



3

THE HOLY SPIRIT

LEADER'S GUIDE

GLC  ESSENTIALS

BOOK 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADER'S GUIDE

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IMPORTANT NOTE

This **Leaders Guide** contains teaching explanations inside parentheses that guide and help the discussion leader elaborate on each point in the EXAMINE section of this lesson.

The goal is not to parrot the explanations but to **study, reflect** and **express these directly and clearly** as you lead the discussion in your small group.

You have the option to add related illustrations or statements for further clarification. However, deviating from the outline or adding major points is not encouraged, to ensure transferability of the lesson to your Dgroup members who are expected to teach the same things to their future or current disciples, as well as to limit the time devoted for each lesson.

SESSION 1:
**WHO IS THE
HOLY SPIRIT?**

EXAMINE

Why is it important to know the Holy Spirit?

The Christian life is not hard. It is impossible. It is a miraculous and supernatural life.

For example, how will you follow the teachings of Jesus when He tells you, “love your enemy,” “do good to those who hate you,” forgive those who abuse you”?

Today, most people will react when you do something offensive, abusive or simply irritating to them; often, they will retaliate. They will never understand how in the world we can love the “unlovable”. That’s why even many Christian marriages do not last, because couples don’t understand the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, that we were never meant to live the Christian life on our own strength.

Christianity is not what you do for God, but what He does for you, in you and through you by His Spirit. The problem is not God, but us. We limit Him in our lives. The problem with many of us is not because God does not want to help us. God has provided everything; the only problem is our ignorance or refusal to avail of His provision.

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:52

“The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in [the New Testament epistles] is that to us it is primarily a performance, to them it was a real experience.”

JB Phillips

*(What will you do once you have the Holy Spirit? You’ll have power, and what will you do? “**And you shall be My witnesses**”, so you will be the representative of Jesus Christ on earth to reflect who He is. The witnessing is secondary, the primary goal is to make sure you have the power of the Holy Spirit.)*

God has given us His Spirit to enable us to fully experience the amazing, supernatural plan He has for our lives.

I. Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:9-10 ⁹ *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

2 Corinthians 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

The Holy Spirit is called by different names in the Bible...

A. He is called...

1. The **Spirit** – Rom. 8:9
2. The **Spirit of God**- Rom. 8:9
3. The **Spirit of Christ** -- Rom. 8:9
4. The **Lord** – 2 Cor. 3:17

(The Bible is also saying that if Christ is in you, then the Holy Spirit also dwells in you, Romans 8:10.)

B. The Holy Spirit **IS NOT**...

1. A mystical force
2. An impersonal power
3. An emanation from God

(The Holy Spirit is not a mystical force, He's not like a Jedi – the "Force". The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power or an emanation from God.)

C. The Holy Spirit is a **Person**

John 14:16-17

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit is a Person, we can see this by how He is described in the Bible:

1. He has **INTELLECT**
1 Corinthians 2:11a
¹¹ ... Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.
2. He has a **WILL**
1 Corinthians 12:11b
But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
3. He has **EMOTIONS**
Ephesians 4:30
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, ...

D. He is **God**

(The Holy Spirit is a living, real person. But He is not only a person who has a mind, who has a will, who has emotion, He is also God and the Bible shows us that He possesses the attributes of God):

1. He is **eternal**
Hebrews 9:14
*how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered Himself without blemish to God,*
2. He is **all-knowing**
1 Corinthians 2:11
Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.
3. He is **all-powerful (omnipotent)**
Luke 1:35
... "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the **power of the Most High** will overshadow you;
4. He is **always present**
Psalms 139:7
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

What does the “attributes” of God mean?

(These are characteristics which only God possesses.)

Only God is eternal; everything else in this world is not eternal. Everything in this world has a beginning and it will have an end; only God has no beginning and no end.

*The Holy Spirit is **eternal** (Heb. 9:14) and we already read about Him in very first book of the Bible, in the very first chapter):*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

The Holy Spirit is **all-knowing** (**OMNISCIENT**),

“... Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:11

He is **all-powerful** (**OMNIPOTENT**),

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; ...”

Luke 1:35

He is **ever-present** (**OMNIPRESENT**).

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Psalms 139:7

(In other words, since the Holy Spirit has the attributes of God, therefore He must be God)

“Dear brother, honour the Spirit of God as you would honour Jesus Christ if He were present.

If Jesus Christ were dwelling in your house you would not ignore Him, you would not go about your business as if He were not there. Do not ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit in your soul. I beseech you, do not live as if you had not heard whether there were any Holy Spirit.

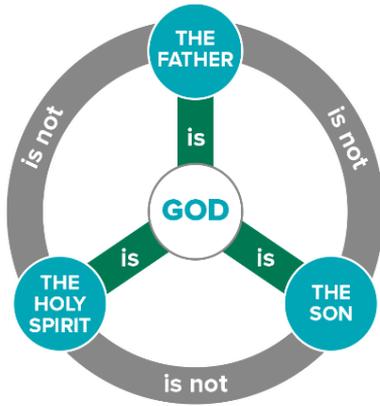
To Him pay your constant adorations. Reverence the august guest who has been pleased to make your body His sacred abode. Love Him, obey Him, worship Him.”
Charles Spurgeon, Preacher, 1834-1892

II. The Holy Spirit in the Tri-unity

CCF Statement of Faith on the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and possesses all divine attributes. He indwells all believers and baptizes them at the moment they trust in Jesus Christ to be their only Savior and Lord. He controls all true believers and empowers them to live the Christian life in response to their obedience, confession of sins, and submission to Him.

Cf. Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18



The Tri-unity: Unity in Diversity

(Nevertheless, the FATHER is eternally accompanied by His SON and His SPIRIT. The SON is the one who always accomplishes the will of the Father, and he always does this in the power of the SPIRIT. The SON is sent by the FATHER to accomplish His will on earth, in the visible creation.)

The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. There is only one God, the Bible does not say that there are three gods. We have only one God, eternally existing in 3 distinct persons – the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is not the Father, they are distinct persons but one Being---God is a Tri-Unity, or the Trinity. Now the word “Trinity” is not in the Bible, but it is described there in many places such as in the following passages:

Matthew 28:19

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father** and **the Son** and **the Holy Spirit**...*

Mark 1:10-11

*Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening and the **SPIRIT** like a dove descending upon **Him**; and a voice came out of heaven: "You are **My beloved Son**, in You I am well pleased."*

*“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, **the LORD is one [echad]!** ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

In the Hebrew language, you have a numeric 1 and you have the word “one”. The word “one” here is “**echad**,” it is the same word used in Genesis 2:2 to describe a man and his wife (Adam and Eve):

*For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become **one [echad]** flesh.*

Genesis 2:2

This verse describes husband and wife becoming one, but numerically, are they not still two individuals? That is the same idea as “echad” – one. The Bible says **God is one**, and the idea for the Tri-Unity of God is seen as early as in the Book of Genesis.

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

Genesis 1:26

(Elohim is plural so technically you should translate this as,

“Then gods said, let Us make man...” (“us” is plural)

“in Our image...” (“image” is singular)

“...according to Our...” (our is plural)

But the verse says, “God said...”, so the Bible is clear, there is only one God who created man in His likeness, yet there are three Persons (“Elohim”, “Us”, “Our”) in one Being (God). The concept of the Trinity is hard to explain, but the Bible is consistent in its teaching on this truth. Any false religion will always say Jesus is not God, but the Bible is very clear, Jesus is God! The Holy Spirit is God, that is what the Bible says. Having that as the foundation, why did the Holy Spirit come and what are the works of the Holy Spirit? This will be the topic for our next lesson (Session 2).

SESSION 2:
**THE WORKS OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

EXAMINE

THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God that is what the Bible says. Having that as the foundation, why did the Holy Spirit come and what are the works of the Holy Spirit?

I. Why Did the Holy Spirit Come?

A. To Empower Us

Acts 1:8

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

B. To Transform Us

Ezekiel 36:27

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

(The Holy Spirit is causative, it does something to your inner life. When God changes your heart through the Spirit, you will begin to be so sick and tired of your sin and you begin to cry over your sinfulness and that will be the day when you experience the fullness of God in your life.)

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is manifested every time there was a mission order:

Examples:

Othniel Judges 3:10	And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him
Gideon Judges 6:34	So the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon;
Jephthah Judges 11:29	Now the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, ...
Samson Judges 14:6,15	And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, ...

God had a mission for Othniel, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

God had a mission for Gideon, and the Spirit came upon Gideon. You must understand, Gideon used to be a scared boy, but then God wanted to use him, so the Holy Spirit came.

Jephthah, Samson, etc. - all these men had the Holy Spirit come upon them. Here the Old Testament talks about the Holy Spirit entering and helping people become skillful in what God has called them to do.

Exodus 31:3-5

I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.

(This was Bezalel that is being referred to that God has been filled with the Spirit of God, “in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, in all kinds of craftsmanship to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, in bronze.” In other words, even with a craftsman, carpenter, artist, God is involved. God gives us abilities to do what He wants us to do, but there’s a special ability given to people only after they come to Christ. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was given to special people only--Othniel, David, King Saul, Moses; these were special people.)

C. To Fulfill God’s Promise

(In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit came to fulfill God’s promise that someday even non-Israelites will be blessed with the Spirit of Jesus Christ.)

Galatians 3:14

in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Who are the Gentiles? We are, and the Bible says, we have been given the same blessings as the descendants of Abraham!

What is that blessing? The “promise of the Spirit through faith.” Nowadays, we often take the Holy Spirit for granted, in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was only given to selected people. Today, the Spirit is given to everybody who are in Christ Jesus. This is the fulfilment of the prophecy given in the Old Testament:

Joel 2:28-29

28 *It will come about after this
That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
Your young men will see visions.
29 Even on the male and female
servants I will pour out My Spirit in those
days.*

This means that...

- The Spirit has the power to change lives
- Prophetic answer—Jesus is alive and active
- We are now in the end times
- This is intended for all mankind

D. To Help Us

“I will ask the Father and He will give you another [Greek: allos] Helper [Greek: paracletos], that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive...”

John 14:6

Paracletos - means “comes alongside”; “advocate, pleads like a lawyer before a judge”; “to aid, to comfort with strength”; to assist us

allos – means “exactly the same kind” in contrast to *heteros* which in Greek means “another of a different kind)

*(The Greek language is very precise and the word used for “another” (allos) means that another Helper **exactly like Me (Jesus)** is coming to be with the followers of Jesus after Jesus physically leaves them. The Spirit then is another (Person) of the same kind as Jesus, not another (person) of a different kind.*

Now the word “Helper” (paracletos) is an amazing word, a combination of two Greek words. “Para” which means “alongside”. Jesus promised, “I will send somebody who will be alongside you forever.”

The second word is “cletos” which gives the idea of someone to cry for you, to help you, to assist you. This is a word that describes a lawyer to help you and defend you. Some translations use the word “comforter” ... “I will send you another Comforter”. That is a better English translation because it is from two Latin words “com” with “forte” which is like God saying, “I will give you Strength”, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

God is saying, “I will give you (a) Strength, I’ll be beside you when you are tired, when you’re discouraged, I will be there.” That is a beautiful truth, a promise given to us fulfilled in the Holy Spirit!

E. To Teach Us

... He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 14:26

(The Holy Spirit will teach us “all things”. Now, people may mis-apply this and say, “I don’t need to attend Bible studies because the Holy Spirit will teach me”. The Holy Spirit will guide you, but you still need to receive sound Bible teaching. Notice the context of John 14:26, “He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance...” this is why the Apostles could write the New Testament from what they heard from Jesus in an amazingly clear manner-- the Holy Spirit helped them remember what the Lord taught them.

F. To Guide Us

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...

John 16:13

G. To Glorify Christ

He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 16:14

(The Holy Spirit is our guide, but above all, how do you test if an idea or a thought is from the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit never glorifies Himself, He always points people to Jesus. That’s the Tri-Unity of God, they don’t compete for glory.)

II. What Are the Works of the Holy Spirit?

A. He Convicts Us

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

John 16:8

(We do not have the power to change anyone—husbands cannot change their wives, wives cannot “nag” their husbands into changing and parents cannot truly change their children’s attitude or behavior (especially when they are older). The Holy Spirit is more powerful than you, and He is the one who convicts and changes people from the inside-out (regeneration). We can pray for our loved ones to be convicted and changed by the Holy Spirit!)

B. He Regenerates Us

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-5

C. He Baptizes Us

(Baptized means immersed, you are identified with whatever it is you have been immersed into. If for example, you want to change the color of a handkerchief from white to blue, you will need to immerse it in blue dye.)

What does, “He baptizes us,” mean? It means that God now connect you and identifies you with Him and with the people of God.

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

(Whether rich or poor, once you come to Christ you become part of the body of Christ. This beautiful metaphor for Christianity illustrates how you and I become interconnected to Jesus. He is the head and we are His body on earth.

So, on earth, how will people see Jesus? It’s through us, we are His hands, we are His heart. In other words, we become part of Jesus. To be baptized by the Holy Spirit is to be identified with Jesus.)

The phrase “baptize by the Holy Spirit” is used only seven (7) times in the Bible, four of these are found in the gospels:

Matthew 3:11

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mark 1:8

baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:33

this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:5

but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit

Acts 11:15-16

but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body

The baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers was promised in the gospels and repeated by Jesus in Acts 1:5 after His resurrection. This promise was fulfilled 50 days later, an event we now know as the “Pentecost”.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

(Imagine this sound, and then what looked like fire descending that rested on each one of the 120 followers of Jesus that were gathered in that house. Nobody laid hands or prayed for them. All of them with no exception, were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues. They spoke in the language of the Arabs, Cretans, Egyptians, etc.

On that day 120 of them experienced the reality of the Holy Spirit, yet because the baptism of the Holy Spirit is invisible, the Lord allowed them to hear the sound like wind, see the tongues of fire and He enabled them to speak foreign languages supernaturally. These “signs” were to show that the Holy Spirit was real. It shows you that once you received the Holy Spirit, you are baptized into the body of Christ.)

D. He Seals Us

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

(Once you believe, "you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise". The word for "sealed" is a business term. This means that you were marked with the Holy Spirit, "who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...")

This means that when you come to Jesus, the Holy Spirit enters you, and you receive a supernatural marking. You now have the Spirit of God, so this entire universe will know that you are a Christian.

Illustration:

If you are a rancher and own ten cows, and your neighbor has twenty cows, and another next-door neighbor has five cows then if all these thirty-five cows were placed in the same pasture, how will you

know which cows belonged to whom? Well, you look for the seal, the mark stamped on those cows that tell you which rancher they belong to. How do you know you're a Christian? You're sealed by the Holy Spirit!

E. He Indwells Us

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:9

(The basis for our confidence that we belong to God, is not religion, or how good a person you are, or how many times you come to church. The real issue is, do you have the Spirit of Christ in you? If you do not have the Holy Spirit, then the Bible says you do not belong to God. On the other hand, "if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...", then you belong to Him.)

F. He Sanctifies Us

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:16-17

(The Bible is saying here that you need the Holy Spirit to overcome temptation, to overcome selfishness, to overcome the desires of the flesh because we have certain desires that are not good. As followers of Christ, we need to ask ourselves, who controls our

desires? Is it our old self or is it the Holy Spirit? We must learn to let the Holy Spirit control us in all areas of life.)

G. He Makes Us Bear Fruit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control

Galatians 5:22-23

If you have the Holy Spirit what will happen to you?

(God's amazing promise is that we will bear the fruit of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Fruit is a by-product as your actions reflect your heart, so that if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, all these beautiful character traits will be seen in your life.)

H. He Gives Us Spiritual Gifts

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7

SESSION 3:
**THE GIFTS AND
THE FRUITS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

EXAMINE

I. What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A. Defining spiritual gifts

Spiritual Gifts: Greek --“*charismata*”

Charismata is from *charis*, the word for “grace”.

Charismata is the gift of grace. What are these gifts?

“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” The Holy Spirit gives you different gifts; these are abilities for the common good.

Spiritual gifts are special God-given abilities when you come to Jesus. All of us have a special gift from God and though this can be the same as your natural talent, many times it is different.

The definition for spiritual gifts includes **the source** who is the Holy Spirit. Spiritual gifts mean **special abilities** and its **purpose** is for service.

Spiritual gifts are identified in four places in the Bible:

- Romans 12:4-9
- 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

ROMANS 12	1 CORINTHIANS 12	
Prophecy	Apostle	Administration
Service	Prophet	Tongues
Teaching	Teacher	Word of wisdom
Exhortation	Miracles	Word of knowledge
Giving	Healing	Faith
Leadership	Helps	Interpretation of tongues
Mercy		Discernment

EPHESIANS 4	1 PETER 4
Apostle	Speaks
Prophet	Serves
Evangelist	
Pastor	
Teacher	

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:4-9

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy...

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good

1 Corinthians 12:11-13

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He will.¹² For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

B. Clarifying “controversial” spiritual gifts

1. Prophecy

(Many people think prophecy is talking about the future, but in the Bible it is not. It’s really declaring the message of God, it is not always prophetic. Most of the time it is simply declaring God’s message.)

2. Apostle

(Technically, apostles don’t exist today, but the work of apostleship continues. In Acts chapter 1 the qualification for an apostle was that he was from among the “men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection” (Acts 1:21-22).

These people are no longer alive today so we can no longer have new apostles. However, the word apostelos also means someone who plants a church or starts a new ministry. We still have those doing today, they are equivalent to missionaries; we have many missionaries and we have church planters. They are doing the work of apostleship, but we are careful not to call them “apostles”.)

3. Wisdom/Knowledge

(Some Christians have this gift and they are known to be wise counselors; you can tell them about your life, and they will advise you with wisdom on your area of

need. For some people, it is the “word of knowledge”; they are almost the same, but they are not the same thing. They look at your life and can discern the situation that you are in with this special gifting.)

We ought to serve the Body of Christ based on our giftedness. But what if what you want to do so but your giftedness does not match? This will cause frustration to you and cause frustration to the body of Christ. Leaders must help their disciples discover their giftedness. Once you know what areas you are gifted in, then serve in that capacity. Gifts are not to make you proud, not for you to make comparisons with one another, and are not given to you for you to insist how you want to serve.

Summary of teaching on spiritual gifts:

- The Holy Spirit is the source of all spiritual gifts
- Each person has been given at least one spiritual gift
- Every person may not have the same gift
- It is the Holy Spirit who determines what gift He will give to each person
- Exercising the gifts should build up the Body of Christ
- Whatever gift we might have, we are all baptized (placed into) by the Spirit into the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:15-16, 18-23, 26, 28-31

15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body...

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, ... 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

The church is one body with many members who have different functions. There are different gifts given so each of us is to exercise them accordingly.

Summary of teaching on spiritual gifts:

- Different people have different gifts
- We should not insist on having the same gifts
- Do not be jealous or compare
- All are needed
- We can desire gifts, but God determines
- We should desire greater gifts

4. Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, ... ³But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. ⁴One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

Summary of teaching on tongues:

- It is better to prophecy than to speak in tongues
- Prophecy is for building the church, tongues edifies the one speaking in tongues

1 Corinthians 14:22-23

So, then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. ²³ Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

Tongues are a sign to unbelievers – like at Pentecost

- Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
- Gentiles Cornelius (Acts 10)
- John's Disciples (Acts 19)

Descriptive vs Prescriptive Passages

A passage is **descriptive** if it is simply describing something that happened, while a passage is **prescriptive** if it is specifically teaching that something needs to happen (to be done or applied).

Tongues-Speaking in the Early Church

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. ⁵ Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd

came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?⁸ And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?”

Acts 2:1-8

Who: All

How: Suddenly; no laying of hands

What: Tongues were languages, understood, sound of wind, like fire

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,⁴⁷ “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ....

Acts 10:44-48

Who: Gentiles

How: No laying of hands

What: All spoke in tongues, then baptized in water

It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus and found some disciples.² He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

Acts 19:1-6

Who: Gentiles, not yet followers of Jesus

How: Evangelized first by Paul, then baptized, then lay hands,

What: Spoke in tongues

Observation: No fixed pattern; tongues were for proof that the Gentiles are accepted by God through Jesus by faith.

What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret;²⁸ but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

³⁹ Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

1 Corinthians 14:26-28; 39-40

Summary of teaching on tongues:

- Should not be forbidden
- Are not encouraged by Paul without interpretation
- Should be exercised with strict guidelines in the church
- Should not cause division but should build unity

5. Other guidelines on spiritual gifts

do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹ But examine everything carefully; ...

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:1

***Major on the major
Don't major in the minor***

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so

as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-12

6. How to discover your spiritual gift

1. Be sure that you have the Holy Spirit in you.
2. Realize God has given you at least one spiritual gift.
3. Discover your gifts as you serve.
4. Your gifts will be validated by the people around you.
5. Your gifts will be affirmed by your leaders

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause and say, “Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”

Martin Luther King

II. What is the Spirit-Filled Life?

(Many times, you and I fail to live up to what God wants us to experience because we were never meant to live the Christian life on our own.

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.*

John 10:10

God wants you to have life, not just life but the fullness of life. It does not always mean you will have lots of money, but it simply means a life that is overflowing with purpose, with meaning, and with peace. Many Christians are living a defeated life, and it is not supposed to be. You see, the Christian life is not hard, it is impossible. The Christian life is not difficult, it is supernatural.

The biggest attraction for unbelievers to come Jesus will be the lives of His people. But the biggest hindrance to Jesus Christ is also the lives of His people. It's a paradox! People come to Christ because of your example, but people do not want to come to Christ many times also because of you, because of me – because we do not live in accordance with God's word.

Why will somebody come to Christ if he was cheated by a Christian? Why will somebody come to Christ if they see a Christian guy being unfaithful to his wife? The biggest attraction to Jesus is the lives of His people so we need to be Spirit-filled.)

A. A Spirit-filled life is a life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1. Speaks the word of God with boldness

³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness

Acts 4:31

(The basic reason why God gave us the Holy Spirit is for us to have power to be His witnesses. You are to witness for Jesus at home – your Jerusalem, Judea—perhaps your workplace, Samaria – your circle of influence, and to the outermost parts of the earth. So God left us with no excuses not to be a witness for Him.)

2. Continually filled with joy

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:52

(The central essence of the Christian life is joy, but on the periphery, sometimes there is sadness. We are not exempted from problems, but at the very basic core of our being, our lives, is joy. A life filled with joy is only possible when we are living the Spirit-filled life.)

3. Full of faith

³Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task...⁵The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip,

Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Acts 6:3,5

for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:24

(When choosing its servant-leaders, the early church chose men who were “full of the Holy Spirit”, full of wisdom and full of faith. We ought to follow the same standards when appointing leaders in the church today!)

B. Difference Between the Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
Result of being filled/controlled by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)	Result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12: 4-13)
Purpose is Christ-like character and service (Galatians 5:16)	Purpose is for service and helping others (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12)
Same for all believers (Ephesians 5:18)	Different gifts for each believer (1 Corinthians 12: 7-11)

Through moment by moment obedience & surrender; progressive (Galatians 5:15, Ephesians 4:1-4)	Through service & obedience; progressive – develops as you serve (1 Peter 4:10-11)
By faith	By faith

(What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? It means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. It does not mean more of the Holy Spirit, rather, it is the Holy Spirit having more of you. When the Holy Spirit enters your heart, He dwells inside of you. But the question is, does He have full control of you?)

The purpose of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is Christ-like character and service; to give you power to overcome sin, to give you power to follow Jesus. It is the same for all believers; this is a command that is given to all of us. All of us must have the fruit of the Holy Spirit; this is not optional, it is mandatory.

Being filled with the Spirit and bearing fruit as a result, is more important than the specific spiritual gifts because being Spirit-filled is a moment by moment obedience and surrender to Christ. The manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit is progressive, but to be controlled by the Holy Spirit is instantaneous, the moment you surrender, you are controlled by the Spirit.

Maturity is different from being controlled by the Holy Spirit. Maturity is having more years and more experience. It's different from being a spiritual Christian, you become a spiritual Christian when you are controlled by the Holy Spirit. A one-week old Christian can be spiritual, but a one-week old Christian is not yet spiritually mature. A one-week old Christian will have to go through a lot of experiences, especially when it comes to facing

disappointments and when it comes to understanding the whole Bible for them to mature spiritually. However, a one-week old Christian can be completely controlled by the Holy Spirit immediately. A one-week)

C. The Holy Spirit empowers every believer to be all that God wants him to be

- Christ-likeness
- Witness for Him
- Serve Him
- Bear fruit
- Do His will

D. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

(The analogy used here is getting drunk with wine. Why is that analogy used? It is used to give us the idea that just as when we are drunk with wine, we are controlled or under the influence of alcohol, so it is that when we are filled with the Spirit, we are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The difference is that when you are controlled by the Spirit you experience self-control. You're able to say "no" to sin and you're able to say "yes" to God. To be

controlled by the Holy Spirit is voluntary, you choose to submit. In contrast to getting drunk with wine, you lose self-control. The Bible says a spiritual man has control over his own spirit. You cannot lose control over your own spirit under the pretext of being controlled by the Spirit. To be controlled by the Spirit is to have self-control as the Bible shows us.)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit means...

- a. To be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- b. To be Christ-centered and controlled by Him.
- c. It is the exchanged life; die to self and live for Christ.

The command “be filled with the Spirit” is in the present continuous tense; it means be always continuously controlled, be always continuously filled. It is a moment by moment decision. It is a command, not a suggestion so if we are not filled with the Spirit, you and I are living in sin.

SESSION 4:
**WALKING IN THE
SPIRIT**

EXAMINE

A. What Does it Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

1. The filling of the Holy Spirit is different from the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit

To be filled with the Spirit is to be directed and empowered, to be Christ-centered and controlled. It is the “exchanged life”; you die to self and live for Christ.

What is the difference between being filled and being indwelt? To have the Holy Spirit in your life is to be indwelt by Him. How does the Holy Spirit come into your life?

Ephesians 1:13-14 13

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

(The gift of the Holy Spirit comes when you repent. When the Bible says, "believe in Jesus", it uses the word "believe" in theory and technically in every sense of the word, to mean to "repent". If you believe He's Lord, if you believe He's God, if you believe He's your master, then it means that you also repented.)

Is it possible to believe and not repent?

(Only counterfeit Christians believe without repenting just as the devil believes that Jesus is God's Messiah, but the faith of the devil has nothing to do with salvation, it cannot save. But with our faith, our belief, repentance is included. For you to come to Jesus, you must admit you are a sinner, and you want to change so that is why you come to Christ for salvation.)

If you don't want to change, if you want to remain in sin and all you want is a passport to go to heaven, then that kind of faith will not do you any good. Only God knows whether your faith in Him is genuine or not, but if you just want a passport to heaven, Jesus warns you, **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter"** (Matthew 7:21)

What is the difference between saving faith in Jesus and counterfeit faith?

(It is repentance, not perfection as the Bible does not teach that when you come to Christ you will never sin again. However, the Bible is very clear, that the proof that the Holy Spirit indwells me, is a new heart, a new desire to follow God. My GPS is now directed towards

God because I want to please Him. A genuine Christian is not perfect, but when they know they are not pleasing God, they will do everything to please Him, that is their direction in life.)

Will a committed follower of Christ still fail?

(Of course, sometimes they will fail, but the good news is that they fail less and less; they sin less and less. So, who is a Christian? The simple answer is that a Christian is somebody who has the Holy Spirit.)

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:9

(If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit and you cannot, and will not stay in sin because the Holy Spirit will bother your conscience. Once you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit is in you, and once He's in you He will change you. It does not mean that you are perfect, but you're on your way to perfection.)

INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT	FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
Upon salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14)	Upon surrendering (Ephesians 5:18)
Indwelt by faith , through repentance & prayer (Eph 1:13-14; Acts 2: 38)	Filled by faith , through prayer, and obedience (1 John 5:14,15)
Permanent (Hebrews 13:5)	Moment-by-moment (Galatians 5:16)
Gift of God (Galatians 3: 14)	Commanded by God (Ephesians 5:18)

(Upon salvation the Holy Spirit enters your life, you are indwelt by the Spirit. However, you are filled with the Spirit upon your complete surrender to Christ in every area of your life.)

You are indwelt **by faith** through **repentance and prayer**.

You are filled **by faith** through **prayer and obedience**.

Indwelling is permanent, once He comes into your life the Holy Spirit promised He will never leave you.

The **filling** of the Holy Spirit is moment by moment; the fullness of the Spirit is moment by moment, there's no guarantee that tomorrow He's in control of your life, as you may lose your temper; you may get angry; if so, how do you go back to being Spirit-filled? You must confess your sin and by faith, ask the Holy Spirit (pray) to fill you once more (1 John 1:9) and continue walking in the Spirit.

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:16-17

(In some modern translations this is written as “live by the Spirit.” In other words, you do it step by step; follow (obey) Jesus moment by moment.)

2. Why are some Christians not filled with the Holy Spirit?

“God commands us to be filled with the Spirit, and if we are not filled, it is because we are living beneath our privileges.”

Dwight L. Moody

a. Ignorance

- Elderly Scottish woman – thought son was sending her pictures, but it turned out to be bank notes!
- Yates Pool in West Texas -the owner was ignorant of the fact that beneath his land was an oil field that would yield 120,000 barrels of oil/day, at \$50/barrel= \$6,000,000/day; \$180,000,000/month; \$2,260,000,000/year

b. Spiritual warfare

Reality of Conflicts: Know your enemy

- **Satan**

1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- **World**

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of

God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **Flesh**

Romans 7:15,19

For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

A law is universal, just like the law of gravity is operational in Japan, and operational in the Philippines. Similarly, the law of sin is operational in every human being everywhere in the world. This means that for those under the law of sin, they will keep on sinning from the day they are born until the day they die.

The law of the Spirit is another law, and it overcomes the law of sin. This would be like how the law aerodynamics can overcome the law of gravity.

What will enable an airplane to fly, to overcome the force of gravity? It's called the law of aerodynamics. The law of gravity is not suspended, it's still there but another law is at work—the law of aerodynamics allows the airplane to fly even if gravity exists at the same time.

Now consider a butterfly, it can fly because it has wings, and the law of aerodynamics. If the butterfly decides to stop flipping its wings it will fall, as the law of gravity takes over, even if the law of thermodynamics still exists at the same time.

So it is with your spiritual life, you have the law of the Spirit at work in you if you have Christ in your life. The law of the Spirit says you do not have to sin anymore, you can overcome the law of sin. By the grace of God, a believer's lifestyle is no longer a lifestyle of sin because he is no longer under sin, he is no longer in bondage.

That is why you need to be filled by the Holy Spirit, and that is what it means for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus to set you free from the law of sin and death. The law of sin and death is at work in the world, so it is useless to tell people, "Please stop robbing. Stop cheating. Stop sinning." It's the nature of people to sin and to be corrupt.

(In fact, the only way we can change this country is to connect people to Jesus. When politicians become followers of Jesus, it is guaranteed that they will stop cheating, they stop stealing. They may be tempted, but they will stop. It is the same thing with followers of Christ who were once adulterers, womanizers, etc., when they came to Jesus, something happened – they changed. But were there consequences? Yes. Consequences is different from forgiveness, so don't mess around your life, to their former sinful actions and wrong choices? Yes, there were because

consequences are different from forgiveness of sins. The law of the Spirit will set you free, but what you have done in the past will have consequences. However, the grace of God will be enough for you as you live out your new life in the Spirit.)

c. Unbelief

d. Disobedience

e. Unconfessed sin / Unresolved conflict

f. Self-sufficiency / Prayerlessness

3. Three Kinds of People



a. The Natural Person

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them...

1 Corinthians 2:14



NATURAL MAN
1 COR 2:14

The Unbelieving (Natural) Person

- Depends solely upon his own resources
- Separated from God
- Spiritually blind
- Christ outside his life, no relationship

b. The Carnal or Worldly Person

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh “carnal”, as to infants in Christ.² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

1 Corinthians 3:1-3



CARNAL CHRISTIAN
1 COR 3:1-3

The Carnal or Worldly Person

- Defeated and fruitless Christian
- Does not allow the Holy Spirit to control his life
- Frustrated and no real joy
- Acts like a baby – self-centered
- No assurance of salvation

(You cannot use this as an excuse to say, “I’m a Christian, but I am carnal”. The carnal state is the abnormal Christian life. A carnal Christian is like a sick person who is not living the normal Christian life. Though it is possible for a Christian to be carnal, it is a very dangerous state to be in as this will have serious repercussions because sin will always eventually lead to dreadful consequences.)

c. The Spiritual Person

- Christ is in control of his life
- Dependent upon God's resources and power
- Life of peace and joy
- Brings glory to God because of his fruitful life
- He witnesses for Jesus



SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN
1 COR 2:15-16

4. What are the evidences of the Spirit-filled life?

(Many people used to say, that the evidence for the filling of the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues. However, this is not so, since speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift that may be given to some believers, but not to all. Thus, a Spirit-filled man does not necessarily have the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. An example was John the Baptist)

Luke 1:15

*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be **filled with the Holy Spirit** while yet in his mother's womb.*

John 10:41-42

Many came to Him and were saying, "**While John performed no sign**, yet everything John said about this man was true."⁴² Many believed in Him there.

(John performed no sign, no miracles, "yet everything John said about this man was true." Many believed in Jesus because of John's ministry. The evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit is not always a supernatural sign.)

a. Walking in the Spirit

Here is a prescriptive passage (prescriptive means it's prescribing an action or an application); it is a command:

*But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

Galatians 5:16-17

(We are commanded to walk in accordance with the Holy Spirit. Along with the command is the promise, "you will not follow the desire of the flesh." There is also a warning, "...flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; ...these are in opposition to one another," which means that we will always have temptation for the rest of our lives. The good news is, to be tempted is not a sin, so we might face temptation, but the truth is, the power of the temptation in our lives gets weaker and weaker as we

walk in the Spirit. But if we are not careful, we can still fall into temptation, and that is when we sin.

That is why we need to put in place certain safeguards in our lives. For example, in CCF we have a policy that men do not counsel women alone, and vice versa. Pastors and elders will not have a private lunch or private dinner alone with someone of the opposite sex who is not the wife. All the pastors, we practice this. We need to we guard ourselves, because we know our weaknesses.

Based on this prescriptive verse, what is a command – to walk in the Spirit. Now, what is the promise for those who obey this command? We will bear the fruit of the Spirit!)

b. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit

*But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23

(The evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of Christ-likeness. How can I tell if you are full of the Holy Spirit? I will look at your life, I will look at your character—is there love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness? When a toothpaste tube is squeezed, whatever is inside comes out. If it's filled with a white gel, white gel will come out, if it is filled with blue gel, then white gel will not come out, but blue gel.

How will I know the Spirit inside of you, if it is demonic or of Jesus or without Jesus? Many Christians can smile when everything is fine, but the moment you are squeezed, what reactions and character traits come out of you? That's how you can tell if somebody is Spirit-filled or not--when you are put under pressure, Christlikeness comes out, instead of cursing, angry bursts, a demanding spirit, etc.)

“Christlikeness is the eternal predestinating purpose of God.”

John Stott

(What John Stott is saying is that someday we are going to be like Christ, and that is what we should become right now, be like Christ. How do we become like Christ? Christlikeness is the automatic overflow of being Spirit-filled! So, if you run into inconveniences of daily living such as crammed elevators, a lack of parking space, traffic incidents, etc., remember to be filled with the Spirit and practice Christlikeness. If thousands of us will be such people, we will truly influence this world for Christ.)

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled** with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Ephesians 5:18-21

“Do not get drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit” is a prescriptive passage not descriptive. It tells us that as we follow the Holy Spirit, there are certain things that will happen.

- Being joyful and thankful (Ephesians 5:19)

Ephesians 5:19-21

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

- Being subject to one another

Ephesians 5:21-22

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ²² Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1, 5

Children obey your parents in the Lord... ⁵ slaves obey your masters as to Christ.

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

EPHESIANS 5:18-20	COLOSSIANS 3:16-17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be filled with the Spirit • Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns & spiritual songs, singing & making melody w/ your heart to the Lord • Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be filled with God's word. Let the word of Christ dwell within you richly • Teaching & admonishing one another w/ psalms, hymns & spiritual songs, singing w/ thankfulness in your hearts • Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father
EPHESIANS 5:22-6:8	COLOSSIANS 3:18-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be filled with the Spirit • Wives be subject to your husbands • Children obey your parents • Slaves obey your masters • MASTERS DO the same thing to them (slaves). Give up threatening knowing that both their Master & yours is in heaven & there is no partiality with Him (6:9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let the word of Christ fill you • Wives be subject to your husbands • Children be obedient to your parents • Slaves in all things obey your masters on earth • MASTERS GRANT to your slaves justice and fairness knowing that you too have a Master in heaven! (4:1)

(Notice the parallelism between Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3 – to be filled with the Holy Spirit, is to be filled with God's word—the result is the same, a joyful, grateful heart full of songs of praise to the Lord.

Another outcome of being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and being filled with God's word (Colossians 3: 18) is for wives to submit to their husbands' leadership; children to obey their parents; slaves to obey their masters and masters, to be good to their servants; masters are to grant their slaves justice.

This shows us clearly that to be filled with the Holy Spirit is also like being filled with the word of God, because you will not know the Holy Spirit if you don't study the Bible.

But is it possible to know the Bible and not be filled with the Holy Spirit There are many Bible scholars, but they don't act like Christ. Yes, they are scholarly, they know everything about the Bible, and they know theology, but they don't have the fruit of the Spirit. But if you are controlled by the Holy Spirit you will be controlled by the Word of God.)

If you want to know whether you are filled with the Spirit or not, check yourself. Are you joyful? Are you thankful? Are you humble? Are you submissive? Are you witnessing for Jesus? Are you Christ-like?

5. How can you be filled by the Holy Spirit?

a. Desire Intimacy with God

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

(How many of us have a strong desire to know God? You can pray, "Lord, I really want You. I want to know

You more; I want to love You more.” On a private basis, you must have that desire; you need to learn to love God that is the key, that is the most important step in order to live the Spirit-filled life. In fact, God gave us a promise)

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

(The only condition to this promise is that we seek God with all of our heart-not half of our hearts, not half-heartedly.)

b. Surrender your life to Jesus

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(This is an amazing illustration about the surrendered life. When you surrender, that puts you in the position of a crucified man.

So, are you able to say, “no longer I but Christ”? Have you died to yourself? Have you come to a point in your

life where you have died to yourself? You see, many of us are committed Christians, but we are not crucified Christians. Many of you are committed to Jesus, but you have not been crucified with Jesus. There's a big difference. You must not only be committed to Jesus, you must be crucified with Jesus. To be crucified to Jesus is to die to yourself: "Lord, no longer I." The problem with many Christians today is that we are full of self, it is all about us.)

"Commitment is not the same thing as Christlikeness. In fact, where people's primary focus is on their commitment, pride is not far behind. Where the primary focus is on Christ, commitment no longer seems like such a heroic thing. It just seems sane."

John Ortberg

To be crucified with Christ...

- You must die to self
- You must yield control to Him
- You must identify your idols and surrender it
- You must surrender your rights to Him
- You must live in complete dependence upon Him

You must yield control to Him and you must identify your idols, pursuits, people or whatever is preventing you from surrendering fully to the Lord. All of us have idols--sometimes your idol is your own family, your career, your boyfriend or girlfriend. Whatever it is, surrender that to Jesus and then, we must surrender our rights. All of us have perceived rights, a simple example might be our "right" not to be bothered or inconvenienced such that if someone else claims our seats at

a movie or restaurant, even in church service, we get angry, because we feel that our rights were violated.

When we surrender our rights, when we surrender our sense of entitlement and are not always thinking of what we want, and instead learning to think of what others would want and what we can do to bless them, we shall experience the freedom to lay down the terrible burden of the need to have our own way all the time.

This does not mean that you become a doormat, or you allow people to step on you. But to die to yourself is one of the greatest things you can ever experience as a follower of Christ because dying to self brings true freedom:

- Freedom to lay down the terrible burden of the need to have our own way – all the time
- Freedom of needing to prove you are right all the time
- Freedom from the burden of image management.

To die to yourself gives you freedom from the need to prove you are right all the time. You'll have the freedom from the burden of image management, you don't have to look good all the time because when you die to yourself, you focus on Jesus. Taking off your eyes from yourself is the most liberating thing.

“Lord Jesus, here I am. I surrender everything to you. I surrender all. My reputation, my family, my future, I surrender all. My ambition, I surrender all.”

c. Repent and confess every known sin

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(The word “confess” simply means that you agree with God that what He sees as sin, is sin. If you are already in Christ, you do not need to beg God to forgive you. Jesus died on the cross for you, so you do not beg for forgiveness—it has been freely given to you on the cross, but we need to confess our sins to Him, what, trusting Him to fulfill his promise to us when we do. When you become aware through the Holy Spirit’s conviction that you are sinning, or what you have done was wrong, confess right away.)

*“Lord, I agree, that what I’m doing is wrong.
Lord, I agree that I have been in control of my life.
Lord, I agree that I’m a very proud person.
Lord. I agree that pride is sin...”*

d. Claim His promise by faith

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request which we have asked from Him.

...for we walk by faith, not by sight-

2 Corinthians 5:7

Pray and ask to be filled by faith:

“Dear Father, I confess that I have been in control of my own life. I am truly sorry Lord, and I am deeply grateful for the forgiveness you have granted me when I trusted in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I surrender the control of my life to You. Fill me now with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled. I claim Your promise that You will answer me when I ask in faith. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”



Illustration by Dr. Bill Bright

6. Practice walking in the fullness of the Spirit

a. In case you sin...

1. Do Spiritual breathing

- Exhale – **Confess** your sin
- Inhale – **Surrender**; ask the Holy Spirit to fill you again

2. Walk by faith – moment by moment

b. When tempted, walk by the Spirit

Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh

Galatians 5:16

P-Pause

R-Resist the first impulse

A-Ask the Holy Spirit what to do

Y-Yield to the Holy Spirit's control

When you feel like reacting negatively to someone's irritating remark or hurtful behavior, if you have an attitude or action which you know is sinful and you know that your reaction, attitude or action is against God's word, then the first thing you should do is you **PAUSE**. That means to stop and take a breath. Research shows that when you stop, you pause, and you take a deep breath then you can think more clearly.

After that, then you **RESIST**; you resist the first impulse, you resist your first reaction because it will most probably be a negative one. It's usually carnal, selfish, it could be sinful; you have to resist that, you have to say "no" to that first impulse.

The next thing you can do is that you **ASK** the Holy Spirit: "Holy Spirit, what do I say, what do I do based on God's word? How do You want me to respond?" Ask Him and then you listen because He will tell you how to respond in a godly way.

Then you **YIELD** to the Spirit. You ask the Holy Spirit to take control of your being—your thoughts, feelings and actions. After that, you will be able to act and respond in the power of the Holy Spirit.

***It is not how much of Him you have!
It is how much of you does He have!***

(Illustration:

If I'm a guest in your house, you invite me to stay in one room, the special guest room. Many times, that is what we do with Jesus. He is just a special guest, so we say, "Lord Jesus, come into my life, stay in the nicest place." You don't want Jesus to enter your other rooms, or your attic, because it's full of maybe questionable videos, or pirated DVDs, or that is where you binge watch on Netflix, nice shows but you over-indulge and do not use your time wisely.

So, you say, "Lord Jesus, this is my house, be my guest, just have this one room and make yourself comfortable." But then you discover after studying the Bible that Jesus should not have just one room. Then you decide and tell Jesus, "Lord, I will give you all the rooms, but it is full of dirty stuff or useless things."

You know what Jesus will say? "It's okay; I will clean all your room for you. I will clean it up." So, you surrender to Him all the keys to your entire house.

Then one day, you again discover from the Bible that giving Jesus all the keys is not good enough. You must sign the deed of transfer and turn over the ownership of the house to the Lord. So, you sign a deed of sale, and you say, "Jesus, I decided not just to give you the keys. I decided to give you the title. You now own my house, everything is yours. You are now the rightful homeowner, I am just Your guest."

The day you do that with your life is the day the Holy Spirit takes full control. Prior to that, God only has partial

control. He's not yet in full control so you are not yet experiencing the fullness of the Spirit. The day when you finally sign over everything to Jesus is when you will experience the fullness of the Spirit.

However, you will never do that unless you trust Him. Many of us do not trust Jesus enough, we don't trust the Holy Spirit enough, we don't trust the Father enough, so we hold back from total surrender of our lives to God. You wonder, "who will take care of me if I surrender everything to Him? If I surrender my career, if I surrender my money, if I surrender the way I handle business, if I surrender my love life – what will happen to my future?" We get afraid because we don't know Him enough, so we can't trust Him completely. But how can you be filled by the Holy Spirit day by day, moment by moment? We must live a life of total surrender, a life of complete trust in Jesus. When that happens, you will never be the same again.)

"Christ is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all."

Hudson Taylor

"I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will come and fill every corner of our hearts; I also believe that many a man is praying to God to fill him, when he is full already with something else. Before we pray that God would fill us, I believe we ought to pray that He would empty us but if we are full of pride and conceit, ambition and self-seeking, pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. There must be an emptying before there can be a filling; and when the heart is turned upside down, and everything that is contrary to God is turned out, then the Spirit will come..."

DL Moody

7. Practice Spiritual Disciplines (Habits)

1 Corinthians 9:27

but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

...On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

To continually walk in the Spirit, we must do our part and practice a well-disciplined life; we must develop spiritual disciplines:

1. Prayer and fasting
2. Study of Scriptures, Meditate and Memorize
3. Small group accountability
4. Worship
5. Witness
6. Flee temptation, guard thought life
7. Spiritual breathing

(Spiritual disciplines are not self-improvement techniques. They are not activities I do for spiritual extra-credit. They are what John Wesley called "means of grace." In 12-step terms, they always involve letting go. The Bible's word for that is surrender.)

“They help me submit my will to the divine will. They are like a cord that plugs an otherwise inert appliance into a source of power. They connect me to a reality deeper and more powerful than myself. Ultimately, they connect me to Jesus. They help me access the life that flows only from him.”

John Ortberg

“The world has yet to see what God can do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him. I will try my utmost to be that man.”

DL Moody

“Dear brother, honour the Spirit of God as you would honour Jesus Christ if He were present.

If Jesus Christ were dwelling in your house you would not ignore Him, you would not go about your business as if He were not there. Do not ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit in your soul. I beseech you, do not live as if you had not heard whether there were any Holy Spirit.

To Him pay your constant adorations. Reverence the august guest who has been pleased to make your body His sacred abode. Love Him, obey Him, worship Him.”

Charles Spurgeon

