings that words cannot express”
New King James Version	“. . . with goanings which cannot be uttered”
The Emphasized NT	“. . . with sighings unutterable”
Goodspeed	“. . . with inexpressible yearnings”
Berkeley	“. . . with sighs to deep for words”
New English Version	“. . . with inarticulate groans”

- a. All of them speak in terms of a language that is beyond the ability of the person praying.
- b. They are Spirit-prompted utterances.
- c. Although some non-Pentecostal scholars disagree, this verse is almost certainly making reference to prayer in tongues.

## II. HOW INTERCESSORY PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT BLESSES THE ONE PRAYING

1. When praying in the Spirit, the intercessor receives great help from the Holy Spirit.
  - a. As the Spirit prays through him, He prays with great power and effectiveness.
  - b. The intercessor’s spiritual life is strengthened.
2. The Bible speaks of three ways that prayer in the Spirit strengthens the one praying. Paul speaks of one way and Jude speaks of two others.

### A. Paul Cites One Blessing of Prayer in the Spirit

1. In 1 Cor.14:4:Paul cites one wonderful blessing that comes to the one whose prays in the Spirit.
  - a. His says that this person “edifies himself.”
  - b. This means that the person is built up in his spiritual life.
2. Since we discussed this benefit in our last lesson we will not comment any further here.

### B. Jude Cites Two More Blessings of Prayer in the Spirit

1. In verses 20 and 21 Jude talks about prayer in the Spirit:
  - a. *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God,. . .” (NKJV).*
  - b. **Note:** Remember, we have already learned that prayer in the Spirit includes prayer in tongues.

- c. Here in this passage Jude cites two additional blessings that come to the person who prays in the Spirit:
- 2. ***Faith is increased.***
  - a. Jude says that we can build ourselves up in faith by praying in the Spirit.
  - b. In the last lesson we discussed how prayer in tongues helps a person learn to more fully trust God.
    - 1) But even more than this is taking place when a person spends time praying in the Spirit.
    - 2) As the Spirit-filled Christian prays for others in the Spirit, God supernaturally imparts faith into his own life.
    - 3) We know that faith (or faithfulness) is both a gift and a fruit of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:9; Gal. 5:22).
    - 4) Since in the Spirit the believer is praying “in accordance with God’s will” it is likely that his prayer will be answered. As he sees his prayers answered, his faith is again increased.
  - c. Prayer in the Spirit is a powerful spiritual exercise whereby the believer becomes stronger and stronger in his faith in God and His Word.
- 3. ***Kept in the love of God.***
  - a. Jude says, “Praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God” (vv. 20-21; NKJV).
  - b. Paul tells that “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who he has given us” (Ro. 5:5).
  - c. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to experience the love of God in our hearts.
    - 1) As the Spirit-filled believer prays for others in tongues, he experiences the love of God.
    - 2) He is drawn near to God and God draws near to him (James 4:8).
    - 3) His love and consecration to God grows stronger.

### III. HOW PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT BLESSES OTHERS

- 1. Although the believer who intercedes for others in the Spirit receives blessing in his own life, this is not the primary purpose of intercessory prayer in the Spirit.
- 2. Its main purpose is to bless others.
  - a. Paul says that He “intercedes for the saints.”
  - b. The Spirit prays through him for the needs of others.
- 3. Let’s look at how this intercession for other works. In Ro. 8:26, 27 the Paul taught two things about our prayers:

#### A. Because of Our "Weakness" We Struggle in Intercessory Prayer

- 1. Paul said that we all have a weakness in our prayer lives: “We do not know what we ought to pray for” (Ro. 8:26)
  - a. Note: NASB says that we do not know how to pray as we ought].
- 2. How many urgent needs do we fail to pray for simply because we are unaware of them?
  - a. Even when we do know what to pray for, we often do not know exactly how to pray.
  - b. This is because we do not know God’s will in the matter.
- 3. And all too often, as discussed the lesson 5, we pray with the wrong motives.
- 4. Or, even worse, we simply lack any motivation at all to pray for others.
- 5. We truly need help in our prayer lives.

**B. How the Spirit Helps Our Weaknesses.**

1. At such times as this the Holy Spirit will come to our aid.
  - a. Paul says, “The Spirit himself intercedes for us” (v. 26).
  - b. As we yield ourselves to the Spirit of God, He will pray through us “with groans that words cannot express” (v. 27), that is, in words given to us by the Holy Spirit. (v. 27).
2. A closer look at Ro. 8:26, 27 reveals five powerful ways the Spirit helps us in prayer:
  - a. ***He “makes intercession for us.”***
    - 1) As we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit, He will come, fill us with His power and presence, and pray through us.
    - 2) It will no longer be us directing our own prayers, but it will be the Holy Spirit praying through us.
    - 3) What powerful prayer this is.
  - b. ***He does this “with groans which words cannot express.”***
    - 1) As He moves in us, and we yield ourselves to Him, He will pray through us in words and phrases which He inspires, that is with “inarticulate groans” (NEB).
    - 2) He begins to speak to God through us in expressions of His own creation.
    - 3) We continue to yield to Him and allow His to pray through us in the language of His choosing.
  - c.. ***He “searches our hearts.”***
    - 1) He will search our hearts and motives and purify us through His sanctifying Spirit (Ro. 8.1-4).
    - 2) As we yield to His sanctifying power, our hearts can be cleansed from impure ways and motives (Psa. 51:10-11).
    - 3) As a result, we are placed in a position when God can answer our prayer (God’s ears is not heavy”)
  - d. ***He “knows the mind of the Spirit.”***
    - 1) The Spirit of God knows what the mind and will of God is in any given matter (1 Cor. 2:11).
    - 2) Therefore, the prayer that He prays through us will be in accordance with God’s perfect will.
  - e. ***He “intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”***
    - 1) As we allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us we will be praying for the needs of others.
    - 2) And we will be praying in God’s perfect will.
    - 3) John teaches that God hears and answers prayers that are prayed in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14, 15).

**Conclusion:**

1. We should not neglect this powerful tool for intercessory prayer.
2. The author himself can testify that on many occasions experienced such prayer in the Spirit.

As the Spirit prayed through him in a language he had never learned, his life was blessed and strengthened. On some of these occasions he did not know who are what he was praying for. He only knew that the Holy Spirit was using him as His vessel to pray for someone in need. On other occasions, the author knew the one he was praying for, but he was personally unaware of any need in this person’s life. On yet other occasions he knew the person’s need, but he was not certain of God’s will in the matter. As he allowed the Holy Spirit to pray through him for the person, he knew that he was praying in the will of God. Intercessory prayer in the Spirit has been a great blessing in the author’s life. In can be a great blessing in the life of every Christian.

Lesson Seven  
**Guidance Into All Truth**

**Outline**

- I. The Importance of the Word to the Spirit-filled Life
  - A. The Word Is the Revealer of the Spirit-filled Life
  - B. The Word Is the Guide for the Spirit-filled Life
  - C. The Word Is an “Umpire” or “Referee” in the Spirit-filled Life
  
- II The Spirit Will Help You Understand the Word
  - A. The Spirit Is the Author, as Well as the Interpreter of the Word
  - B. The Spirit Will Illuminate the Word for Us
  - C. The Spirit Will Personalize the Word to Us
  
- III. How to Approach the Word of God
  - A. In Love and Humility
  - B. In a Spirit of Prayer
  - C. With Great Reverence and Caution
  - D. With a Heart Open to the Voice of the Spirit

**Introduction**

- 1. In this unit and the next we are discussing the Christian’s inward spiritual life.
  - a. Thus far in this unit we have discussed how the Holy Spirit helps the believer in his prayer life.
  - b. We will now turn to how the Holy Spirit helps the Christian in an another essential part of the Christian walk, that is reading and understanding the Bible.
  - c. We will seek to understand how the Spirit will help us in our understanding and interpretation of the Word of God.
- 2. We will discuss three things about how the role of the Spirit and the Word in the Christian life.
  - a. First we will discuss the importance of the Word of God to the Spirit-filled life.
  - b. Next, we will investigate the importance of the Spirit in understanding and applying the Word to our lives.
  - c. And finally we will discuss how to approach the word of God.

**I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD TO THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE**

- 1. The Word and the Spirit go together.
- 2. The Spirit-filled life cannot be divorced from the word of God.
  - a. Anyone who tries to do so is very foolish indeed.
- 3. Understanding and obeying the Bible is at the very heart of life in the Spirit.
- 4. There are three ways that the Word of God is very important to the Spirit-filled life.

**A. The Word is the Revealer of the Spirit-filled Life**

1. It is in the Bible that we learn about the Holy Spirit and His working in our lives.
  - a. If it were not revealed in the Word of God, we would know nothing authoritative about God and His Spirit.
  - b. We would know nothing about the Spirit-filled life, its benefits, or how it is to be lived.
2. It is through the reading of God's Word that we understand these things.
3. Do you want to know more about life in the Spirit?
  - a. Then, read the Word.
  - b. The Bible is the revealer of the Spirit-filled life

**B. The Word is the Guide for the Spirit-filled Life**

1. It is in the Bible that we also learn about how we can live a life of spiritual abundance. ILLUS: Just as a master builder will use a detailed blueprint to build a large building, the Spirit-filled believer uses the Bible as his guide for Spirit-filled living.
2. All the lessons taught in this book are based squarely on the Word of God.
3. If anything is taught that is not supported by the Word of God you should question it.
  - a. If it is supported by the Word, you must obey it.
  - b. Every teaching that we hear concerning the things of the Spirit, we must ask the question, "Is this firmly supported by God's Word?"
  - c. If it is not we must reject it.

**C. The Word is an "Umpire" or "Referee" in the Spirit-filled Life**

1. It is the word that keeps us on track in our life in the Spirit.
2. Paul said, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them *is* without signification."
  - a. [Easy to be led astray]
  - b. Often we hear people say, "The Spirit told me to do this or that."
  - c. At times we hear the voice of the Spirit ourselves.
  - d. What are we to do at such times as this?
3. The Bible says we are to test the spirits.
4. But how do we test them?
  - a. One sure method is to ask the question, "Does it square with the Word of God?"
  - b. ILLUS: The Spirit-filled life can be compared to a football match. In a football match the players must play according to the rules. If at anytime a player breaks the rules, the umpire will blow his whistle and shows him a \_\_\_\_\_ card. This means that he is out of bounds. The Bible can serve the same function in the life of the Spirit-filled believer. It can tell him when he is in bounds or out of bounds.
5. Many have gone astray because they have not submitted themselves to the authority of God's Word.
  - a. Have made shipwreck (1Tim. 1:19)

**II. THE SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD**

1. The Bible can be understood only by those in right relationship with the Holy Spirit.
2. Not only will the Word help us to know how to properly live in the Spirit, but the Spirit will help us understand the Word of God.
3. Just as Jesus opened the minds of the disciples on the evening of His resurrection "so that they could understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). . .

- a. The Holy Spirit, who the Father has sent in Jesus name, “will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26).
- b. He will open out minds today that we also might understand the Scriptures.

#### A. The Spirit is the Author, As Well As the Interpreter of the Word

1. The Bible teaches that *the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Word*.
  - a. Paul said that “All scripture is by inspiration of God . . .”
  - b. The word inspiration means “God breathed.”
  - c. 2 Pet. 1:20, 21: ”Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit
  - d. ILLUS: Just as a rushing river will carry a stick away.
2. *The Spirit is also the interpreter of the Word*.
  - a. Just as the scripture was no scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation, Scripture cannot be interpreted by the readers own private interpretation.
  - b. If you want to know the meaning of a passage in a book, ask the author.
  - c. 1 Cor. 2:14: “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
    - 1) ILLUS: Two men argue over the interpretation of a poem. Ask the author!
    - 2) 1 Cor. 2:7 “We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.”
    - 3) v.10 “God has revealed them to us through His Spirit”

#### B. The Spirit Will Illuminate the Word for Us

1. Theologians make an important difference between the concepts of inspiration and illumination.
  - a. **Inspiration.** When they speak of inspiration they are speaking of the Holy Spirit’s work in the prophets and apostles in revealing the Word of God to them.
    - 1) We do not look for such inspiration today.
    - 2) The Bible is forever settled in heaven.
    - 3) No more scripture will be revealed.
  - b. **Illumination:** However, the Holy Spirit will be with us today illuminating the Scripture.
    - a. He will help us to understand and rightly apply the Word of God.
    - b. John 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
    - c. John 16:13, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes he will guide you into all truth.”
    - d. 1 Cor. 2:9-16
    - e. Eph. 4:11, “He gave . . .some to be teachers”
    - f. 1 John 2:27, “We have an anointing. . .”

#### C. The Spirit Will Personalize the Word to Us

1. Not only will the Spirit illuminate the Word for us, He will also personalize the Word to us.

- a. John 16:14, 15: “He will bring glory to men by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. “
2. Biblical examples.
3. Rhema word

### III. HOW TO APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD

#### A. In Love and Humility

(The Spirit-filled believer will approach the Word of God in a spirit of love and humility.)

1. **Love.** He will have a deep and sincere love for the word of God.
  - a. You received it as the very word of truth.
  - b. It is an intimate revelation of the God whom he loves and serves.
  - c. Love the Word.
2. **Humility.** He will also approach God’s Word in a spirit of humility.
  - a. He will let the Bible speak to him: he will not speak to the Bible.
  - b. He will not attempt to twist the Scriptures to fit his own pet doctrine or to justify his own sinful practices.
  - c. Too many want to make the Scripture say what they want it to say.
    - 1) Claim special revelation.
    - 2) 1 Pet. 3:15, 16

#### B. In a Spirit of Prayer

1. The Word of God must be approached in a Spirit of prayer.
2. Those who received the Word were in such a spirit.
  - a. Rev. 1:10, 11: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day. . .”
  - b. We who read the Word must be in the same Spirit of prayer
3. We must pray, Lord help me to approach your word in a Spirit of humility. Give me understanding and insight.

#### C. With Great Reverence and Caution

1. We must reverence the Word and approach it with caution.
2. The constant danger of reading our own thoughts into the Bible.
  - a. Danger of “wrongly dividing.”
  - b. Danger of adding our own thoughts and opinions to the Word.

#### D. With a Heart Open to the Voice of the Spirit

1. As we read we must keep our hearts open to the voice of the Spirit.

### Conclusion

## Lesson Eight

# **You Can Overcome Temptation Through the Power of the Spirit**

**Objective:** Learn how to overcome temptation through the enablement of the Holy Spirit

### **Outline**

- I. Understanding What the Bible Says about Temptation
  - A. Everyone must Cope with Temptation.
  - B. Realize the Sources of Temptations.
  - C. We must Know Where the Battle for Our Souls Takes Place
  - D. Four Things We Can Never Say When We Are Tempted to Sin.
  - E. We must Realize That We Can Be Victorious over Temptation and Sin
- Ii. We must Know How the Spirit Helps Us Triumph over Temptation
  - A. Be Filled with the Spirit
  - B. Avoid Temptation
  - C. Put on the "Full Armor of God"
  - D. Learn the Powerful Secret of Resisting and Yielding

### **Introduction**

1. In this lesson we will discuss how the Spirit enables the believer to overcome temptation.
2. We will first talk about temptation in general.
3. Then we will talk about how the Holy Spirit can give us victory over temptation and sin.

### **I. UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TEMPTATION**

1. Before one can successfully win the battle with temptation, he must understand what the Bible teaches about the nature of temptation.
2. Here we will discuss five important principles concerning temptation:

#### **A. Everyone Must Cope with Temptation.**

1. Temptation is a part of every person's life.
  - a. James 1:14: "each one is tempted."
  - b. Even Jesus Himself was tempted! (Mt. 4:1-11; 26:36-42; Heb. 4:15).
2. Being tempted is not in itself sin.
  - a. One sins only when he lingers and yields to the temptation.
  - b. One preacher said, "You cannot keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

**B. Realize the Sources of Temptations.**

- a. The Bible teaches that there are three sources of temptation.
  - b. From without we are tempted by the world and by evil spirits.
  - c. From within we are tempted by the lusts of our own carnal nature.
1. ***Our own carnal nature.***
    - a. It is through this carnal nature that we are tempted from within.
    - b. James 1:14, "But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed"
    - c. We inherited this depraved or sinful nature from Adam (Ro. 5:12).
    - d. By depraved nature we mean a nature that has a natural inclination to sin.
    - e. Mk. 7:21-23
    - f. ILLUS: A young boy was once chided by his father. "Son," his father asked, "Why can't you just be good?" The boy replied, "Because it makes me tired to be good." In the same way, it is easy for our carnal nature to do wrong, it is difficult for it to do good.
  2. ***The world.***
    - a. The Christian is also tempted from without, that is, from the world.
    - b. When the Bible speaks of "the world" it is often talking about this world's scheme of things.
      - 1) It is speaking of the systems and values of this unregenerate world.
      - 2) Includes the arts, the entertainment industry, commerce, politics, religion, and even educational systems.
    - c. The whole world lies under the controlling influence of Satan (1 J n. 5:19).
    - d. 1 John 2:15: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
    - e. Temptations often come from our fascination with the things of the world.
  3. ***Evil spirits.***
    - a. Christians are also tempted from without by the devil and evil spirits.
    - b. Eden: Adam and Eve were tempted by the Serpent, who is Satan.
      - 1) Gen. 3:1-7
      - 2) Rev.20:2
    - c. In the New Testament Satan is referred to as "the tempter" (Mt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5).
    - d. Just as Jesus was enticed by Satan in the wilderness to turn from His mission and commitment to God, so are we tempted.

**C. We Must Know Where the Battle for Our Souls Takes Place**

1. ***A mental battle.***
  - a. Today we hear much talk about spiritual warfare.
    - 1) It is talked about as if it is something that takes place somewhere "out there" in some distant spiritual realm.
    - 2) While there is some limited truth in this statement, it is only a small part of the truth.
  - b. The vast majority of spiritual warfare is right now taking place in the hearts and minds of men and women.
    - 1) READ: 2 Cor. 10:3-5
    - 2) Notice carefully that in this verse Paul identifies the battlefield for spiritual warfare--it is in the thought life. It involves thoughts, arguments, pretension and pride.
2. ***A spiritual battle.***
  - a. 2 Cor 10:3-5 also lets us know that the Christian's battle is a spiritual battle.

- 1) Paul says that “the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”
- 2) He goes on to say that they have “divine power.”
- b. Eph. 6:4:Our struggle “is not against flesh and blood, but against . . . spiritual forces of evil . . .”
  - 1) Our battle with temptation and sin will never be one if we use the weapons of this world.
  - 2) We must use the weapons that God provides.

#### **D. Four Things We Can Never Say When We Are Tempted to Sin.**

When people are tempted they often complain. They begin to accuse others and sometimes even God. But, according to James 1:13 and 1 Cor. 10:13 there are four things that a person can never say when he is tempted:

1. ***"I am being tempted by God."***
  - a. When someone faces a temptation, he cannot point his finger at God and say, “God is tempting me.”
    - 1) The reason is clear:“For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1:13).
    - 2) Then, where does the temptation come from?
  - b. Answer: “Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed” (James 1:14).
2. ***"I am the only one who has ever been tempted like this."***
  - a. Often, when a person faces a severe temptation, he feels as if he is being tempted in a way that no other person has ever suffered.
  - b. But the Bible says that we should never make this statement because “no temptation has seized you except what is common to man” (1 Cor. 10:13).
  - c. Anytime I am tempted, I can know that someone else in the world is experiencing the same temptation, and through the power of the Spirit he is overcoming it. I can take courage knowing that if he can overcome the temptation, so can I.
3. ***"This temptation is too strong for me to resist."***
  - a. Another thing that the Christian must never say when he is tempted is that his temptation is too great for him to resist.
  - b. The Bible is clear:“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).
  - c. 1 Cor. 10:13:“And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.”
4. ***"There is no way out of this temptation but to yield to it."***
  - a. Neither can we say when we are tempted, “I must yield to this temptation. There is no other choice.”
  - b. The Bible says, “But when you are tempted, [God] will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Cor. 10:13).
  - c. What then shall we conclude? We conclude that the battle with temptation is always winnable.

#### **E. We Must Realize That We Can Be Victorious Over Temptation and Sin**

1. God will always provide a way out of temptation.
2. In every temptation He gives us His power to overcome.
3. We are not helpless puppets to Satan, nor are we slaves to our own fleshly lusts.
4. Through the power of God we have been given “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3).

5. If we are win the battle against temptation and sin, we must understand how the Spirit will help us.

## II. WE MUST KNOW HOW THE SPIRIT HELPS US TRIUMPH OVER TEMPTATION

The Bible speaks of four things the Christian can do to win the battle with temptation:

### A. Be Filled with the Spirit

1. The first step that every Christian must take if he is to have victory of the flesh and the devil
2. Ro. 8:13: "If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the boy, you will live" (Ro. 8:13). It is only through the power of the Spirit that we can have victory over temptation.
3. Gal. 5:16: "Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. .
4. Gal. 5:24, 24:"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16, 24, 25).

### B. Avoid Temptation

1. Jesus (Mt. 6:13) "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."
2. Paul (Ro. 13:13, 14, NKJV)
  - a. "walk properly."
  - b. "Make not provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts"
3. We do this by avoiding temptations.
  - a. We are to stay away from those places where "the flesh has its fling."
  - b. This would certainly include bars, discos, and movie houses.
4. 2 Tim. 2:22, "Flee the evil desires of youth"
  - a. Like Joseph (Gen. 39:7-12),
  - b. Flee every appearance of evil (1Thes. 5:21).
5. David (Psa. 101:2-4: "I will be careful to lead a blameless life. . . I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing."
6. We too, if we are going to be victorious over temptation and sin must not set any vile thing before our eyes including pornographic and lewd books, lewd music videos, and unclean television programs.

### C. Put on the "Full Armor of God"

1. Making no provision for the sinful nature is one way we can overcome temptation. Another is to clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ (Ro. 13:14).
2. To clothe oneself in Jesus is to "put on the armor of light" (v. 12).
3. In Eph. 6:10-20 this armor of light is referred to as the "full armor of God."
  - a. By putting on the armor we can "take your stand against the devil's schemes" (v. 11)
  - b. Then "when the evil day comes you will be able to stand your ground.
  - c. This armor of the Spirit includes truth, righteousness, preparedness, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer in the Spirit.
4. As the Spirit-filled Christian clothes himself in the character of Christ he will be able to stand against any temptation.

### D. Learn the Powerful Secret of Resisting and Yielding

1. A final tactic for overcoming is the powerful spiritual technique of "resisting and yielding."

2. When faced with a temptation a Christian will have to do two things in order to give in to that temptation and commit sin.
  - a. First of all, he will have to yield himself to the temptation.
  - b. Secondly, he will have to resist the Spirit.
    - 1) A Christian must always resist the Spirit before he can sin.
    - 2) This is true because the Spirit dwells within him.
3. The reverse is also true. In order to overcome the temptation the Christian will have resist the temptation and yield to the Holy Spirit.
4. When used together the spiritual tactics of resisting and yielding is a powerful, unbeatable team against any temptation to sin.
5. Let's look more closely at each of these tactics:
  - a. **Resisting.**
    - 1) First of all, in order to overcome temptation, the Christian must firmly resist the temptation.
    - 2) A conscious freewill choice that we make *not* to do something.
    - 3) It is an act of inner self control.
    - 4) Such self control is one of the fruit of the Spirit-filled life (Gal. 5:23).
    - 5) When a temptation from the devil comes, we must steadfastly resist it (1Pet. 5:9)
    - 6) Although resisting temptation is essential to victory over sin, it is not enough!
      - a) Paul vividly describes the futility of trying to resist temptation in our own strength in Ro. 7:18-25.
      - b) There he describes the frustration of constant failure when he says, "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (v. 18).
  - b. **Yielding.**
    - 1) When a Christian faces temptation, the Holy Spirit is there to convict him and encourage him to what is right.
    - 2) In order to overcome the temptation the Christian must now yield to the inner promptings of the Spirit.
    - 3) No matter how small or insignificant they seem.
      - a) Temptation looms powerful and gigantic.
      - b) The voice of the Spirit is small and faint.
      - c) What is he to do?
    - 4) Turn to the Spirit!
      - a) As you do you turn from the temptation.
      - b) James 4:7-8: "Submit yourselves, then to god. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.
      - c) Must do both.
    - 5) When you do a powerful principle takes over.
      - a) Ro. 8:2: "The law of the Spirit of life."
      - b) Though this powerful principle we are set free from the law of sin and death.
      - c) Read more about the working of this powerful principle in Romans 8:1-9.
    - 6) Paul describes this process of resisting and yielding: In Ro.6:12-13, 19:
 

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness . . . I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

- a) Paul is reminding the Roman Christians of their past lives before they knew Christ.
- b) He tells them to remember how they yielded to temptation and yielded their bodies to sin.
- c) He is saying that they should now do the same thing, only now, instead of yielding to sin, they should yield themselves to God.
- d) This will lead to righteous living.
- e) Offer yourselves now to the inner urging of the Holy Spirit to do righteousness.

**6. Two final observations:**

- a. The importance of being the Christian being full of the Spirit.
  - 1) The Christian who is not full of the Spirit will have little strength in resisting the temptations of the devil and the pull of the flesh.
  - 2) “Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”
- b. The importance of the Christian learning how to yield himself to the Spirit.
  - 1) This is best done in a Spirit-filled worship service.
  - 2) Often in such an atmosphere the Holy Spirit will move on the Christian and prompt him to do something. This could be to repent of a sin, dedicate himself more fully to Christian service or to release a spiritual gift.
  - 3) As the Christian obeys the voice he learns how to more fully yield to the inner promptings of the Spirit.
  - 4) Then, as he goes out of the church service into the world he is more prepared to yield to the Spirit when he is tempted.
  - 5) If in the church service he is in the habit of resisting the promptings of the Spirit he is likely to resist the Spirit when temptation comes.

**Conclusion:** Through the power of the Spirit, you can triumph over temptation!

## Lesson Nine

# The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

**Lesson Objective:** Realize how the Holy Spirit can bring you into an intimate relationship with each member of the Trinity

### Outline

- I. What is Meant by the Fellowship of the Spirit
  - A. What the Fellowship of the Spirit is Not
  - B. What the Fellowship of the Spirit Is
  
- II. Why We Need This Wonderful Fellowship of the Spirit
  - A. We Need His Loving Companionship
  - B. We Need His Strong Assistance
  
- III. How We Can Live in Daily Fellowship with the Spirit
  - A. The Prerequisites
  - B. The Problem
  - C. The Plan

### Introduction

1. In lesson one we learned that the Holy Spirit is a person, and since He is a person, we can have fellowship with Him.
2. **READ:** 2 Cor.13:14:“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
  - a. Notice here that he speaks of the “fellowship of the Holy Spirit.”
  - b. In this lesson we will focus our attention on this concept.
  - c. We will discuss this wonderful privilege of every Spirit-filled Christian.
3. In our discussion we will ask and answer three questions:
  - What is meant by the term fellowship of the Holy Spirit?
  - Why do we each need this wonderful fellowship with the Spirit?
  - How can one live in daily fellowship with the Spirit of God?

### I. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

- A. **What the Fellowship of the Spirit is Not** (It does not mean the following two things:)
  1. ***Just “having the Spirit.”***
    - a. i.e. Being born again or even being filled with the Spirit.
    - b. It does not stop here.
  2. ***A one-time event.***
    - a. Not a single event in the Christian life.
    - b. Nor is it even a series of several events.

- c. It is, rather, a daily walk with the Spirit of God.
- d. It may involve events and experiences with the Holy Spirit, but it is much more.

## **B. What the Fellowship of the Spirit Is**

1. ***A life of communion.***
  - a. A life of intimate communion with God through the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Biblical meaning of the word “fellowship” (“Communion” in some Bibles).
    - 1) Gk. *koinonia*.
    - 2) Means more than casual acquaintance.
    - 3) Means intimate communion, the sharing of common experiences.
    - 4) The intimate communion that takes place within a family and between a husband and a wife.
    - 5) A precious thing.
  - c. It brings us into intimate relationship with each member of the blessed Godhead.
2. ***Fellowship with the Father.***
  - a. **READ:** Ro. 5:5
  - b. We are made to experience and know the love of God through the abiding Spirit.
  - c. Able to feel God’s love for us.
  - d. Inspired to respond to that love.
    - 1) **READ:** 1 John 4:19
    - 2) Caused to cry out, “Abba, Father!” (Ro. 8:15).
3. ***Fellowship with the Son.***
  - a. The Holy Spirit will also bring us into intimate relationship with Jesus.
  - b. Jesus: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:18).
  - c. He also said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in His name (v. 26).
  - d. John 16:13-14: “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.
    - 1) Here Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came, He would bear witness to the truth.
    - 2) Jesus is the Truth! (John 14:6).
    - 3) The Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth in two ways:
      - a) First, He brings glory to Jesus, who is the Truth.
      - b) Next, He takes what belongs to Jesus and gives it to us.
3. ***Fellowship with the Holy Spirit.***
  - a. He will also bring us into a loving relationship with Himself.
  - b. When the Bible speaks of the “fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Cor. 13:14) it is referring to the sweet communion that each believer can have with the Spirit Himself.

## **II. WHY WE NEED THIS FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT**

1. Every Christian urgently needs this fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
2. We need the fellowship of the Holy Spirit for at least two reasons:

### **A. We Need His Loving Companionship**

1. Jesus promised, “I will come unto you” (John 14:18).

- a. He comes to us today in the person of the Holy Spirit.
2. He called the Holy Spirit “another Counselor” (v. 16).
  - a. *Allos parakletos*
    - 1) Translated “another Counselor”
    - 2) *Parakletos* = one who comes along side to help.
    - 3) *Allos* = another of the same sort. [Footnote: *Heteros*].
  - b. In other words the Holy Spirit will come to us as Another Counselor just like Jesus.
    - 1) He will come to us and be with us just as Jesus would if He were here in the flesh.
    - 2) What wonderful, loving companionship His presence provides.
  - c. “It is to your advantage that I go away” (John 16:7, NASB).
    - 1) How could it have been to their advantage for Christ to go away?
    - 2) It is unimaginable, but it is true.
    - 3) The advantage is that He would return to them in the person of the Holy Spirit.
      - a) And then He would not only be with them, He would be in them.
      - b) Much more, not only would He be with *them*, but he would be with every born again believer.
      - c) And no longer would He be limited to one locality, but He would be with every believer in every place in the entire world.

#### B. We Need His Strong Assistance

- a. Not only does *parakletos* mean one who comes along side, It also means one who comes along side to lend assistance.
- b. The Holy Spirit will come and help us in every area of our service for God.
- c. He will help us in our service for him in the follow ways:
  1. ***In our witnessing.*** (He will do this in two ways:)
    - a. By empowering us — With this empowering comes
      - 1) Anointing for ministry
      - 2) Which includes the manifestation of Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-11)
    - b. By imparting into our lives the nature of Christ.
      - 1) This nature is exemplified in the nine fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23?)
  2. ***In our preaching and teaching.***
    - a. The Spirit anointed the preaching and teaching ministry
      - 1) Of Jesus
      - 2) Of the apostles
      - 3) He will also anoint our ministries.
    - b. With this anointing comes understanding, persuasive power, divine insight,
  3. ***In our battle with the devil.***
    - a. Gospel ministry involves challenging and defeating evil spirits (Mk. 16:16?).
    - b. Demonic powers can only be defeated in the power of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:28?).
    - c. Here again the Spirit will be with us to help us defeat Satan.
    - d. He is the One who is stronger than the demonic strong man (Luke 11:20-21).

### III. HOW WE CAN LIVE IN DAILY FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT

#### A. The Prerequisites

(Two primary prerequisites for fellowship with the Spirit:)

1. ***Must be Born of the Spirit*** (John 3:1-7).
  - a. We begin our Christian lives “in the Spirit” (Gal. 3:3).

- b. Before one can live in fellowship with the Spirit he must first be born of the Spirit.
  - c. John 3:6 “Flesh gives birth to flesh, Spirit gives birth to spirit.”
  - d. Before one is born again he has no capacity to commune with God. (1 Cor. 2:12)
  - e. Natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:14)
2. ***Must be Filled with the Spirit*** (Acts 2:1-4).
- a. Enlarges our capacity for spiritual things.
  - b. The example of the disciples of Jesus. After they were filled with the Holy Spirit we see a sensitivity to the Spirit they did not have before. (Acts 11:12; 13:1-4; 15:28)

## B. The Problem

1. The problem with many Christians. . .
  - a. Once they have been born of the Spirit, they stop there and go no further in their spiritual experience.
  - b. They must now go on to be filled with the Spirit.
2. A similar problem with Pentecostal Christians.
  - a. Once they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, they also stop and go no further in the spiritual experience.
  - b. They foolishly view the experience of the baptism in the Spirit as a the finish line in the Christian experience, when in reality it is the starting line.
  - c. As we discussed in lesson 3, it is the gateway into the Spirit-filled life.
  - d. It is not an end in itself, it is merely an entrance into greater service and fellowship with God.

## C. The Plan

1. If the fellowship of the Spirit brings these blessings into the Christian life, then what must we do to have this blessed communion?
  - a. Building a relationship with the Spirit of God is much like building a relationship with another person.
  - b. Must make plans to spend time together with that person. How else could we get to know that person?
  - c. In like manner if we are going to grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit we must spend time communing with the Holy Spirit.
2. There are two ways that we can spend time in communion with the Spirit:
  - a. ***Prayer in the Spirit.***
    - 1) As we pray in the Spirit we grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit.
    - 2) As you pray in the Spirit your relationship with the Holy Spirit will grow and become stronger.
    - 3) Rev. David Yonggi Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world, Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea, gives this testimony:  
I also speak tongues very much. Speaking in tongues is the Holy Spirit's language, and when I speak in tongues, I cannot help but experience His presence in my consciousness. In my own personal prayer life I pray in tongues more than 60 percent of the time. I pray in tongues when I sleep. I wake up praying in tongues. I pray in tongues while I am studying the Bible, and I pray in tongues during my personal devotions. If somehow I ever lost the gift of the tongues, I think my ministry would be whittled down to about 50 percent of what it is now. Whenever I speak in tongues, I cannot help but keep the Holy Spirit in my consciousness. (*Successful Home Cell Groups*, p.131)

- 4) Paul said, "If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays. . ." ( 1 Cor. 14:14).
  - a) As the Spirit of God moves on the Spirit-filled believer, his spirit begins to pray in tongues.
  - b) At such a time a blessed communion takes place between the believer and the Holy Spirit.
  - c) Could this have been why Paul said, "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you?" (v. 18).
- b. ***Prayer to the Spirit.***
  - 1) A second way we can spend time in communion with the Holy Spirit-- prayer *to* the Spirit.
  - 2) Just as the Father and Jesus are persons to whom we can talk, the blessed Holy Spirit is also a person to whom we can talk and commune.
  - 3) Cho also commented on this kind of prayer:

Also, I always try to spend at least one hour with the Holy Spirit the first thing every morning. No matter what happens, I want to give Him that one hour. 'Dear Holy Spirit,' I will say, 'let's have a session together. Let's read the Bible together.' And so together the Holy Spirit and I sit down and praise God, I worship Jesus and I read the Scriptures. I love the Holy Spirit, and I praise Him, and together we plan the work. (Cho, p. 130)
  - 4) When may we spend time in communion with the Spirit?
    - a) Like pastor Cho, we can spend time with him in the early morning hours before we begin our days work.
    - b) We can commune with him all through the day.
      - As we go about our daily activities we can pray quietly in the Spirit.
      - And we can fellowship with him as we lay on our beds at night, just before we drop off to sleep.
    - c) If fact we can commune with the Holy Spirit any time, day or night.
      - He is the wonderful friend that is always with us to bless and help us.
      - We must learn to more Him better and better each day.

**Conclusion:** Don't cast aside this wonderful privilege of fellowship with the Spirit!

Lesson Ten

## Walking in the Spirit

**Objective:** Learn what it means to walk in the Spirit. Learn also how this can be accomplished.

### Outline

- I. The Importance of Walking in the Spirit
  - A. Paul Appeals to our Sense of Reason
  - B. What it Means to Walk in the Spirit
  - C. Jesus, Our Great Example
  
- II. What it Means to Walk By the Spirit
  - A. It Means to Walk in Holiness
  - B. It Means to Walk in Love
  - C. It Means to Walk in Submission to the Spirit
  - D. It Means to Walk in Faith
  
- III. Requirements for Walking in the Spirit
  - A. Be Born Again
  - B. Be Filled with the Spirit
  - C. Sow to the Spirit

### Introduction:

1. Writing to the Galatians, Paul encouraged them to live their lives under the control of the Holy Spirit: “Since we live by the Spirit” he said, “let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25).
2. In this lesson we will focus our thoughts on the subject of walking in (or by) the Spirit.
  - a. “Walking *by* the Spirit” more accurate
  - b. Lit. translation of this passage is “If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit we should also walk.”
3. We will focus our teaching on the books of Galatians and Romans, where Paul deals comprehensively with the subject .

## I. THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

### A. Paul Appeals to Our Sense of Reason (Gal. 5:25)

1. His argument is as follows:
  - a. Since you have begun your life in Christ through the enablement of the Holy Spirit,
  - b. Doesn't it now make sense that you continue your life in Him in the same way?
  - c. Let's look more closely at this argument.
2. ***We live by the Spirit.***
  - a. How they began their Christian walk —

- 1) They began it in the Spirit!
- 2) No other way to begin the Christian life.
- 3) Jesus: I tell you the truth, not one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. . . no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the Spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again’” (John 3:3-7).
- 4) John 3:3-7 says three things about how the Spirit introduces us to our life in Christ:
  - The Spirit opens our eyes to the things of God: “No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (v. 3)
  - The Spirit gives us entrance into the kingdom of God: “No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of. . . the Spirit” (v. 5).
  - The Spirit regenerates us and gives a new birth: “Spirit gives birth to Spirit . . . So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” (v. 6, 8)
- b. In addition to beginning our Christian lives by being born of the Spirit, every believer should immediately be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
  - 1) Gal.5:25: Paul is reminding the Gal. about their having baptized in the Holy Spirit
  - 2) They had obviously been filled with the Spirit soon after being born again.
3. **Therefore, we must also walk by the Spirit.**
  - a. That is, we should let the Spirit direct our lives.
  - b. NEB, Gal. 5 25: "If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct its course."
  - c. Paul is saying, “Now that you have the Spirit, you should let the Spirit have you!”
  - d. Gal. 3:3 “Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” (v. 3:3).
  - e. In the following chart we contrasts living by the Spirit with walking by the Spirit:

<b>Living by the Spirit vs. Walking by the Spirit</b>	
<b>Living by the Spirit</b>	<b>Walking by the Spirit</b>
You begin your new walk in Christ.	You continue your new walk in Christ.
Through the new birth the Spirit has given you new life	Under the Spirit’s direction, you now walk in newness of life, that is you walk as Christ walked.
The Spirit give you power to be a witness	You now walk in the power and anointing of the Spirit. You use the power to witness and do the works of Jesus.

**C. Jesus, Our Great Example**

Jesus is the living example of the concepts that we have been discussing. Three ways:

1. **He was filled with the Spirit.**
  - a. At His baptism (Mk. 1:10).

- b. From that moment on Jesus was filled with and anointed by the Holy Spirit
  - 1) John 1:32, 33
  - 2) Acts 10:38
- c. John further testifies that Jesus was filled with the Spirit “without limit” (John 3:34).
- d. We too must be filled (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5).
2. ***He received direction from the Spirit.***
  - a. Jesus testified that every thing He did He did under the direction of His heavenly Father (John 5:19-20, 8:28, 12:49).
  - b. This divine direction came to Him by the Holy Spirit (Mt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12, Luke 4:1).
  - c. **APPLY:** Just as Jesus received guidance and direction from the Father by the Spirit, we as His disciples should receive direction from God through the Holy Spirit.
3. ***He ministered by the Spirit's power.***
  - a. Although Jesus was the eternal Son of God, he chose not to minister in His own divine power. (Acts 10:38).
  - b. This is most clearly seen in the Gospel of Luke:
    - “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. . . (3:21, 22).
    - “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert where for forty days he was tempted by the devil” (4:1, 2).
    - “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. . . (4:14).
    - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me. . . (4:18).
    - “One day as he was teaching. . . the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick” (5:17).
    - “And the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all” (6:19).
  - c. **QUESTION:** Why, if Jesus was God, did He choose to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than in His own power?
    - 1) He wanted to be an example to us.
    - 2) He wanted to show us how we too could minister in the same power and with the same results (John 14:12-16).

## II. WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK BY THE SPIRIT

A close examination of Paul’s teaching on the subject in the books of Galatians and Romans reveals that walking by the Spirit means at least four things:

### A. It Means to Walk in Holiness

1. Gal. 5:16: “Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature”
  - a. He said that those who “belong to Christ Jesus” must rather learn to walk by the Spirit.
  - b. They must “crucify] the sinful nature” (Gal. 5:24).
  - c. Will lead to a life of Christ-like holiness.
2. The Spirit of holiness (Ro. 1:4)
3. Ro. 8:4: Through the power of the Spirit “the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us” (Ro. 8:4).
4. As one lives his life under the benevolent rule of the Holy Spirit there will be two results.
  - a. First, he will be ***compelled to live a holy life.***
    - 1) The Holy Spirit will be present in his life creating a heightened sensitivity to sin.

- 2) He will convict the believer when he is tempted to go astray (John 16:8-11).
- b. Next, He will be *empowered to live a holy life*.
  - 1) The Spirit will also be there to give him the power of triumph over temptation and sin (Ro. 8:1-4, 13).
  - 2) He will be able to live a Christ-like life.

#### **B. It Means to Walk in Love**

- 1. The fruit of the Spirit is love. . .
  - a. Just before Paul tells us to walk in the Spirit (v. 25)...
  - b. He talks about the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-24)
  - c. He begins by saying “the fruit of the Spirit is love. . .”
- 2. It is through the Holy Spirit that we experience God’s love (Ro. 5:5)
- 3. It is by through the Holy Spirit that we are kept in God’s love (Jude 20, 21).

#### **C. It Means to Walk in Submission to the Spirit**

- 1. Ro. 8:5 “Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”
  - a. He has submitted his own will to the will of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. He no longer walks in his own desires but he humbly submits himself to the desires of the Spirit.
- 2. We should let the Spirit direct the course of our lives (Gal. 5:25, New English Bible)
- 3. We have but two choices.
  - a. We and either “gratify the desires of the sinful nature” and live a life “contrary to the Spirit” (Gal. 5:17),
  - b. Or we can submit ourselves to the desires of the Spirit and live a life “in step with the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25).

#### **D. It Means to Walk in Faith**

- 1. Life in the Spirit is a life of faith.
- 2. We began in our spiritual walk by faith
  - a. Gal. 3:2, 3: “I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?”
  - b. By faith they had received the promise of the Spirit (v. 14).
  - c. God had given them His Spirit and worked miracles among them because they had believed what they had heard (v. 5).
- 3. Jesus: The living waters of the Spirit would flow out of “whoever believes (John 5:38).
- 4. The one who has learned to walk by the Spirit no longer walks by sight, but he now walks by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
- 5. He no longer has any confidence in the flesh, but his confidence is in God and in His Word (Ph. 3:3).

### III. REQUIREMENTS FOR WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Three essential requirements for walking in the Spirit.

#### A. Be Born of the Spirit of God

1. The first step of walking in the Spirit is being born of the Spirit.

#### B. Be Filled with the Spirit

Involves two things:

1. ***Being initially baptized in the Holy Spirit*** (Acts 2:1-4)
2. ***Being continually filled and refilled with the Spirit.***
  - a. Eph. 5:18
    - 1) Lit: "be being filled with the Spirit"
    - 2) ILLUS: When Paul first went to the city of Ephesus on his second missionary journey, he asked the "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believe?" Discovering that they had never been filled with the Spirit he "placed his hands on them, [and] the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6). Some time later he wrote the Ephesian church encouraging them to continue in the Spirit. "Do not get drunk on wine," he exhorted, ". . .but be filled with the Spirit."
  - b. How can we be continually filled with the Spirit?
    - 1) Keep on asking
      - a) Luke 11:9-13
      - b. Lit. "Keep on asking and you will keep on receiving. . ."
    - 2) Stir up the gift of God (2 Tim. 1:6) FLSB Note

#### C. Sow to the Spirit

1. In Gal. 6:8 Paul tells teaches that we walk in the Spirit by "sowing to the Spirit."
  - a. Gal. 5:16 - 6:9 he contrasts sowing to the Spirit with sowing to the sinful nature.
  - b. Sowing to the sinful nature...
    - 1) Produces a harvest of fleshy acts (5:19-20)
    - 2) Eventually results destruction (6:8).
  - c. Just the opposite happens when we sow to the Spirit.
    - 1) Results in a harvest of spiritual fruit (5:22, 23)
    - 2) Results in eternal life (6:8).
2. He says much the same thing in Ro. 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
3. In Ro. 8:5-9 Paul says that one can sow to the Spirit by setting his mind on what the Spirit desires. He says that "those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."

### Conclusion

Lesson Eleven

## Maintaining the Spirit-filled Life

**Lesson Objective:** Know how one can maintain and sustain a life lived under the Spirit's control.

### Outline

- I. The Importance of Maintaining a Spirit-filled Life
  - A. Must be Constantly Renewed
  - B. Each Believer's Personal Responsibility
  
- II. Guidelines for Maintaining a Spirit-filled Life
  - A. Seek Fresh Refillings
  - B. Pray Without Ceasing
  - C. Be Fervent in Worship
  - D. Meditate on the Word
  - E. Walk by Faith
  - F. Live a Yielded Life
  - G. Cultivate a Sensitive Spirit
  - H. Walk in Obedience

### Introduction

#### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

##### A. Must Be Constantly Renewed

1. The importance of maintaining the Spirit-filled life cannot be overemphasized.
2. Once a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit, he would be very unwise to assume that there is nothing more for him to do to maintain his spiritual life.
3. Don Stamps:(FLSB):“However powerful the initial coming of the Holy Spirit on the believer may be, if this does not find expression in a life of prayer, witness, and holiness, the experience will soon become a fading glory. . . the baptism in the Spirit brings the believer into a relationship with the Spirit that is to be renewed (Ac 4:31) and maintained (Eph 5:18).” [Footnote: FLSB, “Baptism in the Holy Spirit,” p. 1643].

##### B. Each Believer's Personal Responsibility

1. Every believer in Christ must accept personal responsibility to maintain his own spiritual life.

2. Although pastors and Christian friends can encourage and inspire him, the final responsibility is with the individual Christian.
3. ILLUS: David, “Encouraged himself in the Lord” (1Sa. 30:6).
  - a. Failure to do this will eventually result in backsliding and loss of power.
  - b. One could eventually lose even his salvation.
4. Paul encouraged Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God” that was in him (2Ti. 1:6).
5. ILLUS: A bonfire: Just as a bonfire needs constant attention if it is to remain blazing, so do our spiritual lives. When the householder goes to sleep his fire goes out. When the Christian sleeps, his spiritual fire goes out. We must maintain constant vigilance over our spiritual lives. A fire needs occasional stirring if it is to remain white hot. Fuel must be continually added if it is to continue to flame brightly. In the same way, we must give constant attention to our spiritual lives. They must be continually monitored. Frequent spiritual checkups are in order.
5. 2 Co 13:5: “Examine ourselves to see whether you are in the faith”

## II. GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

1. One may ask the question, “If I am personally responsible to maintain my own spiritual life, then what must I do?”
2. What specific steps can I take to ensure that I am walking in the Spirit?”
3. In the remainder of this lesson we will suggest eight specific things that one can do to see that his spiritual life remains fresh and fervent.

### A. Seek Fresh Refillings

1. Every believer in Christ should be baptized in the Holy Spirit soon after conversion (Ac 1:4, 5, 8:14-17).
  - a. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a wonderful life-changing experience.
  - b. However, he must also realize that the baptism in the Holy Spirit it is not a once and forever experience.
2. Every Spirit-filled believer should seek to be continually filled and refilled with the Spirit throughout his entire life.
3. Three Examples:
  - a. On the Day of Pentecost the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:4) Later, we read of them being refilled in 4:8 and 4:31.
  - b. Paul was first baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17,18. We see him filled again in 13:9.
  - c. In Acts 19:6 the first Ephesian believers were initially baptized in the Spirit when Paul laid hand on them. Later on He wrote urging them to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18).
4. Every believer needs to be baptized in the Spirit, but he also needs fresh refillings as he live his Christian life.
5. Eph 5:18 “Be filled with the Spirit” (5:18)
  - a. Gk “be filled” in this text is in the present passive imperative tense.
  - b. Literally: “Be being filled with the Spirit.” [Footnote: *Complete Biblical Library*, “New Testament Study Bible, Galatians — Philemon,” p. 155).
  - c. Stanley Horton: “. . . we are to keep being filled with the Spirit (5:18). This (as the Greek indicates) is not a one-time experience, but a continued filling or (better) repeated fillings, as the Book of Acts suggests.”
  - d. The Spirit-filled Christ must know that if he is to maintain the Spirit-filled life, he should seek a fresh infilling of the Spirit each day of his life.

6. Luke 11:9 “Ask, seek, knock”
  - a. Speaking about receiving the Holy Spirit ( v.13).
  - b. Horton: To emphasize this, Jesus said plainly, “Ask [keep asking], and it shall be given you; seek [keep on seeking], and ye shall find; knock [keep knocking], and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh [who keeps on asking, who is an ‘asker’] receiveth [keeps on receiving]; and he that seeketh [who keeps on seeking, who is a seeker] findeth [keeps on finding]; and to him that knocketh [who makes it his practice to knock on doors] it shall be opened.” [Footnote: Horton, p. 104]
  - c. To maintain the Spirit-filled life the Christian must continually seek new refillings with the Holy Spirit.

### **B. Pray Without Ceasing**

1. Prayer is an essential discipline for the Christian, if he is to walk in the Spirit.
2. Paul told the Thessalonians to “pray without ceasing” (1Th 5:17, NKJV),
  - a. Or as Goodspeed translates, “Never give up praying.” [The New Testament: An American Translation, Edgar J. Goodspeed]
  - b. If they would do this, they would not be guilty of “put[ting] out the Spirit’s fire” v.19).
3. In Eph 6:10-18, Paul instructed Christians in spiritual warfare.
  - a. He ended his instructions by writing, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”
  - b. In order to maintain our life in the Spirit we should “pray in the Spirit on all occasions.”
4. We should pray in tongues daily
  - a. Paul said, “He who speaks [prays] in a tongue edifies himself” (1Co 14:4).
  - b. That is why he said, “I would that everyone of you speak [pray] in tongues. . . (v.5),
  - c. And later, “I thank God that I speak [pray] in tongues more than all of you” (v. 18).
  - d. Through praying in tongues we maintain a powerful spirit to Spirit communion with God.

### **C. Be Fervent in Worship**

1. Worship holds an important place in the Spirit-filled life.
  - a. It is through Spirit-anointed worship that are we are “raise up with Christ and seated with him in heavenly realms” (Eph 2:6).
  - b. These worship times result in “times of refreshing. . .from the Lord” (Ac 3:19).
2. In order to maintain our lives in the Spirit we should seek out worship opportunities.
  - a. Private devotions:
    - 1) These should include times private devotional worship.
    - 2) Great spiritual strength can come from these private worship times (Isa 40:31).
  - b. Public worship:
    - 1) We should also worship with others in church services.
    - 2) Heb 10:25, “Forsake not the assembling. . .”
3. When opportunities for worship come, we must enter in with our whole heart (Ps 100:4; 103:1).
4. In Eph 5:18 Paul said, “Be filled with the Spirit.”
  - a. In the verses following, he tells how this may be done: “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (vv.19, 20).

- b. The teaching is clear.
  - 1) Worship is one powerful way of maintaining the Spirit-filled life.
  - 2) As one worships in the Spirit his own spirit is renewed; his faith is built up, his soul is refreshed, and he is empowered for spiritual battle.

#### **D. Meditate on the Word**

1. Daily meditation on the Word of God is another essential element for maintaining a Spirit-filled life.
2. Jesus: "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words that I have spoken to you, are spirit and they are life" (Jn 6:36).
  - a. What Jesus said here about His own words can also be said for all the words of Scripture—they are Spirit and they are life.
  - b. As we read the Bible and meditate on its words, the Spirit speaks new life into our spirits.
3. We can help maintain the Spirit-filled life through daily devotional reading of the Word of God.
  - a. The word of God is food for our spiritual man.
  - b. It is through reading the word that our spirits receive new life and strength (Psa. 119: 92, 93).

#### **E. Walk by Faith**

1. To walk by the Spirit is to walk in faith.
2. In Ga 5:5 Paul connects the walk of faith and the walk of the Spirit: "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."
3. It is by faith. . .
  - a. That we receive the Holy Spirit (Ga 3:2, 14). . .
  - b. That we maintain our life in the Spirit (v. 3).
  - c. That spiritual gifts are released in the believers life which results in miraculous works (v. 5).
4. 1 Co 5:5 Paul says
  - a. That God "has given us the Spirit as a deposit" in our lives.
  - b. "Therefore. . ." he continues, "we live by faith, not by sight" (v. 7).
  - c. The one who desires to live in the Spirit must by faith focus his attention on the unseen things of the Spirit.

#### **F. Live a Yielded Life**

1. The one who wishes to maintain the Spirit's touch on his life must learn to live a yielded life.
  - a. A life that is submitted to the Spirit and His will
  - b. An attitude of openness to the Spirit's promptings.
  - c. In a state of constant readiness to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus lived such a life.
  - a. Jn 5:19,20: "I tell you the truth, the son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the son and shows him all he does. . ."
  - b. Jesus completely submitted Himself to the will of His Father.
  - c. This even included His willingness to go to the cross (Jn 8:28, 29).
  - d. In like manner the apostles lived lives that were yield to the Holy Spirit.

3. The apostles lived yielded lives. Whatever they did they did all under the authority of the Holy Spirit:
  - a. Whether praying (Luke 24:53; Ac 1:14; 3:1; 4:31)
  - b. Worshiping (Ac 11:15; 13:1-4)
  - c. Witnessing (Ac 1:8; 4:8, 31)
  - d. Ministering (Ac 6:8; 16:6-10)
  - e. Even conducting church business (Ac 15:28)
4. If we are to walk in constant communion with the Spirit we, too, must learn to live yielded lives.

### **G. Cultivate a Sensitive Spirit**

1. One necessary requirement to live a such a yielded life is spiritual sensitivity.
  - a. We mean the ability to sense in one's spirit what the Spirit is saying and doing.
  - b. Such a spiritual sensitivity is essential to maintaining a Spirit-filled life.
2. The one who wants to truly follow the Spirit must be keen to listen to His voice.
  - a. He must also be quick to respond to what He says—
  - b. Even to repent when necessary.
3. ILLUS: Radio Receiver
  - a. We tune in our radio receivers to the proper station in order that we might receive a clear signal. In like manner, we must learn to “tune in” our spirits to the voice of the Spirit of God.
  - b. The Bible says that we must not harden His heart to the Spirit's voice (Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7).
    - 1) One way of hardening our hearts to the Spirit's voice, and thus “tuning out” the Spirit, is to look with contempt on manifestations of the Spirit (1Th 5:20).
    - 2) In doing this we will put out the Spirit's fire in his heart (v. 19).

### **H. Walk in Obedience**

1. Obedient, holy living is another requisite for maintaining the Spirit-filled life.
2. The Holy Spirit can be grieved, and our spiritual lives can be quenched by impure living.
3. In Eph 4:29-31 Paul made a list of sins that “grieve the Holy Spirit of God:”
  - Unwholesome talk (corrupt speech, foul words)
  - Bitterness (grudges and resentful thoughts)
  - Rage (uncontrolled anger)
  - Anger (desire to hurt and fight back)
  - Brawling (railing, clamor)
  - Slander (abusive and insulting language)
  - Malice (desire to hurt for revenge)
4. Such unholy attitudes as this will quench the Spirit's moving in our lives. They will grieve Him and cause Him to depart.
5. On the other hand, as we obey the voice of the Spirit. . .
  - a. His presence grows stronger.
  - b. At the same time we learn better to follow Him. (Heb 5:14).
6. As The Spirit prompts us to witness, to release spiritual gifts, and to pray, we must be quick to obey.
7. As we do, we grow stronger in our spiritual lives.

### **Conclusion**

## Lesson Twelve

# Worship in the Spirit

**Lesson Objective:** Know the role that the Holy Spirit plays in authentic worship and how we must respond to Him in worship.

### Outline

- I. Worship “in the Spirit”
  - A. God Must Be Worshiped in the Spirit
  - B. The Meaning of the Term “Worship in the Spirit”
- II. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Inspiring Worship
  - A. How He Inspires Our Worship
  - B. The Importance of Personal Preparation
- III. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Directing Our Worship
  - A. The True Worship Leader
  - B. Following the Leader

### Introduction

#### I. WORSHIP “IN THE SPIRIT”

##### A. God Must Be Worshiped in Spirit

1. John 4:23, 24: The world’s greatest revelation of the essence of true worship. “A time is coming,” He said, “and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth” (vv. 23, 24).
2. This text is saying four things about true worship:
  - a. God is spirit.
    - 1) God is by his very nature spiritual.
    - 2) He neither has, nor is He limited by a physical form.
    - 3) He can be worshiped in any place at any time.
  - b. God is seeking true worshipers.
    - 1) God is looking for people who will worship him according to his true nature. 2) He no longer wants our worship to be characterized by outward ritual and ceremony, but by inner devotion and sincerity.
  - c. True worship must be done in Spirit and in truth.
    - 1) Since God is spiritual, those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit.
    - 2) Since God is absolute truth, they must worship Him in truth.
  - d. It is now time for such worship.

- 1) The time to worship God in spirit and in truth is now.
3. Jesus said to the woman at the well that God was demanding of His people a new kind of worship.
  - a. No longer be worship based on ritual and ceremony.
  - b. Not limited to a certain race of people or certain “holy” sites.
  - c. But...
    - 1) Out of the heart
    - 2) Under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
  - d. This new kind of worship must be spiritual, involving the spirit of man reaching out to God. And it must be based on a truly loving relationship between God and His people.
- B. The Meaning of the Term “Worship in the Spirit”
  1. Worship “in spirit” can mean either in the Holy Spirit or in the human spirit.
    - a. In Scripture, the word “spirit” is used to speak of
      - 1) The Holy Spirit
      - 2) The spirit of man,
      - 3) The inner attitudes of man.
    - b. Each time a biblical translator encounters this phrase, he must, based on the context, decide whether to use an uppercase S or a lowercase s.
      - 1) Some commentators believe that in Jn 4:23, 24 Jesus is referring to the human spirit and is talking about worship from the heart of man.
      - 2) Others believe that He is speaking of the Spirit of God.
  2. Whichever way this phrase is translated, careful examination of Scripture indicates that both are concepts are true. Let’s look at each. . .
  3. Worship from our spirits.
    - a. Means that we worship God out of our hearts in total sincerity and honesty.
    - b. Our spirits reaching out in love and faith to God whose is in very nature Spirit.
    - c. Not based on dead ritual but on a living relationship between man and God.
    - d. Not done with inanimate objects but with a living spirit.
  4. Worship in His Spirit.
    - a. Also means worship that is prompted and energized by the Spirit of God.
    - b. Some commentators think the phrase should be “in Spirit and in truth” with an uppercase “S”.
    - c. Ph 3:3:“We [are those] who worship by the Spirit of God.”  
i.e. We are those who let the Spirit of God energize our worship.
    - d. In Luke 1 we read of
      - 1) Mary was prompted by the Holy Spirit to speak words of praise (1:46-55)
      - 2) Zacharias too! (1:67-79).
    - e. Stanley Horton speaks of how the Spirit of God quickens our worship:  
[God] by His very nature is Spirit, and if we worship in truth we must not only recognize His nature, we must conform our worship to His nature. Therefore, we must worship ‘in spirit,’ for this is the chief emphasis in this passage. ‘In spirit’ however, as is so often the case, really means ‘in the Spirit’ . . . We need to open our hearts to the Spirit and let Him worship through us if we are to be genuine worshipers of God. [Footnote: Horton, What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit, p. 117]
    - f. God cannot be truly worshiped apart from the help of the Holy Spirit.
    - g. In Exploring Worship, Bob Sorge wrote  
Jesus was further showing that our worship would one day be greatly enhanced

through the fullness of the Holy Spirit. One beautiful reason why Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, together with the gift of speaking in tongues, is that we might be released in a greater measure in our worship. There is a certain element in worship that will always be absent for those who do not accept the fullness of the Holy Spirit, with speaking ;in tongues, as a reality int heir lives. (Sorge, 80)

## II. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN INSPIRING OUR WORSHIP

### A. How the Holy Spirit Inspires Our Worship

- a. The Spirit of God assumes an important role in inspiring us to worship God.
- b. There are three ways the Holy Spirit inspires our worship:
  1. He Brings Us into an Intimate Relationship with God.
    - a. Ro 8:15: Paul wrote of how the Holy Spirit prompts true worship.
      - 1) He spoke of the “Spirit of adoption” who leads us into an intimate relationship with God.
      - 2) This relationship causes us to cry out in worship, “Abba, Father”
    - b. As the Spirit of God moves in our hearts, we experience His love (Ro 5:5).
    - c. As a result, our hearts are warmed and we are prompted to cry out “Father God!”
  2. He Lifts up Jesus.
    - a. Jesus: When the Spirit of Truth came, “He will bring glory to me. . .” (Jn 16:14).
    - b. When the Holy Spirit fills our spirits He reveals to us the Lordship of Christ” (1Co 12:3).
    - c. Jesus is exalted in our hearts, and our mouths are filled with praise to Him.
  3. He Prompts Us to Worship.
    - a. Throughout Scripture we see the Holy Spirit inspiring the people of God to worship.
    - b. In the Old Testament,
      - 1) He inspired the prophetess, Mariam, the sister of Moses, to lead the women of Israel in worship. (Ex 15:20).
      - 2) The Spirit of God came powerfully on upon King Saul, causing him to join a band of prophets who were worshipping God with “lyres, tambourines, flutes, and harps” (1Sa 10:5-11). He was inspired by the Spirit to enter into their prophetic worship with them.
      - 3) David and the other Psalmists were led by the Holy Spirit to write the Psalms, the praise book of Israel.
    - c. In the New Testament church.
      - 1) On the Day of Pentecost those who were filled with the Spirit were heard “declaring the wonders of God” in the languages of the nations (Ac 2:11).
      - 2) At the house of Cornelius, those who received the Holy Spirit spoke with tongues and praised God (Ac 10:46).
      - 3) The Spirit inspired the church in Corinth to worship God (1Co 14:16,17; 25,26).
      - 4) He inspired the Philippian church to do the same (Ph. 3:3).
  - d. Same is true Today: “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom” (2Co 3:17).

### B. The Importance of Personal Preparation

1. If the Spirit of the Lord is such a wonderful ally in our worship, does it not stand to reason that we should all be filled with the Spirit?
2. If we want to truly worship God as He desires we should let His Spirit fill us to overflowing.

- a. Paul told the Ephesians to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18).
- b. This filling would result in songs of praise and thanksgiving (vv. 19-20).
3. Sorge wrote,
 

Spiritual worship is the exclusive privilege of those who have quickened by the indwelling Holy Spirit. . . . The Holy Spirit is an integral part of our worship, and congregational worship is successful only as we submit to him as our divine Worship Leader.” (Sorge, Exploring Worship, p. 77).
4. Each believer should prepare his own heart before the worship service (1Co 14:26).
  - a. This personal preparation should include prayer and meditation of the Word of God.
  - b. It should also include a fresh infilling with the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Only then will he be ready to enter in to true worship in Spirit and in truth.

### III. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN DIRECTING OUR WORSHIP

#### A. The True Worship Leader

1. The Holy Spirit is the true worship leader.
 

Every action must be taken in submission to, and under His direction
2. It is in this context that Paul instructs the Corinthian church concerning the operation of spiritual gifts in their worship services.
  - a. Note that he is talking about when they came “together” for public worship (1Co 11:17-20, 33, 34; 14:23, 26).
  - b. He told them that in these congregational gatherings the Holy Spirit would distribute gifts, or “manifestations,” of the Spirit (12:7) “to each one, just as he determines” (12:11).
  - c. Through the revelation gifts He would give insight and direction.
  - d. Through the prophetic gifts He would speak words of “strengthening, encouragement and comfort” (1Co 14:3).
  - e. And through the power gifts He would perform His mighty works in their midst.
  - f. The Holy Spirit was to be their true worship leader.
4. In the book of Acts we see the Holy Spirit directing a worship service in the church at Antioch:
  - a. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
  - b. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off (13:1-3).
  - c. Here we see that the Holy Spirit Himself was serving as the worship leader of this church service.
    - 1) It was He who set the tone for the service, and
    - 2) It was He who gave them directions as to how to proceed.
5. The same order should mark our worship services. If we are to truly worship in the Spirit, we should look to the Spirit of God as our worship leader.

#### B. Following the Leader

1. The Role of the person chairing a worship service:
  - a. While the Holy Spirit should be the true worship leader in our worship services, it is obvious that in each service we will also need a person to chair and to lead that service.
  - b. If the congregation is to be led into true worship in the Spirit, it is essential that that person know how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) He must remain open and sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) He must be prepared to flow with the Spirit.
- c. Sorge spoke about this responsibility of the worship leader:
 

Many worship leaders are frustrated because they have not learned to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in the context of a worship service. God wants to do specific things in each worship service, and unless we move with him, we can miss his purpose. It becomes vital, then, that we be sensitive to the gentle promptings of the Spirit as the service is in progress." (Sorge, 77)
2. The role of the Pastor
  - a. Remain open to the Spirit also
  - b. It is also necessary that the pastor takes time to teach his congregation how to follow and respond to the leadership of the Spirit.
3. TRANSITION:
  - a. What can be done to ensure that the Spirit of the Lord is present in our services?
  - b. How should we respond to His presence?
  - c. How can we follow His lead?
4. There are two areas to which we must give particular attention if we are to truly worship God in the Spirit: (1) Appropriating the Spirit's presence, and (2) Responding to the Spirit's presence:
  - a. Appropriating the Spirit's presence. We must begin our worship by taking the necessary steps to ensure that He is present. We can set the stage for the Spirit's coming in two ways:
    - 1) Prayer.
      - a) We should pray both before and during the worship service.
      - b) Before our worship services we should spend time in prayer preparing our hearts for the coming worship experience.
      - c) During this time of prayer we should make a conscious effort to submit our wills to the will of the Holy Spirit.
        - I. We should seek direction from Him for this particular service.
        - ii. We should pray, "Holy Spirit, what is Your will for the service? What do You want to accomplish?"
        - iii. If necessary, we should repent of any sins or carnal attitudes that might hinder the Spirit's moving.
      - d) Such spiritual preparation is especially important for every person who will assume any leadership role in the service.
        - I. It is important that the pastor, the chairman, the song leader, the worship team, the special singers, and anyone else who will participate in the service come early for a time of prayer and seeking God for his direction.
        - ii. They should also ask God for a fresh infilling of His Spirit.
      - e) Prayer should also be offered during the worship service.
        - I. At the beginning of the service it is good to lead the congregation in a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to come and have His way in the service.
        - ii. We can pray, "Come, Holy Spirit."
        - iii. Then, we can open our minds and our spirits to receive Him.
        - iv. As a result of such prayer we can legitimately expect the Holy Spirit to come and manifest His presence in our midst (Mt 18:19, 20).
    - 2) Praise.
      - a) Praise and adoration helps prepare the way for the manifestation of God's Spirit.

- b) Ps 22:2 (KJV): God dwells in the praises of His people
  - c) Ac 16:26, Paul and Silas: The Holy Spirit manifested His presence
  - d) We too
- b. Responding to His presence.
- Once the Spirit comes, it is essential that we properly respond to Him.  
We can respond to the Spirit's presence in three ways:
- 1) Acknowledging His presence.
    - a) Respond to coming into our worship service by acknowledging His presence.
    - b) We would never be guilty of ignoring a guest who came into our home, we should never be guilty of ignoring the Holy Spirit when He comes into our church services.
    - c) We take time to acknowledge visitors in our service and to properly greet them.
      - I. We should also take time to acknowledge the presence of our Heavenly Visitor.
        - ii. We should pray, "Holy Spirit, You are indeed welcome in this place.
        - iii. Take Your place of honor in our worship service. Be enthroned in our praises!" (Psa. 21:2).
  - 2) Submitting to His will.
    - a) We should remember that He is sovereign...
      - I. He has a will for every church service, and
      - ii. He comes to fulfill that will.
    - b) We must be ready to submit our wills to His will.
    - c) At times, He will reveal His will to us in our prayer time before the service.
    - d) On other occasions, He reveals His will to us "en route," that is, as the worship service proceeds.
    - e) We should be constantly vigilant and open to His leading.
    - f) Throughout the service the worship leader and the pastor must constantly pray
      - I. Lord, what is your will for this service?
      - ii. What are You wanting to accomplish?
      - iii. What can we do now to see that Your will is done?"
  - 3) Releasing spiritual gifts.
    - a) We must be prepared to release spiritual gifts as the Spirit prompts.
    - b) He will want to work through the Spirit-filled members of the congregation to release spiritual gifts.
      - I. He has come to give direction through words of knowledge or wisdom.
      - ii. He has come to speak words of encouragement and edification to the congregation.
      - iii. And He has come to heal the sick and destroy the works of Satan.
    - c) This will happen only as God's people respond to Him and allow Him to use them in the manifestation of spiritual gifts.

## Conclusion

Lesson Thirteen

## **Ministry in the Spirit**

**Lesson Objective:** Understand the essential role of the Holy Spirit in effective evangelistic witness. Realize the importance of preaching and teaching through the enablement of the Holy Spirit.

### **Outline**

- I. The Holy Spirit Equips Us for Effective Ministry
  - A. Don't Leave Home Without It
  - B. The examples of Jesus and the New Testament church
  
- II. The Holy Spirit Enables Us in Our Ministry
  - A. Inspires Us To Do Ministry
  - B. He Empowers our Witness to the Lost
  - C. He Anoints Our Preaching and Teaching
  - D. He Verifies the Word Through Supernatural Demonstrations of Power
  - E. He Enables us to Live a Christ-like Life Style
  
- III. How to Ensure the Spirit's Help in Ministry
  - A. Be Filled with the Spirit
  - B. Follow the Guidance of the Spirit
  - C. Appropriate the Spirit's Help Through Faith and Obedience

### **Introduction**

#### **I. THE HOLY SPIRIT EQUIPS US FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY**

##### **A. Don't Leave Home Without It**

1. American Express slogan, "Don't leave home without it"
  - a. They are implying that their card is an indispensable part of every traveler's gear.
  - b. They seek to demonstrate how unwise it is to try to travel abroad without their card.
2. Jesus was saying much the same to His church. . .
  - a. Luke 24:49, "Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"
  - b. Acts 1:8, "You will receive power . . . and to the ends of the earth" (Ac 1:8).
3. The disciples received this power when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Ac 2:4).
  - a. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an indispensable part of the Christian minister's equipment.
  - b. He should not attempt ministry without it.

4. The primary purpose of the baptism in the Spirit is power for effective witness and service (Ac 1:8).

### **B. The Examples of Jesus and the New Testament Church**

We can see more clearly how the Holy Spirit equips the minister for effective service by looking briefly at the ministries of Jesus and the New Testament believers.

1. ***The example of Jesus.***
  - a. Jesus came to earth to give His life as a ransom for all people (Mt 20:28, 1Ti 2:6).
  - b. He also came to be an example to us as to how we should live and minister (John 13:15, 1Pe 2:21).
  - c. But how did Jesus minister?
    - 1) He ministered in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
    - 2) Ac 10:38
  - d. Jesus was setting up a pattern for ministry for those who would follow Him.
2. ***The example of the New Testament Church.***
  - a. Like Jesus, the NT church ministered in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for divine empowerment (Luke 24:49).
  - c. They received this power on the Day of Pentecost (Ac 2:4).
  - d. They went out and ministered with great strength and effectiveness.
  - e. They were simply following the pattern set by Jesus—first be empowered, then minister.
  - f. We too must minister in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

## **II. THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES US IN OUR MINISTRY**

There are five ways that the Holy Spirit enables us in ministry. Let us now look briefly at each of these ways:

### **A. He Inspires Us To Do Ministry**

1. **ILLUS:** He inspired Peter, “The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going. . .” (Ac 11:12).
2. Today, He can also inspire us to do ministry in at least three ways:
  - a. ***He gives us a burden for the lost.***
    - 1) The Holy Spirit will open our eyes to the lost people around us.
    - 2) He can move us with compassion for the lost.
    - 3) Like Jesus (Mt 14:14; Mk 1:41, 6:34).
  - b. ***He gives us a love for the church.***
    - 1) The Holy Spirit will also give to us a love for other Christians.
    - 2) He will give to us that same love for the church that Jesus had when He gave Himself for it (Ep 5:25).
    - 3) It is out of this sincere love for our brothers and sisters in Christ that we can become effective pastors and Christian workers.
  - c. ***He gives us a vision for the world.***
    - 1) The Holy Spirit will give us a vision for world harvest.
    - 2) His is the “Superintendent of the Harvest”
      - a) READ: Mt 9:37, 38
      - b) Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest. When He returned to the Father, He handed over His work of world harvest to the Holy Spirit (Jn 15:26, 16:6-11).
      - c) The Holy Spirit is now overseeing the harvest.
      - d) He could well be called the Superintendent of the Harvest.

- 3) In Acts we see the Holy Spirit leading and guiding the church into missions involvement:
  - a) Peter (Ac 10:19)
  - b) Paul (Ac 13:1-4)
- 4) Today. . .

## B. He Empowers our Witness to the Lost

1. A second way that the Holy Spirit enables us in ministry.
  - a. Acts 1:8.
2. This empowering to witness includes at least three things:
  - a. **Divine insight.**
    - 1) As we witness, the Holy Spirit will give us divine insight to into the Scriptures
      - a) To aid us in effectively explaining them to the lost.
      - b) ILLUS: The Holy Spirit helped Philip (Ac 8:29-34).
      - c) ILLUS: Philip (Acts 8): The Holy Spirit gave Philip supernatural insight into the Scriptures. As a result, Philip was able to persuasively preach Christ to him from the Old Testament Scriptures.
    - 2) We can expect the Holy Spirit to do the same for us today.
  - b. **Anointed words.**
    - 1) Will give them great persuasive power.
    - 2) ILLUS: Peter on Pentecost: They “were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” (Ac 2:37).
    - 3) ILLUS: Stephen: As he spoke, the people who listened “could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke” (Ac 6:10).
  - c. **Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
    - 1) The Holy Spirit will also give persuasive power to our witness through the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1Co 12:7-11).
    - 2) Through a manifestation of the **power gifts** He will miraculously confirm the Word.
      - a) i.e., faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers
      - b) We will discuss this later on in this lesson and again in Lesson Fourteen.
    - 3) Through the **revelation gifts** He will give us insight into the individual needs of the people we are witnessing to.
      - a) i.e. word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits
      - b) He will also give us wisdom as to how to proceed with our witness.
    - 4) Through **prophetic gifts** He will give us the words that we need to convince this person that he should call on Christ.
      - a) i.e. prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues
      - b) Because of these inspired words that the sinner hears, “the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God. . .” (1Co 14:24, 25).
  - d. As a result of being filled with the Spirit, we are empowered and emboldened.

## C. He Anoints Our Preaching and Teaching

1. **The Holy Spirit anoints our preaching.**
  - a. Anointing Defined: the manifest presence of God that comes to rest on a Spirit-filled individual involved in ministry.
  - b. This presence enables the minister to minister with greater effectiveness and power than he would have been able to in His own strength and ability.

2. **The Holy Spirit anoints our teaching.**
  - a. Some see little connection between the anointing and teaching.
  - b. And yet in the New Testament model for teaching, the Holy Spirit should be present in both the context and presentation of teaching.
    - 1) He should be present in **the context** of our teaching
      - a) By context, we mean the environment surrounding the teaching session.
      - b) ILLUS: “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. . . [and] He taught in their synagogues” (Luke 4:14,15).
      - c) ILLUS: Luke 5:17, “One day as he was teaching . . . the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.”
    - 2) He should be present anointing the teacher in the **presentation** of his lesson.
      - a) The Holy Spirit is the divine teacher (Jn 14:26; 1Jn 2:27).
      - b) He also gifts people with supernatural ability to teach.
      - c) In 1Co 12:29,30 Paul lists the gift of teaching, without distinction, along side such more obviously supernatural gifts as prophets, workers of miracles, gifts of healing, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues.
      - d) In Ro 12:6-8 the gift of teaching is listed, again without distinction, next to prophesying.
      - e) In Ep 4:11 we again see teachers grouped with the more obviously supernatural ministries of apostles and prophets.
      - f) Can we honestly and legitimately go through these gift lists and arbitrarily say that this gift is supernatural in origin requiring an anointing from God, and this gift isn't. Certainly the operation of the gift of teaching, properly done, requires the same anointing as the gift of tongues, or prophecy, or working of miracles.

#### **D. He Verifies the Word Through Demonstrations of Supernatural Power**

1. We see this illustrated in Acts:
  - a. After Jesus' disciples are baptized in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
  - b. We see a dramatic release of miraculous power in their ministries.
2. This release of divine power resulted in
  - tongues speech (2:4),
  - anointed preaching (2:14ff, 4:31, 6:10, 8:25),
  - powerful healings (3:1-8; 5:15; 6:7),
  - signs and wonders (2:43, 5:12, 6:8, 8:6),
  - the meeting place being shaken (4:31),
  - demonic deliverances (5:16, 6:7),
  - a supernatural deliverance from jail (5:19),
  - visions (6:55,56), and
  - Holy Spirit baptisms (2:4, 8:17)
3. All of this was according to the promise of Jesus. (Mk. 16:15-18)
4. Today. . .

#### **E. He Enables us to Live a Christ-like Lifestyle**

1. A final way that the Holy Spirit enables the believer in ministry is by imparting a Christ-like life style.
2. Donald Gee “Jesus Christ is the greatest example of the principle that spiritual power is found where supernatural gifts and spotless holiness exist in perfect balance” (*Pentecostal Experience, The Writings of Donald Gee*, David Womack, ed. pp. 98, 99).

3. Jesus' power to move people came not only from His miraculous works but from His beautiful life.
  - a. Characterized by purity, gracious speech, as well as by powerful signs.
  - b. Together these three elements had a powerful effect on those to whom He ministered.
    - 1) The people wondered at his purity.
    - 2) They were amazed at his gracious words (Luke 4:22).
    - 3) And they flocked to see and experience His powerful works.
  - c. And when the people would gather, Jesus would teach and preach to them about the kingdom of God.
4. We too. . .

### III. HOW TO ENSURE THE SPIRIT'S HELP IN MINISTRY

What can one do to ensure that he has the Spirit's help in ministry?" He must do three things:

#### A. Be Filled with the Spirit

1. As we have mentioned in almost every lesson of this book, the primary requirement for life and ministry in the Spirit is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. No one should ever attempt to minister for Christ without this powerful enablement of the Holy Spirit.

#### B. Walk in the Spirit

1. Once a person has been baptized in the Spirit, he must then learn to walk in the Spirit.
2. Walking in the Spirit includes periodic refillings with the Holy Spirit.
3. It can only be done through a life of holiness, yieldness to the Spirit, and prayer.
4. Walking in the Spirit also involves following the guidance of the Spirit.
  - a. Jesus ministered through the power of the Spirit, and He also followed the directives of the Spirit.
  - b. The same can be said of Peter, of Paul, and of others in the New Testament church.
5. The Spirit has promised to come to our aid but we must appropriate that aid through obedience.
6. Let me illustrate what I mean.
  - a. As we learned in Lesson \_\_, the Spirit will illuminate the Scriptures and help us to understand them. However, before the Spirit can illuminate the Scriptures to a believer, he must first read the Scriptures. How can the Spirit help him to understand the Bible, if he never reads the Bible?
  - b. It is the same with prayer. In Lesson \_\_ we learned how the Spirit of God stands ready to help the believer in his prayer life. But, if the Spirit-filled never prays, how can the Spirit intervene and help him?
  - c. The same applies to witnessing for Christ. The Spirit is ready to help, but first the believer must take the initiative to witness for Christ. When he does the Spirit of God will come and inspire and enable him. Many Christians have been filled with the Spirit and yet they fail to become effective witnesses for Christ. Why is this? It is because they are waiting on the Spirit to force them to witness. He will not do this; however, if we will take the initiative He will come to our aid. He will come on the scene and empower our witness for Christ.

**C. Appropriate the Spirit's Help Through Faith and Obedience**

1. When one has been filled with the Spirit and has learned how to live his life under the Spirit's guidance, he can expect many ministry opportunities to come his way.
  - a. As he goes about his daily duties, these opportunities will come.
  - b. These will include opportunities to witness, opportunities to teach about life and truth, and opportunities to intervene in personal crises. These crises will often involve conflict, sickness, or demon possession.
2. At such times the Spirit the Christian must be open to the Spirit of God.
  - a. He will direct the Spirit-filled believer as to how to properly respond in each instance.
  - b. At such times it is important that the minister know how to appropriate the Spirit's help.
  - c. He must learn to walk in the anointing,
  - d. He must be ready to release the anointing through faith.
    - 1) It is often through an act of faith that the anointing is released.
    - 2) Faith is like an electrical switch which releases the potential electrical power waiting to be used.

**Conclusion**

## Lesson Fourteen

# Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit

**Lesson Objective:** Understand the relationship between spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit, and how they function in the Christian life

### Outline

- I. Gifts And Fruit Compared And Contrasted
  - A. Identified and Defined
  - B. Compared and Contrasted as to Origin and Purpose
  - C. Compared and Contrasted as to How Each is Acquired
  - D. Compared and Contrasted as to Their Meaning in the Believers Life
  
- II. Manifesting Gifts and Cultivating Fruit
  - A. Why Both Are Needed
  - B. Manifesting Spiritual Gifts (Released)
  - C. Cultivating Spiritual Fruit (Displayed)

### Introduction

1. Life in the Spirit involves both manifesting spiritual gifts and cultivating spiritual fruit.
  - a. As the gifts and fruit of the Spirit appear together in the Christian's life his witness to the world becomes greater.
  - b. At the same time his benefit to the church increases.
2. It is Jesus Christ that we see the perfect blend of spiritual fruit and spiritual gifts.
3. In the lesson we will be looking at both and seeing how they relate to one another and to the Christian life.

### I. GIFTS AND FRUIT COMPARED AND CONTRASTED

- A. Identified and Defined
  1. ***Gifts of the Spirit***
    - a. In the writings of Paul we find three main listings of spiritual gifts:
      - 1) 1Co 12:8-10
      - 2) Ro 12:6-8
      - 3) Eph. 4:11).
    - b. Some Bible scholars have pointed out . . .
      - 1) Gifts in Ro 12:6-8 could more properly be called "gifts of God" or "gifts of the Father" (Ro 12:3)
      - 2) The gifts in Eph 4:11 should be called the "gifts of Christ" or "ministry gifts of Christ" (Eph 4:7)
    - c. We will be focusing on the gifts listed in 1Co 12:8-10.

- d. Paul refers to these gifts as “manifestations of the Spirit” (1Co 12:7).
- 1) *To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, an to still another the interpretation of tongues (1Co 12:8-10).*
  - 2) They are various ways in which the Spirit of God manifests His presence in the ‘ midst of His people
- e. DEFINITION: Spiritual gifts are supernatural anointings, given by the Spirit of God to Spirit-filled believers, to accomplish the will of the Father.  
(Note the following. . .)
- 1) They are manifested in the believer according to the will of the Spirit.
  - 2) They come as “anointings,” or movings of the Holy Spirit upon the yielded believer.
  - 3) They are released as the believer responds and acts in faith.
- f. These nine spiritual gifts are often placed into three categories to aid in our understanding of them.
- 1) **Revelation Gifts** (Given to know the mind of God)
    - Word (message) of wisdom: A supernatural revelation of God’s wisdom
    - Word (message) of knowledge: A supernatural revelation of God’s knowledge
    - Distinguishing between spirits: A supernatural revelation of what spirit is being manifested or motivating an action
  - 2) **Power Gifts** (Given to do the works of God)
    - Faith: A supernatural surge of God-given faith to accomplish a work of God
    - Gifts of healing: The supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities.
    - Miraculous powers: A supernatural release of divine power to accomplish a work of God
  - 3) **Prophetic Gifts** (Given to speak the words of God)
    - Prophecy: To supernaturally speak forth a message from God.
    - Tongues: To supernaturally speak forth a message from God or a prayer to God in a language not known to the speaker.
    - Interpretation of Tongues: To supernaturally speak forth the meaning of a messages spoken in tongues.
- g. It is expected that every Spirit-filled believer will be used in the operation of spiritual gifts according to the will of the Spirit (1Co 12:7,11; 14:26).
- h. We should covet these gifts and anticipate being used by God to minister in spiritual gifts (1Co 14:1. 39).
2. **Fruit of the Spirit**
- a. Nine “fruit of the Spirit:”  
*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law (Ga 5:22,23).*
  - b. It is interesting to make a comparison of how these nine fruit are named in various translations:

<b>KJV:</b>	<b>NIV/NASB:</b>	<b>AMPLIFIED:</b>
Love	Love	Love
Joy	Joy	Joy (Gladness)
Peace	Peace	Peace
Longsuffering	Patience	Patience (An Even Temper, Forbearance)
Gentleness	Kindness	Kindness
Goodness	Goodness	Goodness (Benevolence)
Faith	Faithfulness	Faithfulness
Meekness	Gentleness	Gentleness (Meekness, Humility)
Temperance	Self-control	Self-control (Self-restraint, Continence)

- c. DEFINITION: The Fruit of the Spirit are the Christ-like qualities of character that are produced in the believers life as he lives his life under the Spirit's control (Ga 5:16, 23).
- d. They are Christian graces and have to do with Christ-like attitudes, character, and life-style.
- e. It is important that we not confuse these spiritual fruit with mere human qualities the are produced as a result of human refinement or training.
  - 1) We could call these character qualities "natural" fruit.
  - 2) Spiritual fruit is have their origin in the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
  - 3) Natural fruit originate in the heart of man.
  - 4) Spiritual fruit is attained by spiritual means.
  - 5) Natural fruit comes from human effort and refinement.
- f. In the book of Galatians Paul contrasts the fruit of the Spirit (5:22,23) with the work of the flesh (5:19-21).
  - 1) The one is the opposite of the other.
  - 2) The fruit of the Spirit spring supernaturally from a life yielded to the Spirit of God.
  - 3) The works of the flesh emerge naturally from a life yielded to the flesh.

## **B. Compared and Contrasted as to Origin and Purpose**

1. **Compared as to Origin.**
  - a. Spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit have a common origin in the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Neither have their origin in human ability, intelligence or effort.
2. **Compared as to Purpose.**
  - a. Just as they have a common origin, spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit also have a common purpose.
  - b. They both serve to build up the body of Christ and to advance the kingdom of God.
  - c. They accomplish this, however, in different ways.
    - 1) The manifestation of spiritual gifts
      - a) Help to edify the body of Christ through a demonstration of God's power and

presence in the church.

- b) In the same way they help to fulfill the task of world evangelization.
- 2) Spiritual fruit build up the body of Christ in a different way.
  - a) As believers grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2Pe 3:18), Christian character is produced in their lives.
  - b) As love, joy, peace, patience, and the other fruit of the Spirit come into their lives the church grows strong.
  - c) As people see these qualities in the Christian community they are attracted to Christ and the kingdom of God advances.

### C. Compared and Contrasted as to How Each is Acquired

1. **Gifts of the Spirit**
  - a. They are free gifts of God's grace
  - b. They are distributed according to the will of the Holy Spirit
  - c. They are released by an act of faith on the part of the recipient
2. **Fruit of the Spirit**
  - a. Unlike spiritual gifts which come in a moment, spiritual fruit grows gradually and must be cultivated in the believers life.
  - b. They grow in the believers life as a result of his daily abiding in Christ (John 15:1-7)

### D. Compared and Contrasted as to Their Meaning in the Believers Life

1. **Gifts of the Spirit**
  - a. What they do tell us about the one being used in a spiritual gift
    - 1) That person has been blessed by God
    - 2) That person is a yielded vessel
  - b. What they don't indicate in the one exercising the gift
    - 1) That person is a mature Christian
    - 2) That person is a truly spiritual person
    - 3) That person has God's approval on every area of his life
2. **Fruit of the Spirit** (The presence of spiritual fruit indicates the following:)
  - a. That person is a mature Christian
  - b. That person is truly a spiritual person (Ga 5:22-6:1)
    - 1) Note the phrase "you who are spiritual" in 6:1.
    - 2) To whom is it referring?
    - 3) The person described in 5:22,23

## III. MANIFESTING GIFTS AND CULTIVATING FRUIT

### A. Why Both Are Needed

1. We must have both for a total witness of the gospel.
  - a. READ Ro.15: TLB
2. We must have both to project the full image of Christ

### B. Releasing Spiritual Gifts

1. Spiritual gifts come upon a yielded Spirit-filled believer as an "anointing" from God.
2. When this happens they are released in the following manner:
  - a. Must be "sensed" in the spirit.
  - b. Must be "released" by an act of faith

### **C. Cultivating Spiritual Fruit**

1. Must realize that they are not attained by "natural" means.  
Such as. . .
  - a. By self-effort
  - b. By positive thinking
  - c. By psychological "self talk"
2. They can only be attained only by spiritual means.
  - a. By spiritual experience
    - 1) Being born of the Spirit
    - 2) Being filled with the Spirit
  - b. By "walking in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16, 25) Which includes . . .
    - 1) "Crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires." (v. 24)
    - 2) Having your mind set on what the Spirit desires (Ro. 8:5)
    - 3) Being controlled by the Spirit (Ro. 8:8)
    - 4) "By the Spirit putting to death the works of the flesh" (Ro. 8:13)
    - 5) Being led by the Spirit (Ro. 8:14)
  - c. By abiding in Christ (John 15:1-8)
  - d. By attending to the Christian's "means of grace"
    - 1) Prayer
    - 2) Worship
    - 3) Fellowship
    - 4) Bible reading and meditation
  - f. By Communing with the Spirit

### **Conclusion**