



BOOK

# 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT

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# GLC ESSENTIALS

## **BOOK 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT**

3rd Edition

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# INTRODUCTION

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have begun an exciting adventure with Him! He has given you eternal life and the promise of an abundant life (John 10:10b). But this life is SUPERNATURAL. It is not only difficult but impossible to live in your own power! You can only live it by depending on the Holy Spirit who indwells you. When He controls you, He will cause you to bear fruit and equip you with spiritual gifts to be used in the body of Christ—the Church. He will also enable you to persevere in faith through the challenges and trials which you will encounter as you follow Jesus. He gives you the power for living a life that honors God and counts for eternity.

Acts 1:8

Jesus said, "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses..."

Do you want to experience that kind of life?

Our prayer is that at the end of this module you will understand more the Person and works of the Holy Spirit and be empowered to be witnesses for Christ as you learn to totally depend on His Spirit. Above all, may you bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit in greater abundance, becoming more like Jesus as you apply what you will learn through this module!

# HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook is for the GLC Essentials Book 3: The Holy Spirit study. It can be used as a stand-alone Bible study guide for small groups.

If you are a small group servant/facilitator, all you have to do is make sure that you do a personal Bible study using this workbook ahead of your small group meeting for preparation. Encourage your group members to have their own workbooks. Do not divert the teaching topic – stick to what is in the workbook.

The workbook includes the Bible lesson, and individual and small group learning activities to help you get the most out of your meetings. There are four parts in every session: Explore, Examine, Express and Experience.

- **Explore** — contains individual and small group activities that help prepare you for the Bible study.
- **Examine** — this is where you go through the Bible lesson with your group.
- **Express** — this is where the members of the group get a chance to express more of their insights, questions and thoughts about the Bible lesson. They can do it in writing, doodling or drawing, and sharing to the rest of the group.
- **Experience** — this section is accomplished outside the group meeting time. There are suggested individual or group Life Apps that will hopefully help you experience life transformation as you apply God's truth in practical ways.

This workbook is just a tool. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us God's truth and transform our hearts as we go through the Bible studies.

So, come and discover the Truth that will change your life!

SESSION 1

# WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

# EXPLORE

## Group Discussion

If you had the power to change anything for the better for anyone, anywhere in the world, what would you change, and how would you go about doing it?

## LEARNING NUGGET

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We love superhero stories where seemingly ordinary persons are transformed into characters with special powers that they use to help change people's lives everywhere. We are often ignorant though, that in real life, God has given us the Holy Spirit to enable us to do extraordinary things for God's glory. Yet we have a lot of misconceptions about the Spirit of God because we do not know much about Him. Let us discover more who the Holy Spirit really is, and how we are to relate to Him.

## 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**

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*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**

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?**

Read Romans 8:9-10 and 2 Corinthians 3:17

A. He is called...

1. The **Spirit** – Romans 8:9
2. The **Spirit of God** – Romans 8:9
3. The **Spirit of Christ** – Romans 8:9
4. The **Lord** – 2 Corinthians 3:17

---

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

John 14:16-17

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

1. He has \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 2:11a

2. He has a \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 12:11b

3. He has \_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 4:30

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D. He is **God**

1. He is **eternal**  
Hebrews 9:14
2. He is **all-knowing**  
1 Corinthians 2:11
3. He is **all-powerful**  
Luke 1:35
4. He is **always present**  
Psalm 139:7

What does the “attributes” of God mean?

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The 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** (\_\_\_\_\_),

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

**1 Corinthians 2:11**

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He is **all-powerful** (\_\_\_\_\_),

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

**Luke 1:35**

He is **ever-present** (\_\_\_\_\_).

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

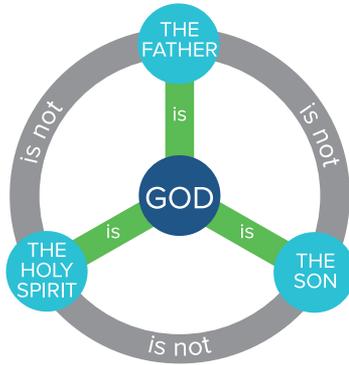
**Psalms 139:7**

## **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 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
- Mark 1:10-11

*“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one [echad]! <sup>5</sup> 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**

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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 2:24 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 2:24**

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**

# EXPRESS

1. What attribute of the Holy Spirit is most meaningful for you?
2. How will knowing more about the Holy Spirit help you in your relationship with Jesus? In your relationship with others?

## EXPERIENCE

Obtain a copy of **The Holy Spirit: Power for Living booklet** (published by CCF) and read through it at least three times. Apply the truth you read there in your own life, then read through the booklet with another Christian, perhaps a family member, your Dgroup members, ministry team mates, etc. Do set a time period for you to accomplish this EXPERIENCE activity. Ideally, you should complete this action point within one week (7 days) or before the next session.



SESSION 2

# THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

# EXPLORE

Work together in groups of 3-5 people each and try to identify what the specific uses are of the unusual tools listed below. Very few people can get this all correct, so do not worry if you cannot get it all perfect!

1. A “shingle froe” is used for...
2. A “Stanley #1 Odd Jobs” is used for...
3. An adze is used for...
4. A “Channellock rescue tool” is used for...
5. A “timber scribe” is used for...

## LEARNING NUGGET

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One of the works of the Spirit in the life of the believer is to empower him/her to be an effective instrument in God’s hand to accomplish His special design for His people. What are the other works of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers in Christ?

See Appendix A for the answer key.

## 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

Read Acts 1:8

#### B. To Transform Us

Read Ezekiel 36:27

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

Examples:

<b>OTHNIEL</b> JUDGES 3:10	AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON HIM
<b>GIDEON</b> JUDGES 6:34	SO THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON GIDEON;
<b>JEPHTAH</b> JUDGES 11:29	NOW THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON JEPHTAH, ...
<b>SAMSON</b> JUDGES 14:6,19	AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON HIM MIGHTILY, ...

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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.

Read Exodus 31:3-5

### **C. To Fulfill God's Promise**

Read Galatians 3:14

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:

Read Joel 2:28-29

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### 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 14:16

**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)

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## E. To Teach Us

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

**John 14:26**

## 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**

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## 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**

### B. He Regenerates Us

*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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

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. <sup>13</sup> 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**

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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”.

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*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> 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**

#### **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, <sup>14</sup> 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**

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## 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**

## F. He Sanctifies Us

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> 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**

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## G. He Makes Us Bear Fruit

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control.*

**Galatians 5:22-23**

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

## H. He Gives Us Spiritual Gifts

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

**1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7**

## EXPRESS

1. What work of the Holy Spirit is most meaningful for you at this point of your life?
2. In what area of your life do you need help from the Holy Spirit the most? Is it with a character flaw that needs transformation, a difficult relationship that needs repair or reconciliation, a step of obedience that you are afraid to take?

Commit to memory the following verses on the Holy Spirit:

**Ephesians 5: 18**

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

**Galatians 5:22-23**

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



SESSION 3

# THE GIFTS AND FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

# EXPLORE

Review the list of character traits that make up the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Then think of an edible fruit that reminds you of a particular trait; give a brief explanation for your answer (an example is provided below)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	EDIBLE FRUIT
Love	
Joy	
Peace	
Patience	
Kindness	
Goodness	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-control	Dragon fruit—because if I do not exercise self-control, a can act like a fiery dragon!

## LEARNING NUGGET

One of the amazing works of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is to produce Christ-likeness in him or her. It might be a surprise to many of us to realize that God never commanded us to produce the fruit of the Spirit — our responsibility is to ABIDE in Christ. The Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of Christ-likeness in us as we abide in Christ. In the next 2 lessons, we will discover more not only about what the Holy Spirit's role is in our growth and maturity in Christ but also about who He truly is. (See Galatians 5:16, 22–23).

## 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

<b>ROMANS 12</b>	<b>1 CORINTHIANS 12</b>	
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

<b>EPHESIANS 4</b>	<b>1 PETER 4</b>
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. <sup>2</sup> 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.*

**Romans 12:1-2**

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## **B. Clarifying “controversial” spiritual gifts**

### **1. Prophecy**

### **2. Apostle**

### **3. Wisdom/Knowledge**

We ought to serve the Body of Christ based on our giftedness. But what if 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
- 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

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

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**

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

**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

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Read 1 Corinthians 14:22-23

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. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. <sup>5</sup>Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?”*

**Acts 2:1-8**

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Who: All

How: Suddenly; no laying of hands

What: Tongues were languages, understood, sound  
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. <sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?” <sup>48</sup> 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: Spoke in tongues, then baptized in water

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*It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus and found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> 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.

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*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. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; <sup>28</sup> but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. <sup>39</sup> Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. <sup>40</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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**

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## 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. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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

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*“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**

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## II. What is the Spirit-Filled Life?

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

#### 1. Speaks the word of God with boldness

*And 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**

#### 2. Continually filled with joy

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

**Acts 13:52**

#### 3. Full of faith

*<sup>3</sup> Therefore, 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...<sup>5</sup> The 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**

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*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**

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

<b>FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT</b>	<b>GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT</b>
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

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**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**

**Being filled with the Holy Spirit means...**

- To be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- To be Christ-centered and controlled by Him.
- 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.

## EXPRESS

Is your life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit more today, than it was a year ago?

If yes, what evidence do you see that supports your answer (perhaps in the way you relate to your family members, how you respond to stressful or unfair situations, how you spend your money, how you conduct yourself at work, etc.)?

If not, what has hindered you from becoming more Christ-like? What do you need to do to get rid of this obstacle?

Do you, your family members and disciples know your spiritual gifts? Make it a goal to find out what the Holy Spirit has blessed you with and help your family members and Dgroup members discover theirs too. Here are some things that will enable you to do that:

1. Ask the people closest to you what they have observed to be your spiritual gifts.
2. Answer the question: “What kinds of ministries have I found myself naturally attracted to?”
3. Take the spiritual gifts inventory such as the one you can take online at this links: [www.SpiritualGiftsTest.com](http://www.SpiritualGiftsTest.com) or [www.sdrock.com/giftstest/](http://www.sdrock.com/giftstest/)
4. The best way to discover and express your spiritual gifts is through serving your Dgroup family (other than your biological family). Volunteer to use your gifts at your next Dgroup meeting. You may also wish to volunteer to serve at a ministry in CCF on a regular basis.



SESSION 4

# WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

# EXPLORE

Give a one-word description of the way the following creatures “walk”:

1. Duck
2. Kangaroo
3. Sea lion
4. Earthworm

## LEARNING NUGGET

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The creatures above have a distinct way of “walking”, and their walk is a part of their identifying characteristics. As followers of Christ, we too are to be distinguished in the way we walk as we travel along life’s journey—we are to “walk in the Spirit” (see Galatians 5:16, 25). In this lesson, we will discover just how we can do that.

## 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?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

*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**

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Is it possible to believe and not repent?

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?

Will a committed follower of Christ still fail?

*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**

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

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.

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*But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.<sup>17</sup> 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**

## **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

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## b. Spiritual warfare

- Satan  
Read 1 Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:11-12
- World  
Read 1 John 2:15-17 and Romans 12:2
- Flesh  
Read Romans 7:15,19 and Romans 7:24-25

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

### **Romans 8:1-2**

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.

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

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. <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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

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### 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?

Read Luke 1:15 and John 10:41-42

### 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. <sup>17</sup> 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**

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## b. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit

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

**Galatians 5:22-23**

*“Christlikeness is the eternal predestinating purpose of God.”*

**John Stott**

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled** with the Spirit,<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;<sup>21</sup> 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)
- Being subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21-22, Ephesians 6:1, 5)

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

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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**

(Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 5:6)

### **b. Surrender your life to Jesus**

(Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2)

*“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

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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.

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*“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)

**d. Claim His promise by faith**

(1 John 5:14-15)

*...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.

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*“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

1 Timothy 4:7-8

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

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*“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**



## EXPERIENCE

How sure are you that you are filled (empowered, directed and controlled) with the Holy Spirit right at this moment? What gives you the confidence that you are, or, what makes you unsure that you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

If you are unsure, and if you want to be sure, then simply and by faith let God know about your sincere desire to be filled with His Spirit:

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.”*

Review **The Holy Spirit: Power for Living** booklet pages 6-26 this week.



APPENDIX A

# Answer Key to Session 2

**EXPLORE Activity**

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## **Answer Key to EXPLORE Activity:**

### **1. Shingle Froe**

A shingle froe is a specialized tool for making shingles. The strange name comes from the antiquated word “forward” which means “away”, in reference to the direction that the tool cuts.

### **2. Stanley #1 Odd Jobs**

Stanley produced this all-in-one layout tool between 1888 and the 1930s. It looks like a directional arrow from a street sign and was originally advertised as 10 tools in one (including level, depth gauge, try square, and compass).

### **3. Adze**

The adze can be traced back to at least ancient Egypt. You use the adze to shape tree trunks and square them up into beams. It looks like an axe with the blade oriented on the horizontal.

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#### 4. **Channel lock Rescue Tool**

This lifesaving tool has functions designed specifically for a rescue worker. It can cut wire, tighten a fire-hose coupling, pry a door open, and even close down a gas valve. And it's just about the right size to fit in a back pocket.

#### 5. **Timber Scribe**

Think of this one as an 18th-century Sharpie. During the heyday of timber framing, builders would use this tool to number beam ends for layout purposes—sort of like “tab A into slot B.” If you're ever in an old house with exposed beams, look for gouged-out Roman numerals at the beam ends and you'll see the work of a timber scribe.



APPENDIX B

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Source:  
<https://spiritualgiftstest.com>

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## **Administration**

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of administration is *Kubernesis*. This is a unique term that refers to a shipmaster or captain. The literal meaning is “to steer,” or “to rule or govern.” It carries the idea of someone who guides and directs a group of people toward a goal or destination. We see variations of this word in verses like Acts 27:11, and Revelation 18:17.

With this gift the Holy Spirit enables certain Christians to organize, direct, and implement plans to lead others in the various ministries of the Church. This gift is closely related to the gift of leadership, but is more goal or task oriented and is also more concerned with details and organization. See also I Corinthians 12:28, Titus 1:4-5.

## **Apostleship**

The spiritual gift of apostleship is sometimes confused with the office of Apostle. The office of Apostle was held by a limited number of men chosen by Jesus, including the twelve disciples (Mark 3:13-19) and Paul (Romans 1:1). The requirements for the office of Apostle included being a faithful eyewitness of Jesus’ ministry and His resurrection (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1), and being called by Jesus Himself (Galatians 1:1). The Apostles were given authority by Jesus to do many different things to establish the church, including writing Scripture and performing miracles (John 14:26, 2 Peter 3:15-16, 2 Corinthians 12:12).

There are no more that hold the office of Apostle today, but the gift of apostleship continues in a different sense. Jesus gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers at His ascension (Ephesians 4:7-12), and these represent a distinct category of apostles. They do not have the authority to write Scripture as the original Apostles did. They also have a different purpose in the sense of establishing the church – the foundation has already been set.

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The mission for those with the gift of apostleship today is to plant new ministries and churches, go into places where the Gospel is not preached, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments, raise up and develop leaders, call out and lead pastors and shepherds, and much more. They often have many different gifts that allow them to fulfill their ministry. These are leaders of leaders and ministers of ministers. They are influencers. They are typically entrepreneurial and are able to take risks and perform difficult tasks. Missionaries, church planters, certain Christian scholars and institutional leaders, and those leading multiple ministries or churches often have the gift of apostleship. See also Ephesians 4:11, I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 9:1.

### **Discernment**

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of “discernment of spirits” or “distinguishing between spirits.” The Greek word for the gift of discernment is Diakrisis. The word describes being able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching. See also I Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:3-6; 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1.

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## **Evangelism**

All Christians are called to evangelize and reach out to the lost with the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), but some are given an extra measure of faith and effectiveness in this area. The spiritual gift of evangelism is found in Ephesians 4:11-12 where Paul says that Jesus “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” The Greek word for evangelists is *Euaggelistes* which means “one who brings good news.” This word is only found two other places in the New Testament: Acts 21:8 and 2 Timothy 4:5.

Evangelists are given the unique ability by the Holy Spirit to clearly and effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others. They are burdened in their hearts for the lost and will go out of their way to share the truth with them. Evangelists are able to overcome the normal fear of rejection and engage non-believers in meaningful conversations about Jesus. Their gift allows them to communicate with all types of people and therefore they receive a greater response to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. They continually seek out relationships with those who don't know Jesus and are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to approach different people. They love giving free treasure away for Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:7), and it brings them great joy knowing that the “feet that bring good news” are beautiful to those who believe (Isaiah 52:7). See Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:5-12, 26-40, 21:8, Matthew 28:18-20.

## **Exhortation**

The spiritual gift of exhortation is often called the “gift of encouragement.” The Greek word for this gift is *Parakaleo*. It means to beseech, exhort, call upon, to encourage and to strengthen. The primary means of exhortation is to remind the hearer of the powerful and amazing work of God in Christ, particularly in regard to the saving work of Jesus in the atonement. We see Paul commanding Titus to use this gift in Titus 1:9 and throughout chapter 2, particularly Titus 2:11-15. He also charges Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2.

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The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith. Those with the gift of exhortation can uplift and motivate others as well as challenge and rebuke them in order to foster spiritual growth and action. The goal of the encourager is to see everyone in the church continually building up the body of Christ and glorifying God. See also Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24; 14:21-22; 15:32.

### **Faith**

The spiritual gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith. All Christians have been given saving faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but not all receive this special gift of faith. The word for faith in the New Testament is *Pistis*. It carries the notion of confidence, certainty, trust, and assurance in the object of faith. The gift of faith is rooted in one's saving faith in Christ and the trust that comes through a close relationship with the Savior. Those with this gift have a trust and confidence in God that allows them to live boldly for Him and manifest that faith in mighty ways.

In the Bible the gift of faith is often accompanied by great works of faith. In Acts 3:1-10 we see this gift in action when Peter sees a lame man at the Beautiful Gate and calls on him to stand up and walk in the Name of Jesus. Jesus said even a small amount of this faith could move mountains (Matthew 17:20; 21:21). Paul echoed this truth in 1 Corinthians 13:2.

The Holy Spirit distributes this gift to some in the church to encourage and build up the church in her confidence in God. Those with the gift of faith trust that God is sovereign and He is good. They take Him at His Word and put the full weight of their lives in His hands. They expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs a miracle. See also I Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11:1-40.

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## **Giving**

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is *Metadidomi*. It simply means “to impart” or “to give.” However, this word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: *Haplotes*. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. The word *Haplotes* means “sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy.”

The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves. The goal is to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God’s love and provision. Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy. They are grateful when someone shares a need with them, and are always joyful when they can meet that need. See Romans 12:8, 13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philippians 4:10-18.

## **Healing**

The spiritual gift of healing found in 1 Corinthians 12:9 is actually plural in the Greek. *Charismata iamaton* is literally translated “gifts of healings.” This spiritual gift is closely related to the gifts of faith and miracles. All spiritual gifts are to be exercised in faith, but gifts of healings involve a special measure of it. This gift is interesting in that there is no guarantee that a person will always be able to heal anyone he or she desires. It is subject to the sovereign will of God, as all spiritual gifts are.

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The Disciples were given authority to heal and cast out demons, but they were not always successful. The Apostle Paul was not able to heal himself and was told that God's grace was sufficient to carry him through his infirmity without removing it from him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). This gift is given at various times and places to reveal the God of heaven to the sick and tormented. If healing is not granted, then we can conclude that God has greater plans for letting the person go through the illness or infirmity.

The spiritual gift of healing is an intimate one as it reveals the heart and compassion of God. Jesus is the Great Healer and Physician and during His ministry on earth He healed countless people and cast out demons (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; 9:35, Mark 1:34). Healings reveal that God is near to His people and He cares about their sufferings. Healings are meant to draw people to God through His Son Jesus Christ. God wants those healed to respond in faith with thanksgiving and love as the leper did in Luke 17:15-19, and as the demon-possessed man did in Mark 5:18-20. By God's grace, physical healing should lead to spiritual healing (faith in Jesus) and eternal life with Him in heaven.

Those who have this gift are compassionate toward the sick and pray over them regularly. They have great faith and trust that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to. They are motivated knowing that God's revealed power will draw people to faith in Jesus. Their ultimate concern is the spiritual well-being of those being healed and their relationship with Jesus. They yearn for the day that there will be no more pain and suffering, and sin will no longer wreak havoc on the people of God. See 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30, James 5:13-16.

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## **Interpretation of Tongues**

The spiritual gift of interpretation of tongues is found alongside the gift of speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10. The Greek word for interpretation is *hermeneia* and simply means to interpret, explain, or expound some message that is not able to be understood in a natural way. Thus, this spiritual gift is the supernatural ability to understand and explain messages uttered in an unknown language.

This is a revelatory gift, meaning that God “reveals” the meaning of the words or message being spoken and allows the interpreter to communicate its meaning to those who need to hear it. When this happens in the church two things happen: the church is edified and God is glorified.

The spiritual gift of interpretation is given by the Holy Spirit to certain individuals to reveal messages spoken in an unknown tongue to God for the building up of the church. Like the gift of prophecy, tongues that are interpreted have the effect of encouraging and blessing the church to love and serve God more deeply and effectively. See also 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30; 14:1-28.

## **Knowledge**

The spiritual gift of knowledge is also known as the “word of knowledge” or “utterance of knowledge.” The Greek word for this gift is *Gnosis* and it simply means knowledge and understanding. The Scriptural emphasis in 1 Corinthians 12:8 is on the ability to speak this knowledge to others in a given situation. In the opening passages of 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of knowledge and recognized that the highest form of knowledge among men is the Gospel of Jesus Christ (i.e. the testimony about Christ, cf. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7). What we can conclude then is the gift of knowledge is an understanding of the things in this world and in our lives that is founded in the Gospel and rooted in the Scriptures. This gift is closely related to the gift of wisdom which is alluded to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

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The Holy Spirit gives this spiritual gift to some believers to bring about understanding and to inform the church or individual believers. The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures and often has much committed to memory. They can retain the truth and communicate it effectively at the appropriate times. The gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures, and particularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all aspects of life in this world. They can see how it connects to every situation and circumstance and how the reality and truth of the Gospel is to inform every decision a Christian makes. See also 1 Corinthians 12:8; Romans 15:14; 2 Corinthians 2:14.

### **Leadership**

The spiritual gift of leadership is closely related to the gift of administration and, interestingly, the spiritual gift of pastor/shepherd. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of leadership is *proistemi*. This word means to lead, to assist, to protect and to care for others. The spiritual gift of leadership is found in Romans 12:8 sandwiched between the gifts of giving and of mercy. It is placed there intentionally to show that it is a gift associated with caring for others. This is what connects it to the gift of pastor/shepherd, and what differentiates it from the gift of administration. It is more people oriented than task oriented in its application. This is not to say those with the gift of administration do not care for people, of course they do, but those with the spiritual gift of leadership focus on people and relationships more directly.

The word *proistemi* is connected to caring for people in other passages as well. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Paul says to “respect those who labor among you and are over (*proistemi*) you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.” The labor and work of those who were leading the believers in Thessalonica was that of tirelessly caring for their souls. Paul also connects leadership to caring for others when he asks, “If someone does not know how to manage (*proistemi*) his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:5

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The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some in the church to care for God’s people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and each other. They base their success on how well they help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus. They are able to accomplish many different tasks and objectives as they lead, but they will always lead relationally and with a deep concern for the well-being of others. They are “visionary” and less concerned with mundane details than those with the spiritual gift of administration. Many are entrepreneurial and willing to take risks to see the kingdom of God advanced through the church. They will go to great lengths to protect those under their care and are well-equipped to lead through crisis situations. See also Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; 5:17.

### **Mercy**

All Christians are called to be merciful because God has been merciful to us (Matthew 18:33; Ephesians 2:4-6). The Greek word for the spiritual gift of mercy is *Eleeo*. It means to be patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering or afflicted. The concern for the physical as well as spiritual need of those who are hurting is covered by the gift of mercy. Those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process. They are truly and literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of mercy to some in the church to love and assist those who are suffering, and walk with them until The Lord allows their burden to be lifted. The gift of mercy is founded in God’s mercy towards us as sinners and is consistently expressed with measurable compassion. Those with this gift are able to “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) and “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). They are sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others and can quickly discern when someone is not doing well. They are typically good listeners and feel the need to simply “be there” for others. See Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7; Luke 10:30-37; James 3:17; Jude 22-23.

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## Miracles

The spiritual gift of miracles is described in Scripture much like the gift of healing. It is found in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and the Greek phrase *energēmata dynamēon* literally translates “workings of powers.” The double plural most likely means that these gifts were diverse and were not permanently available at the will of the gifted believer, but instead were bestowed at various times and circumstances. Thus, the gifts are subject to the divine will of God and His purposes and are not decided by the one who performs the miraculous works.

We know that Jesus performed many miracles in His earthly ministry, even more than those recorded in Scripture (John 20:30-31, Acts 2:22). The Apostles regularly performed miracles of all kinds including casting out demons, healings, raising people from the dead, striking people dead, causing blindness, and much more (Acts 2:43; 3:1-10; 5:1-16; 9:36-43; 13:4-12; 19:11-12). Other believers performed miracles as well, including Stephen (Acts 6:8) and Phillip (Acts 8:4-8).

Miracles were given by God to the church to reveal the presence and glory of God among His people and to create a sense of awe and wonder and Godly fear. Though there were many enemies of the church, often the result of miracles being performed was more people coming to faith in Jesus and glorifying God, as well as greater faith and boldness within the church (Acts 4:29-31; 9:35, 42).

Those with the spiritual gift of miracles often have a heightened sensitivity to the presence and power of God through His Holy Spirit. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal Himself and draw many to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. They take care not to draw attention to themselves or have a following of people, but are constantly pointing others to Jesus. Those with this gift understand that God is Sovereign and He can work when and how He desires, but they make sure they are available and listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This gift is often accompanied by prayer and strong petition by these individuals for God to reveal His glory to people. They do not claim power themselves, but always give credit and glory to God for His mighty works. Often God will

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deliberately humble them to keep them relying on His grace and pointing to His Son, rather than miracles. See also 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29; Acts 1:8; Galatians 3:5.

### **Pastor / Shepherd**

The spiritual gift of pastor or pastor/shepherd is one that carries many different responsibilities. This gift is closely related to the spiritual gifts of leadership and teaching. The Greek word for pastor is Poimen and simply means shepherd or overseer.

In the Biblical context, shepherds had several different responsibilities to their sheep and ultimately, to the owner of the sheep. They kept a lookout for predators and protected the sheep from attackers. They cared for wounded and sick sheep, nursing them back to health. They rescued them if they became lost or trapped. They spent enormous amounts of time with them guiding them to the places of nourishment and rest. The result was a trust and relationship that kept the sheep following the shepherd. The sheep were attuned to the shepherd's voice to the point that even if they were temporarily mixed with another herd, at the call of the shepherd they would separate and follow him.

Pastors are called shepherds because their calling and gifting are much like those who care for sheep. They are called and gifted to care for the spiritual well-being of a local body of God's people. Pastors are first and foremost servants. They are servants of God and servants of His bride, the church. They are given a mixture of abilities by grace that allows them to serve the needs of an entire community.

The goal of the pastor is to reveal the glory of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to a people who need God's grace for life. The primary way the pastor will do this is by teaching the Word of God to the church. The gift of pastor is directly linked to the gift of teaching in Ephesians 4:11 and elsewhere. In fact, this gift could be called the gift of pastor-teacher. The ability to teach the Scriptures is also one of the many requirements of being an overseer

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(1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). By teaching the Scriptures to the church, the pastor feeds the “sheep” of God.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of pastor to some in the church to humbly teach them, guide them, protect them, and to lead them in the mission that God has for His church, namely the Great Commission. The pastor loves the Gospel of Jesus Christ and puts it at the center of his life and ministry. Pastors do not seek fame or recognition for themselves, but they are placed in a position of authority by the Holy Spirit. The role of a pastor is one of humility and service as he is reminded daily of his overwhelming need of God’s grace for the task at hand. See also Ephesians 4:11; Jeremiah 3:15; Acts 20:28; John 10:11-18.

### **Prophecy**

The spiritual gift of prophecy is an extraordinary and unique gift. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:1 to “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” This gift is a blessing to the church and should not be quenched or despised (1 Thessalonians 5:20). Those who have the gift of prophecy differ from the Old Testament Prophets who spoke the authoritative Word of God directly. Their words were recorded as Scripture as they proclaimed, “Thus says The Lord,” whereas the messages from those with the spiritual gift of prophecy must be tested (1 Corinthians 14:29-33; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; 1 John 4:1-3). In the New Testament the Apostles, not the prophets, took over the role of Scriptural proclamation from the Old Testament Prophets.

The Greek word for the gift of prophecy is *propheteia* which is the ability to receive a divinely inspired message and deliver it to others in the church. These messages can take the form of exhortation, correction, disclosure of secret sins, prediction of future events, comfort, inspiration, or other revelations given to equip and edify the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 24-25). Again, they do not constitute the authoritative Word of God, but are the human interpretation of the revelation that was received. They are spoken in human words through a human mind which is why they must be tested against the Scriptures (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).

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The Holy Spirit gives the gift of prophecy to some believers to make God's heart known and to edify the church. This gift is for the benefit of both believers and unbelievers and is a sign that God is truly among His church (1 Corinthians 14:22-25). Those with this gift are sensitive to both the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the church body. They should be humble and continually study the Scriptures in order to test these revelations before speaking them. When they do speak, they should allow and even expect others to weigh what is said against the Scriptures and interpret the message accordingly. In this way the church may be continually built up together in unity (1 Corinthians 14:4, 26). See also Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-5, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11.

### **Serving / Ministering**

The spiritual gift of service, or ministering, covers a wide range of activities in its application. There are two Greek words for this gift. The first one, found in Romans 12:7, is *Diakonia*. The basic meaning of this word is "to wait tables," but it is most often translated in the Bible as "ministry." It refers to any act of service done in genuine love for the edification of the community. The word *Antilepsis* is translated "helping" and is found in 1 Corinthians 12:28. It has a similar meaning: to help or aid in love within the community.

The Holy Spirit endows some believers with this gift to fill the many gaps of ministry and meet the needs of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. The goal is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest. The result is the continued edification of the church and the added ability to see beyond its own needs and reach out into the community.

We see people with this gift in passages like Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, and many others. Those with the gift of service are committed to the spread of the Gospel.

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They serve in ways that benefit others with different gifts and ministries that are more public. They have a heart devoted to Jesus and a desire to follow His command and example in Matthew 20:25-28 (cf. Mark 10:42-45). Those with this gift do not seek recognition or a position in the “spotlight,” they just love to help out. They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church, display the love of Christ to the world, and bring glory to God. See also Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 28, Acts 20:35; 2 Timothy 4:11; Revelation 2:19.

### **Teaching**

The spiritual gift of teaching is one that carries a heavy responsibility in the church. In fact, James 3:1 warns, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.” Like every believer, teachers are to be stewards of every word that comes out of their mouths. But the greater responsibility to which they are called is to be stewards of the Word of God to His people. Teachers have been entrusted with the task of effectively communicating what the Bible says, what it means, and how we as followers of Jesus Christ are to apply it to our lives here and now.

The Greek word for those with the spiritual gift of teaching is *didaskalos*. From the root of this word we get our English word, “didactic.” The word *didasko* means to teach, instruct, instill doctrine, explain, and expound. Those with the spiritual gift of teaching love to study the Word of God for extended periods of time. They consume the Scriptures as food for their hearts, souls and minds with the expressed purpose of knowing Him and then making Him known to others. They want to know what God has revealed of Himself and what He requires of us as people created in His image. They take great joy and satisfaction in seeing others learn and apply the truth of God’s Word to their lives. They love to see how the Gospel is woven throughout the Scriptures and how it glorifies and magnifies Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of those who love Him by grace.

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The Holy Spirit gives certain people the spiritual gift of teaching so that they would help the church fulfill her ministry as “a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Without this gift, the church would quickly fall into error and sin. Teachers are there to make sure that doesn’t happen. They hate when Scripture is abused and used out of context or with ill intent. They love the truth and speak the truth in love. They will never hide or withhold it. On the contrary, they desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who taught in the synagogues and in the Temple as well as anywhere the people were gathered. They are called to demonstrate God’s love while revealing His truth to the world without fear. The effect of their ministry is the upholding of God’s Word and the growth and maturity of His Bride until the day of His return. See also Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; James 3:1

### **Tongues**

The spiritual gift of tongues is more accurately called the gift of languages. The Greek word for tongues is glossa, which literally means “tongue.” When it is used in the New Testament addressing the subject of spiritual gifts it carries the contextual meaning of “languages.” Speaking in tongues is the utterance of prayer or of a message glorifying God, typically spoken to God (1 Corinthians 14:2), in a language that is unknown to the one speaking it.

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To properly understand this gift, we need to begin with a brief history of language in the human race. In the garden mankind had one language and was in direct communication with God, having perfect communion with Him. Unfortunately, this relationship changed at the fall when Adam sinned against God and he and Eve were cursed and banished from Eden along with their descendants. Mankind continued to have one language up until Genesis 11 where God confused their language and people were dispersed throughout the earth. He did this because they had united together in one language and conspired to build a tower at Babel. Their intention was to “make a name” for themselves and thus replace God in their hearts. Pride is the birthplace of sin and regrettably fallen man has decided to use every advantage, including language, to usurp God’s authority and place himself upon a throne which is not rightfully his.

After God confused their language and scattered them across the earth, He chose one people with one language to bring Him glory and draw mankind back to Himself. Abram, later called Abraham, was the one through whom God promised to bless “all the nations.” Eventually, through the nation of Israel, the Hebrew language would be used to communicate God’s Word to the nations. However, the rest of the world did not speak or understand this language and for the most part continued to remain ignorant of God’s plan of redemption.

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Fast forward to Pentecost and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the people of God. Here we see a glimpse of God's reversal of the curse of divided languages. In Acts 2 people from all over the world hear God's people proclaiming His mighty works in their own languages. This is the beginning of the redemption of language for its intended purpose: to glorify God and draw all people to Himself.

In heaven an innumerable group from every nation, tribe, people and tongue will join together to praise God with one language. (See Revelation 7:9-12. This is where tongues will cease as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.) The intention of the spiritual gift of tongues is to glorify God now, but also to prepare ourselves as His church to glorify Him forever in heaven. The gift however is only partial, in that it is not given to all believers, and in the context of the church requires an interpreter in order for it to be edifying.

There is much more to be said about the spiritual gift of tongues, but we will summarize a few points here:

- Not every believer receives this gift. The gift of tongues is not a requirement or a necessary sign of salvation. See 1 Corinthians 12:30.
- Tongues can be human languages such as those heard in Acts 2, but often may be languages no one understands. See 1 Corinthians 14:2.
- Tongues are not “ecstatic speech” but are always orderly and are able to be controlled by the one speaking. See 1 Corinthians 14:27-28, 33, 39-40
- No tongues should be spoken in the church gathering without interpretation. See 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
- Tongues should not be forbidden. See 1 Corinthians 14:39.

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The Holy Spirit gives some believers the spiritual gift of tongues to glorify God and, with the help of an interpreter, to edify the church. This gift is dealt with extensively in the Scriptures and its use should not be discouraged. That said, it should be used properly with pure motives and intentions, of course in the power and prompting of the Holy Spirit. See also 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30, 14:4, 39, Acts 2:4, Acts 19:6.

### **Wisdom**

The spiritual gift of wisdom, like the gift of knowledge, is also referred to as the “word of wisdom” or “utterance of wisdom.” The Greek word for wisdom is *sophia* and it refers to the intimate understanding of God’s Word and His commandments which results in holy and upright living. In the context of 1 Corinthians 12:8, it means to speak to the life of an individual or to a specific situation with great understanding and a righteous perspective, with the goal of guiding others toward a life of holiness and worship.

Several Scriptures reveal the true beauty and fruit of wisdom. Psalm 111:10 says: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!” Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD. It begins with knowing who God is and who we are in comparison to Him. That leads to understanding and then to practicing righteousness. A life of wisdom ultimately results in the praise of God.

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James 3:17 says “the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” This is undoubtedly a work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The highest wisdom is found in the cross of Christ, which is “folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The Holy Spirit gives some the spiritual gift of wisdom to not only impart the truth and understanding to believers, but to invoke a response of holiness and worship lived out in the world and amongst God’s people. Wisdom doesn’t end with knowledge, but is expressed in transformed hearts and lives.

Those with the gift of wisdom have a deep understanding of the holiness of God and the lack of holiness in their own hearts. They can recognize this in others as well and have the compassion and boldness to share that truth with them. They are able to take from their own life experiences and share what God has taught them through those things. They can easily recognize where a decision or action may lead and can warn against those that may be harmful or unfruitful. They can often see through the confusion of a situation and can give direction that would help an individual or group obtain a God-glorifying goal. The church needs those with the spiritual gift of wisdom to guide her through uncertain or difficult times. See also 1 Corinthians 1:17-31, 2:1-16, 12:8; Colossians 1:9-10, 2:1-3; James 3:13-18

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