



THE WORK OF **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

RICHARD ELWELL



THE WORK OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHY IDEAS MATTER.

www.ultimateoutcomes.org

Ultimate Outcomes is a non-profit organization founded on the fruit of the 30 plus years Pastor Richard Elwell and his wife Marty spent in church ministry, developing studies that would help their congregants discern and apply God's truth. Richard was a firm believer that the outcomes in our lives are a result of what ideas we choose to believe and follow.

After Richard died of a rare liver disease in 2018, Ultimate Outcomes has taken on the mission of sharing the Elwells' insights with all who desire to live a better life and are willing to look to God for understanding of the way they are to go. To that end, it makes available for free download on its website: Bible studies, Sunday school curriculum, and sermon podcasts.

Richard earned a Master of Divinity degree from the International School of Theology and was the founding and senior pastor at University Park Church, San Bernardino, CA for over 30 years. His passion was always to make God's truth understandable and applicable to all who hunger for it. Marty holds a Master's Degree in Teaching Processes from Claremont Graduate University. Her passion has been to train women and provide curriculum for parents who want to raise their children up in the ways of the Lord.

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Preface



I want to express my appreciation to my good friend and Bible study companion, Ashley McCullough, who contributed so much to the depth of insight contained in this study. As we worked through the study Richard wrote together, our prayer was that our understanding of and relationship with the Holy Spirit would grow greatly. We felt like we had been limping along in our Christian walk with limited appreciation of the robust person of the Holy Spirit. He was almost like a distant relative that we had relegated to the fringes of a family gathering.

Thank God for answered prayer because our perception of the Spirit began to change. We saw that just as the Spirit was hovering over the waters at creation, observing and participating in the formation of the physical world, he was hovering in the reality of our lives, waiting to participate in them. We learned that as the Spirit is humble and unobtrusive the fullness of our getting to know him depended on our recognition of our need for him and then ardently seeking him.

In addition, as we read the accounts of believers in the scriptures, we became more conscious of the fact that the same Spirit who filled them wants to fill us. The degree of our filling depends on the degree of our acknowledgement of and submission to Christ.


May God do a work in you as he has been doing in us as you seek to know more fully the person of his Holy Spirit.





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LESSON ONE

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

INTRODUCTION



LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will develop understanding of the triune nature of God and the person of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4** – ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

How many Gods are there?

2. **Matthew 3:16-17**

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased."

What can be learned about the person of God from the description of the baptism of Jesus?

3. **John 14:10**

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

What is the relationship of the Son to the Father?

4. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. What is the doctrine of the trinity?



Illustration: A book is one essence, but has three dimensions: height, width and depth. They are separate entities of the one book. Take away one of the dimensions and the book will no longer exist.



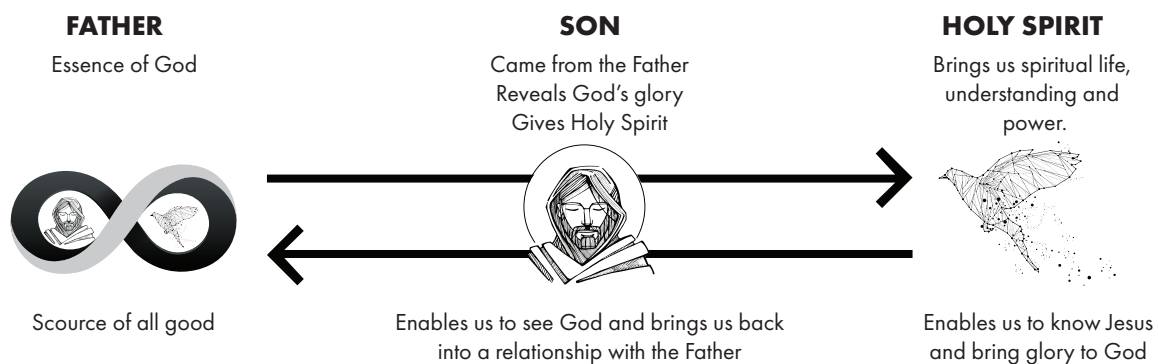


AN EXPLANATION OF THE TRINITY

The **Father** is the essence of God. The Father is whom we think of when we refer generally to God. In the Bible, God is said to dwell on high and oversee his creation.

The **Son (Jesus)** is God in the flesh. Jesus came to earth as a man in physical form to reveal the glory, truth and nature of God. He made a way for us to come back into a right relationship with God by dying on the cross. Jesus is the means by which we come to know the Father.

The **Holy Spirit** is God's presence here on earth. The Holy Spirit dwells with us when we put our faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the power to live rightly with God and provides the means by which we understand our need for a savior and come to know Jesus.



Explanation: Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was sent to earth by the Father to testify to the truth of God, reveal God's glory, and die on the cross for the sins of all people. After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he left his Holy Spirit to be with us here on earth and lead us in his way.

The Father is the e _____ of God; the source of all that is good.

The Son is God in the f _____, the means to know and enter a relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit is the p _____ and p _____ of God with us on earth.

Illustration: The triune nature of God can be better understood when compared to the nature and effect of the sun. There are three distinct aspects to the sun that are part of the essential whole and can't exist separately: the sun itself, the sunlight that comes from the sun and the effect of sunlight on the earth.



SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON, NOT A FORCE

1. The person of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:17 - ¹⁷ *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

1 Corinthians 2:11 - ¹¹ *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

In order to know God's thoughts, what must the Holy Spirit have?

The Spirit has a m _____.

Ephesians 4:30 - ³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

What does our being able to grieve the Holy Spirit mean he has?

The Spirit has e _____.

1 Corinthians 12:11 - ¹¹ *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

What does the way the Spirit gives out gifts mean he has?

The Spirit has a w _____.

2. What are the implications of these three aspects of the person of the Holy Spirit for us?

Mind/Intellect:

Emotions/Feelings/Sensibilities:

Will:

3. What difference does it make that the Holy Spirit is a he (person) rather than an it (force)?





Illustration: Electricity is a force that can be channeled and utilized for good or bad purposes. There is nothing personal about electricity; you can't have a relationship with it.



THE SPIRIT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER AND THE SON

1. **Matthew 10:20** – ²⁰*for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

What is the Spirit's relationship to the Father?

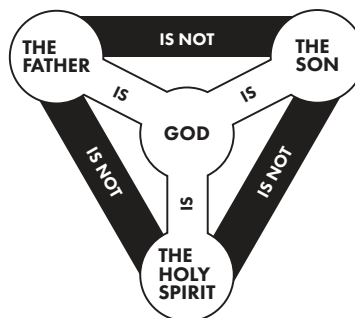
2. **Philippians 1:19** – ¹⁹*for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.*

What is the Spirit's relationship to Jesus?

3. **John 15:26** – ²⁶*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.*

John 16:7 – ⁷*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

The Holy Spirit proceeds from both the F _____ and the S _____ to
do the w _____ of God, d _____ in believers and t _____ about Jesus.



THINKING IT THROUGH



THE FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. How did the Holy Spirit function in creation?

Genesis 1:2 - ² *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

2. How did the Holy Spirit function in the life of Christ?

Luke 1:35 - ³⁵ *The angel answered [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

Matthew 4:1 - ¹ *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

Luke 4:18 - ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*



Note: In the verse above, Jesus was quoting the Prophet Isaiah.

3. How does the Holy Spirit function in the lives of believers?

Acts 1:8 - ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Romans 8:13 - ¹³ *For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Romans 8:14 - ¹⁴ *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

Romans 8:26 - ²⁶ *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*



2 Thessalonians 2:13 - ¹³ *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*



Note: Sanctification is the process by which a believer is changed into a new person, overcomes the power of sin and is empowered to serve Christ.

4. How did the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life on earth compare to the work he does in our lives?

5. The Holy Spirit is the third p _____ of the trinity. He is the p _____ and p _____ of God sent by God to a _____ the w _____ of God.
The Holy Spirit is the m _____ by which God accomplishes his w _____.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL

Colossians 1:9-12

⁹*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

1. What did Paul want the Colossians to be filled with? (vs. 9)

2. Why did he want that for them? (vs. 10)

3. How would they be able to do that? (vs. 11)

4. What is the relationship between our will, God's will and the Holy Spirit?





Remember: Living a life that pleases God has two main components supplied by his Spirit.

1. Knowing God's will – The Spirit imparts spiritual wisdom and understanding.
2. Being strengthened – The Spirit empowers us to do God's will.

Romans 15:17-19

¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—
¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

1. How did Paul proclaim the gospel and accomplish the work of Christ?
2. What does that mean for us in terms of our service to God?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. Do you more often think of the Holy Spirit as a person or a force?
What is the evidence of that?
2. In what ways do you seek and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower you?
3. In what ways do you seek the Holy Spirit for understanding?
4. What needs to change in the way you relate to the Spirit?



PERSONAL ACTION

Identify an area where you are struggling to do the will of God and seek the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to be able to accomplish the will of God and overcome the power of sin in your life.

PRAYER

Pray for greater sensitivity to your need for the Holy Spirit and his work in your life. Pray that your knowledge and awareness of the Holy Spirit would increase as you work through this study.



LESSON TWO

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

The last lesson examined “Who is the Holy Spirit?”

1. The Holy Spirit is the th _____ p _____ of the t _____.
2. Being a person means the Holy Spirit has a m _____ e _____ and
w _____.
3. What difference does it make in the way we relate to the Holy Spirit if he is a person rather than a force?
4. The Holy Spirit is the m _____ by which God accomplishes his w _____.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson covers the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. It examines the Spirit’s work in the lives of unbelievers. The next lesson will look at the Spirit’s work in the lives of believers. How do you think the work of the Holy Spirit in the world is different from that in the life of a believer?



SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE WORLD

John 15:26-16:11

²⁶"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. ²⁷And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

¹⁶"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. ²They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

⁵"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regards to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1. What are the two names that Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit? (vs. 26)



Note: The word counselor (paraclete) in verses 15:26 and 16:7 refers to a legal counselor or advocate, one who gives legal aid and advice.

2. Who thinks they need legal assistance?
3. The first job of a good attorney is to let his client know what his legal standing is in terms of the charges against him. How does the first job of a good attorney relate to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world?



Note: The word convict (elencho) in verse 16:8 means to tell an offender his fault, how he is guilty under the law.

4. The second thing a good attorney does for his client is to give him the best legal remedy for his situation. How does the second thing an attorney does relate to the Holy Spirit's work in the world?

15:26

16:8-9



5. What is the legal remedy the Holy Spirit presents to the problem of sin.



THE WORLD'S NEED FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Under each verse summarize the reason that the world needs the work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 - ¹⁴*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Ephesians 4:18 - ¹⁸*They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

John 6:44 - ⁴⁴*"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

2. Without the work of the Holy Spirit in the world, what would happen to people?



COMMON AND SAVING GRACE

John 1:6-13

⁶*There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

¹⁰*He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

1. What does the light do to all people?

2. What happens to those who receive the light?



3. What is the difference between common grace and saving grace?

4. Common grace is the grace God shows to all people through his long-suffering and forbearance, which delays the punishment people deserve and gives time and opportunity for them to repent and receive God's saving grace.

Saving grace is the gracious gift of God given to those who put their faith in Jesus and the work he did on their behalf. Saving grace is the grace that saves sinners from the penalty and power of their sin and gives them a new nature in Jesus and entrance into God's eternal kingdom.

The Holy Spirit's work in the world is the work of God's c _____ grace.

Holy Spirit's work in the lives of believers is God's s _____ grace.

Without the c _____ of the Spirit revealing man's s _____,
the door of God's m _____ or saving grace remains closed.

5. Who in the world benefits from the work of the Spirit of God?

6. Who in the world doesn't benefit from the work of the Holy Spirit?

THINKING IT THROUGH



THE CONVICTING WORK OF THE SPIRIT – RICHARD'S TESTIMONY

As a young man in my early 20s, I was living a self-centered, hedonistic lifestyle in Mammoth Mountain, California. Late one night after partying and drinking, a friend and I decided to go to the hot springs in the desert below. As I was preparing to jump into the warm waters I looked down and was shocked to see a body floating there.

I immediately grabbed the body and pulled it up on shore to begin CPR. As I was doing chest compressions, someone came up next to me and said, "It's too late. He's been dead a while." Immediately I fired questions like, What do you mean? Who is he? Who are you?

The man who had come up to me said that he and a group of friends were up there partying, drinking and smoking and that at some point their friend fell into the water and drowned. I was self-righteously irate and spewed out venomous words, "How could you do that to your friend? How could you just leave him there and go on partying?"



Fuming, I marched off and climbed up the trail to notify the sheriff. As I fumed a voice broke through my self-righteous thoughts, "Richard, you're just like them. You put alcohol above people all the time." As hard as I tried to shove that thought out, I couldn't. Looking back I could see that moment as the first time the Holy Spirit broke through my hard heart with conviction.

From that moment on the Holy Spirit began orchestrating the events of my life. As a result, just a few months later, after recognizing the fullness of my depravity and dependence on alcohol, I put my faith in Jesus and the work he did on my behalf. Because of his saving grace I was able to leave that life, move ahead and only look back to remember what I was saved from. The prayers of my family for my salvation were answered.

What can you learn about the work of the Holy Spirit through Richard's testimony?



THE CONVINCING WORK OF THE SPIRIT – MARTY'S TESTIMONY

During my early 20s in the Vietnam War Era, I spent two years in Paraguay in the Peace Corps. I had joined the Peace Corps to make my mark on the world and bring positive change to disadvantaged people. I was a disillusioned college graduate who had lost whatever faith I had while in college and viewed the U.S. as a disappointing and oppressive place.

My time in Paraguay changed my perceptions. I came to see that the U.S. wasn't as bad as I thought and my mind became open to the idea that there might be a God. When I came home I started going to weird churches as I felt I needed God but was resistant to the idea that I needed Jesus. It was during this time I met the man who would become my husband.

I started going with Richard to a prayer group because that is what he did every other Saturday night. At first it all seemed strange to me. A lot of time was spent praying and waiting on the Lord, but people were also prophesying and speaking in tongues. I went for weeks because I wanted to spend time with the man I had come to love and respect.

One night sitting there it dawned on me that I had come to believe in Jesus. I remember thinking, "This is true. I believe it to be true. I am a sinner and I need Jesus." There was nothing particularly noteworthy about it, just a quiet realization of faith. That summer Richard and I were married and began living a life of faith together. My father-in-law's prayers for a wife for his son were answered.

What can you learn about the work of the Holy Spirit through Marty's testimony?



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



THE SPIRIT'S STRIVING WITH MAN

Genesis 6:3 - ³ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

1. Is there a limit to the Holy Spirit's work in the world?
2. Since there is a limit to the Holy Spirit's work in the world, what is then important?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. When do you need the convicting work of the Spirit?
2. What happens if you think you don't need the convicting work of the Spirit?
3. What happens if you ignore the convicting work of the Spirit?
4. What happens if you submit to the convicting work of the Spirit?
5. When was the last time the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin and what was your response?
6. Remembering that people were praying for Richard and Marty, what unbelievers are you praying for that they would become responsive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit?





PRAYER

Pray for greater sensitivity to your need for the Holy Spirit and his work in your life. Pray that your knowledge and awareness of the Holy Spirit would increase as you work through this study.



LESSON THREE

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN BELIEVERS

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Lesson 1

1. The Holy Spirit is the th _____ p _____ of the t _____.
2. The Holy Spirit is the m _____ by which God accomplishes his w _____.

Lesson 2

1. The Spirit's work in the world is to c _____ the world of the guilt of sin and reveal to the world God's mercy in C _____.
2. Like a good legal c _____ the Holy Spirit shows people their legal d _____ and then reveals to them the legal r _____.
3. The dilemma is that we stand c _____ because of our s _____.
The remedy is that putting our f _____ in Jesus brings r _____.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. How does the work of the Holy Spirit change in a person's life after the person puts his faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN BELIEVERS

Romans 8:1-17

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1. Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus? (vs. 2)
2. What is the law of sin and death?
3. What is the law of the Spirit of life?
4. Why was God's Son made into our likeness to be a sin offering for us? (vs. 4)
5. What are the righteous requirements of the law? (vs. 4)



6. When are the righteous requirements of the law met in us? (vs. 4)
7. What is the result of setting our desires on something?
8. What is the difference between those who live according to their sinful nature and those who live according to the Spirit? (vs. 5-9)



Note: If we want what the Spirit wants, we have the freedom to do what we want because what we want to do is what is right to do. If we are dead to sin, we no longer want to sin. That is the reason Jesus was without sin; he only wanted what the Father wanted.

9. If the Holy Spirit of God lives in us, what becomes true about us? (vs. 15-16)
10. What does it mean to be a co-heir with Christ? (vs. 17)



THE PARTS OF SALVATION

The Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer as the believer yields control of his life to the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. The Holy Spirit transforms the mind and heart of the believer, changing desires. With new desires coming from a new heart, the believer becomes able to meet the righteous requirements of God's law because he now wants to do what God wants.

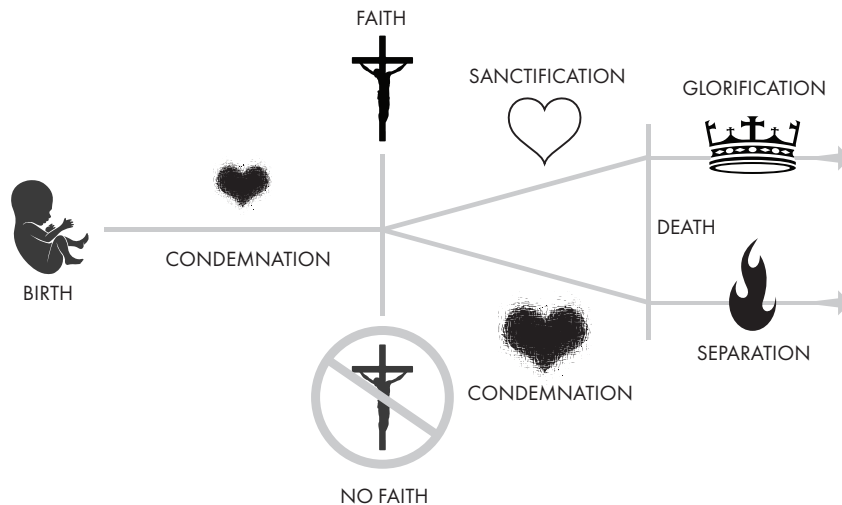
The work of the Spirit in the life of the believer is to make him holy, as God is holy. That work is called sanctification. The work of the Holy Spirit in the world is to bring people to accept their need for Christ's forgiveness and to place their faith in the work of Christ on the cross. That is justification. The work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who have been justified through faith in Christ (believers) is to sanctify (give a new nature that no longer desires sin but desires what is good and right).

The Spirit's Work in the World	The Spirit's Work in Believers
To reveal the sinful, criminal condition of every person as well as to reveal God's legal remedy, Christ crucified. (State of condemnation)	To transform a new believer from sinner to saint, from an object of wrath to an object of mercy and blessing. (Process of Sanctification)

The Holy Spirit first br _____ us to Christ and then m _____ us into the image of Christ.



He brings us out of a state of _____ into _____ ultimately ending in _____.



THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRITS WORK

Titus 3:3-7

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Definitions:

Rebirth – polingenesia (polin – again; genesis – birth)

Renewal – anakainosis (ana – again; kainosis – of a different kind)

1. What does it mean to be saved through the washing of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit? (vs. 5)
2. What is the ultimate purpose of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
3. What in this passage shows the character of God and the immense love he has for us?

THINKING IT THROUGH



THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT – MARTY'S TESTIMONY

About twelve years after putting my faith in Jesus I came to a crisis in my life. We had built a house and planted a church and I was working full-time with three young children. I was stressed and unhappy, wanting to blame everyone else for my discontent. During that time I just about destroyed my marriage and family. One time as I was ranting on criticizing other people, my husband said to me, "Marty, other people aren't your problem; your own sin is your problem." Of course that wasn't something that I wanted to hear, and I felt like throwing a chair at him.

One thing I can say about the Holy Spirit is that he is relentless. I couldn't get what my husband said out of my head. I also realized that unless I really wanted to destroy my marriage and family something about me needed to change.

It was at that point that a deep, sanctifying work of the Spirit began in my life and continues every day. Up until that time I had the attitude toward God, "Just tell me what to do and I'll do it." Just like the Pharisees of Jesus' time, I thought I could be good on my own by following God's law. Although I knew that I sinned, I saw sin as an aberration, not at the core of who I was. My breakdown caused me to see myself for who I really was, a sinner, not only in need of a savior, but also in need of the Holy Spirit to work in me and change me. I saw change wasn't something I could do on my own.

Two impactful studies came out of that crisis, which are available through Ultimate Outcomes, [Sinners Overcoming Self](#) (SOS 1) and [Saints Obeying the Spirit](#) (SOS 2). Working through those studies myself and then taking other women through them was of great benefit to me as it caused me to be continually aware of my sin and need to repent and overcome. The beneficial result has been a work of the Holy Spirit and God's truth in my life, which has brought great blessing to me and my family.

As I look back, I am grateful for the work the Holy Spirit has done in me, my marriage and family. The worst time in my life became the best time, because without it I wouldn't have learned to yield to the Holy Spirit and to open myself up to his sanctifying work. Thank God that he didn't leave me where I was. Sin is a progressive disease and if we don't deal with it, it gets worse and worse. In contrast, yielding to the Spirit brings increasing righteousness.

What was the sanctifying work the Spirit did in Marty's life?





THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT – THE APOSTLE PAUL

The Apostle Paul came to Christ through a dramatic conversion experience on the road to Damascus. At the time he was persecuting Christians and was on his way to Damascus to arrest some. (Acts 9:1-19)

Philippians 3:4b-11

If anyone thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

What was the sanctifying work the Spirit did in Paul's life after Paul put his faith in Jesus?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



GROWING IN HOLINESS

2 Peter 1:3-11

³ His divine power has given us everything we need life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. Through what do we gain everything we need for living a good life? (vs. 3)



2. "Through these" refer to what God called us by, his glory and goodness. What has God given us through his glory and goodness? (vs. 4)
3. What do you think is God's greatest and most precious promise?
4. For what two reasons has he given us his great and precious promises? (vs. 4)
5. Peter lists the characteristics of increasing holiness in verses 5-7. What is the first result of increasing in those characteristics? (vs. 8)
6. What have we forgotten about our sins if we fail to increase in holiness? (vs. 9)
7. If we've forgotten that we've been cleansed from past sins, how would that affect the way we look at present sins? (vs. 9)
8. What will be the two ultimate results if we increase in holiness by doing the listed things? (vs. 10-11)
9. How does increasing in holiness keep us from falling?
10. Refer to the following definitions when answering the questions below about increasing holiness.
 - Faith (pistos) – belief, trust
 - Goodness – moral excellence
 - Knowledge – personal familiarity with Holy Spirit and word of God
 - Self control – being able to control passions and appetites
 - Perseverance – steadfast endurance under adversity
 - Godliness – reverence towards God
 - Brotherly kindness – practical caring for others
 - Love – desiring highest good for others through sacrificial action
 - a. What would be the result if we fail to add goodness to faith?
 - b. What would be the result if we fail to add knowledge to goodness?
 - c. What would be the result if we fail to add self control to knowledge?



- d. What would be the result if we fail to add perseverance to self control?
- e. What would be the result if we fail to add godliness to perseverance?
- f. What would be the result if we fail to add brotherly kindness to godliness?
- g. What would be the result if we fail to add love to brotherly kindness?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What demonstrates that the sanctifying work of the Spirit is real in your life?
2. What characteristics of increasing holiness are missing from or need to be more evident in your life and what do you need to do about that?



PRAYER

Thank God for the gift of salvation that comes through Jesus and the power to overcome sin that comes through the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that you would yield more fully to the work of the Spirit and truly set your heart and mind on what he desires. Pray that you would increase in holiness through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.



THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

1. The fact the Holy Spirit is a person, rather than just a force, means that I need to c _____ my w _____ to G _____ w _____, rather than trying to get G _____ to c _____ to my w _____.
2. The word that Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit was paraclete, which refers to a legal advisor or advocate. A good legal advisor does two things: he advises his client of his legal d _____ and the best legal r _____.
3. The job of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is to bring believers from c _____ to g _____.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit blesses every believer with unique abilities to bless others. Through this lesson, we are seeking to gain a correct understanding of the purpose and function of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The *Ultimate Outcomes* study, What is my Calling?, has three lessons dedicated to understanding more fully the specific gifts of the Spirit and the level of obedience to which all believers are called in each of the gifts.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1. What is the definition of spiritual gifts? (vs. 7, 11)

2. Who is given spiritual gifts? (vs. 11)



THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:12-21

¹²The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

1. How are spiritual gifts given to function?



2. Why doesn't a spiritual gift have value functioning independently from the body?
3. What happens to the individual believer and the body if a gift is not utilized?
4. Why doesn't the Holy Spirit give each believer all the gifts?



THE VALUE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1. When are our spiritual gifts worthless? (vs. 1-3)
2. In the end, what will happen to all the gifts? (vs. 9)

Why?

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

3. What is love?



4. What is it about love that makes the gifts valuable?
5. Can people still function in a gift even if they don't have love?

THINKING IT THROUGH



THE CORRECT PERSPECTIVE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The gifts of the Spirit are individual gifts of spiritual empowerment to be used as part of the body to build up the body of Christ. They are gifts given by the Holy Spirit in service to the body of Christ for the common good of the whole church.

1. What would be a misuse of the gifts of the Spirit?
2. What are misuses of the spiritual gifts born out of?
3. What are some controversies surrounding the gifts of tongues?
4. What is the true evidence of a Spirit-filled life?
5. What is salvation based on?





A SPIRITUAL GIFT – MARTY'S EXPERIENCE

I have often thought that the natural abilities that God gave me were spiritual gifts. Sometimes I think it is hard to know the difference as God does use our natural abilities to build up and encourage others. Also, in each of the spiritual gifts there is a basic level of obedience that we as Christians have been called to, so we have a degree of accountability in each of them.

A spiritual gift is one that is supernaturally given. In my own life I became aware of being given the gift of faith when I knew that my ability to trust God wasn't of me, but was given to me to encourage others. For a long time I wasn't aware that it was a gift and couldn't understand when other people weren't able to trust God. We all struggle with pride and have a tendency to judge other people in areas of our own giftedness.

It was the gift of faith given to me that enabled me to encourage my husband to complete seminary. A lack of money caused him to think that he would have to quit to provide for his family. I was able to encourage him to continue on, believing that God was faithful and would provide what was needed. God was faithful and did provide what was needed in amazing, supernatural ways. At that time I didn't recognize my faith as a gift.

When I faced brain surgery to have a tumor removed from my pituitary gland, the gift of faith became very evident to me. As I contemplated what could happen to me and therefore to my five children (one of whom was a newborn), I knew I had to completely trust God. I had to believe that my children were in God's hands, no matter what happened to me. Romans 8:28 echoed in my mind. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

I had a choice to believe either God is who he says he is, or he isn't. I knew that I didn't want to live life without God being who he says. Being able to believe God was a gift that was given to me. My faith has been steadfast ever since, because of him not me. It didn't waver during my husband's illness and death and it hasn't wavered since. As I rely on God, faith keeps me from being subject to worry and anxiety.

Faith is a gift God has given to me to see me and my family through difficult times, but also to build up the family of believers. On top of that it has been a witness to those who don't know Jesus. My faith is not of me but a blessed gift to share with and encourage others.

What can you learn from Marty's experience in terms of her spiritual gift?





A SPIRITUAL GIFT – THE APOSTLE PETER’S EXPERIENCE

Acts 3:1-10

¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

What can you learn from Peter’s exercise of a spiritual gift?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



THE SPIRIT’S PURPOSE

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



1. We each have received a different portion for the same purpose. What is God's purpose for us together? (vs. 13)
2. Why can't God's purpose for us as individual be realized outside of functioning within the body?
3. What is the implication of that for Christians who say they don't need to be part of a church?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What do you believe your gift or gifts are?

What causes you to believe that?

2. How are you functioning in the body by using your gifts?

What has the fruit been?

3. If you are not functioning in the body by the use of your gifts, are you willing to be led by the Spirit and gain counsel from others to find your place?





PERSONAL ACTION

Seek the Lord to understand better the gifts you may have been given. Service requires sacrifice but serving in an area of giftedness shouldn't be burdensome. Consider areas you serve where others say they are blessed by your service. For a list, description, and example of each spiritual gift, download the *Ultimate Outcomes* study, [What is My Calling?](#)



PRAYER

Thank God that he gives spiritual gifts to build up the body. Pray for greater insight into how and where you can bless the body with what you have been given. Pray that your love for others and the body would grow and whatever you do would come out of that love.



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Lesson 4 examined the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The lesson concluded that the Spirit's gifts are individual gifts of spiritual empowerment to be used as a part of the b _____ to b _____ u _____ the Body of Christ. They are gifts given by the H _____ S _____ to each b _____ to be used in s _____ to the Body of Christ for the c _____ g _____ of the whole church. It is a common misconception to think of the gifts of the Spirit as evidence of S _____ m _____. The evidence of spiritual maturity is rather seen in the f _____ of the Spirit.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will look at the fruit produced by a life that is led by the Spirit. If you plant an apple tree how do you know for sure what type of apple and quality of tree you have?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

TWO OPPOSING NATURES

Galatians 5:16-26

¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness,

orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Colossians 3:12-13

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

1. What is the main idea of the passage from Galatians?

2. What do the opposing natures of the flesh and the Spirit have in common?

3. What do the opposing natures look like?

The Works of the Flesh The focus is on self.	The Fruit of the Spirit The focus is on Christ and others.
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.
11.	11.
12.	12.
13.	13.
14.	
15.	
16.	

4. How does the passage from Galatians describe those who belong to Christ? (vs. 24)

What is the result? (vs. 25)

5. Can we produce the work of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit at the same time?



Illustration: The heating and air conditioning systems in a house share the same ducts. However, cool air and hot air don't come out of the system together; it's one or the other.

6. Why do people want to give themselves over to their sinful nature?



EXAMINING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Matthew 7:15-20

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

1. Why is it important to be concerned about the fruit our lives produce?

2. Can the fruit of the Spirit be faked?

Explain.



Illustration: The oranges on an ornamental orange tree look luscious and tasty but with the first bite the truth becomes obvious.

3. Write a description of each fruit of the Spirit.

- Love (agape) -
- Peace (eirene) -
- Joy (chara) -
- Patience (makiothymia) -
- Kindness (chrestos) -
- Goodness (agathosyne) -
- Faithfulness (pistis) -
- Gentleness (prantes) -
- Self-control (egkratein) -
- Compassion (oiktrimou) -
- Humility (tapesnosphrasune) –
- Forbearance (anecho) -
- Forgiveness (charizomai) -

THINKING IT THROUGH



EXEMPLIFYING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - STEPHEN

Stephen, a disciple of Jesus, fearlessly shared the truth about Jesus and upset the Jewish religious leaders by accusing them of killing him. That led to them stoning him to death.

Acts 7:54-60

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this [what Stephen said], they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

What is evidence that Stephen was filled with the Spirit and demonstrating the fruit of that?



EXEMPLIFYING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - THE APOSTLE PAUL

Acts 20:17-24

¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.

¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

²² "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

What shows that Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit?



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



IMPROVING FRUIT QUALITY

John 15:1-5

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

1. What must we do to improve the fruit our lives produce?

2. How do we commonly view self-improvement?



Note: Good fruit cannot be produced through self-reform. It isn't the consequence of direct effort; it's the natural consequence of being connected to Christ. The work that needs to be done on our part is to remain in Christ and yield to his pruning.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

Read through the definitions of each fruit and then rate yourself on the fruit. Use the symbols:

- + If it is a quality that typifies you most of the time.
- 0 If you are unsure if the quality typifies you.
- If the quality is not in evidence very often in your life.

	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT EVALUATION	+	0	-
1.	LOVE (<i>agape</i>) - The desire to benefit another through sacrificial giving of oneself.			
2.	PEACE (<i>eirene</i>) - An inner rest and well-being even in external adversity.			
3.	JOY (<i>chara</i>) - A deep, abiding, inner rejoicing.			
4.	PATIENCE (<i>makiothymia</i>) - Long-suffering, having the capacity to put up with pain, troubles or difficulty without complaint over a long period of time.			
5.	KINDNESS (<i>chrestos</i>) - Mild, gracious, friendly, opposite of harsh.			
6.	GOODNESS (<i>agathosyne</i>) - Functioning well in a moral sense, useful, good character expressed in useful action.			
7.	FAITHFULNESS (<i>pistis</i>) - Trustworthy, reliable			
8.	GENTLENESS (<i>prantes</i>) - Soothing disposition, meekness from strength, opposite of self-assertive and self-interested.			
9.	SELF-CONTROL (<i>egkratein</i>) - Self-mastery, curbing sensual impulses.			
10.	COMPASSION (<i>oiktrimou</i>) - Tender sympathy, heartfelt concern for the suffering of others.			
11.	HUMILITY (<i>tapesnosphrasune</i>) - Right view of self in relationship to God.			
12.	FORBEARANCE (<i>anecho</i>) - To bear with, to endure one another.			
13.	FORGIVENESS (<i>charizomai</i>) - To bestow favor unconditionally, show grace by forgiving any complaints we have for each other.			



PRAYER

Pray that you would seek Christ more and be filled with his Spirit. Pray that you would see clearly the fruit that you are producing in your life and ask Christ to do a work in you in any area that needs improvement.







THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



INTRODUCTION



REVIEW

Lesson 5 compared the nature of what people's lives produce. If we live to gratify our sinful desires, our lives will produce the w _____ of the f _____. If we live by the Spirit, our lives will produce the f _____ of the S _____.



LESSON FOCUS

If we want the product of our life to be the fruit of the Spirit, then our life must be filled with the Spirit. The focus of this lesson is on being filled with the Spirit. If you say a person is full of himself, what does that mean?

How would that contrast with being filled with the Spirit?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:15-2

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



1. What is drunkenness like and what does that teach us about being filled with the Spirit? (vs. 18)
2. Why should we care about living Spirit-filled lives?



Note: In the passage, “be filled with the Spirit” is a command in the present passive tense. Since it is passive, it indicates it is something that is done to us as we open ourselves up to it. God is waiting and willing to do something to us. We are to yield to his work. We don’t fill ourselves, God fills us. Since it is in the present tense we are to yield to it each and every day. It is not something done once in the past.



PUT ON THE NEW SELF

Ephesians 4:22-24

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1. What is the old self?
2. What does it mean to put off the old self?
3. What is the new self?
4. How do we put on the new self?

A Spirit-filled life is a life that produces the fruit of the Spirit.

What is filling us will determine what comes out of us.



Note: The picture here is one of undressing and dressing. We have to take off the old set of clothes to be able to put on the new. We can’t put on the new without getting rid of the old.





WALK IN THE LIGHT

1 John 1:5-2:6

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

²My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1. Why don't Christians continually live perfect, Spirit-filled lives?

2. How do we remain filled with the Spirit?



Note: Sanctification is the process of being made holy by the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The more we yield to the Spirit, the more sanctified we become. The more we want what God wants the less we will sin. We won't be wholly sanctified until we enter heaven.

3. Jesus was not only fully God he was also fully man. Thinking about his being fully man, why was he without sin?

THINKING IT THROUGH



THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE APOSTLE PETER

On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Just a short time later, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was a different person.

Acts 4:18-147

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.'" ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

What did the filling of Peter with the Holy Spirit accomplish?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



THE RULES FOR HOLY LIVING

Colossians 3:1-17

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.



¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What are the six rules for holy living that come from being Spirit-filled and what does each mean we do?

1. (vs. 1-2)

Meaning:

2. (vs. 5)

Meaning:

3. (vs. 10)

Meaning:

4. (vs. 15)

Meaning:



Note: The word for rule is *brabuo*, which is a sporting term relating to the function of an umpire. The presence or absence of the peace of Christ in us shows us whether we are doing what is right or not.

5. (vs. 16)

Meaning:

6. (vs. 17)

Meaning:

What will following the rules for holy living show about us?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

Rate how well you follow the rules for holy living as a daily habit.

RULES CHECK LIST	+	0	-
1. I focus on things above.			
2. I am putting to death my earthly nature.			
3. I have put on the new self.			
4. I let the peace of Christ rule in my heart.			
5. The word of God dwells in me richly.			
6. I do all in the name of Jesus.			

What does your evaluation show you about yourself?



PRAYER

Thank God he has given you his Spirit to fill you and enable you to live a life that pleases him. Pray that you would recognize any way that you shut the Spirit out and would want to be cleansed and filled.



WARNINGS CONCERNING THE SPIRIT



INTRODUCTION



REVIEW

Lesson 1 – Who Is the Spirit?

Because the Holy Spirit is a person, he has a m_____, w_____ and e_____.
Since the Holy Spirit is a person rather than an impersonal f_____, we need to conform to his
w_____ rather than try to get him to c_____ to our will.

Lesson 2 – The Work of the Holy Spirit in the World

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the paraclete. The word paraclete means a l_____
c_____. A good legal counselor advises his client of two things: his l_____
d_____ and the best l_____ r_____.

Lesson 3 – The Work of the Spirit in Believers

The Holy Spirit's work in believers is to bring believers from a state of c_____ to the state of
g_____.

Lesson 4 – The Gifts of the Spirit

Each believer is baptized into one body and given spiritual g_____ to function as a part of the
b_____ of Christ. The body functions as a whole as each of the parts function for the g_____
of the whole. The gifts that are given to individual b_____ are used for the benefit of
the w_____ body.

Lesson 5 – The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is character qualities that are p_____ as a result of a
S_____ -f_____ life. The fruit of the Spirit is e _____ of a life
s _____ to Christ.

Lesson 6 – Being Filled with the Spirit

If the phrase “A person is full of himself” means that a person is governed by s_____ self-interest,
then being filled with the Spirit means a person is governed by the interests and w_____ of the
Holy Spirit.



LESSON FOCUS

This lesson looks at warnings concerning the Holy Spirit. Why is it important to have a right attitude toward God's Spirit?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES



THE THREE WARNINGS CONCERNING THE SPIRIT

1 Thessalonians 5:19 – *Do not put out the Spirit's fire.*

Ephesians 4:30 – *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.*

Matthew 12:31 – *Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.*



Note: The context surrounding this warning is that the teachers of the law attributed Jesus' healings to Satan's power rather than to the Holy Spirit.

1. What does it mean to quench the Spirit?



2. What does it mean to grieve the Spirit?

3. What does it mean to blaspheme the Spirit?

UNDERSTANDING THE WARNINGS		
Meaning	Consequence	Solution
DON'T QUENCH		
Don't put out the fire or passion, passive resistance, not open defiance		
DON'T GRIEVE		
Active opposition to God's will, willful disobedience		
DON'T BLASPHEME		
Face to face, continual rejection of God, having nothing in heart that is responsive to God, rejecting his testimony of himself.		

4. How do the warnings concerning the Spirit relate to each other?



Illustration: In a parent/child relationship, what would be examples of a child's actions for each warning?

Quench –

Grieve –

Blaspheme –

THINKING IT THROUGH



ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

Acts 5:1-11

⁵ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to men but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

What can we learn about the Holy Spirit from the account of Ananias and Sapphira?





SIMON THE SORCERER

Acts 8:9-24

⁹ Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is the divine power known as the Great Power.” ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

²⁰ Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.”

²⁴ Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

What can we learn from the account of Simon?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



GOD’S GIFT TO THE WORLD

The Bible warns us not to fail to receive from God what he offers through his Spirit. In the broadest sense what the Spirit offers can be captured by the two concepts of law and grace. God’s law is the standard God has given us so we can know how we should live. God’s grace is given to us as a means for us to be restored to his standard when we break his law.

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



The equation of God's gifts to the world:

law + grace = eternal life

no law + no grace = death

If you have no law, you have no g _____.

If you have no grace, you have no r _____.

1. How has God's law impacted your life?

2. How has God's grace impacted your life?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

Answer the following:

	YES	NO	SOME TIMES
1. Are you receptive to the leading of the Spirit?			
2. Do you have a frequent sense of God's guidance in your life?			
3. Do you usually follow the Spirit's leading?			
4. Are you open to the Spirit's conviction of your sin?			
5. Are you anxious for the Spirit to work in your heart?			



PRAYER

Pray for greater responsiveness to the Spirit in your life. Pray that your desire would be for greater understanding of what God wants and the power of the Spirit in you enabling you to live in accordance with God's will.



LESSON EIGHT

THE PROMISES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BELIEVERS



INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

1. How would you summarize the function of God's Spirit in the world and in the church?
2. If God is all powerful, why is evil that opposes his will still in existence?

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson looks at three things the Holy Spirit promises to work in the lives of believers: baptism, indwelling and sealing.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

¹²The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.



Note: There are two types of baptism: water and spiritual. Water baptism comes after a profession of faith in Jesus and visually demonstrates our participation in his death and resurrection through the dying to self (going under the water) and coming alive in Christ (being raised up out of the water). Spiritual baptism marks the beginning of personal, spiritual regeneration through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, uniting all believers as one in Christ.

1. What does each of the following statements of oneness mean?

There is one baptism by one Spirit.

Meaning:

There is one united body.

Meaning:

There is one Spirit to drink.

Meaning:

2. Through the b _____ of the Holy Spirit all true b _____ are connected to C _____ and to e _____ o _____.

3. As part of the organism, the body of Christ, how should we relate to our head, Christ, and to the other parts of the body, our fellow believers?





THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:9-11

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Galatians 4:6

⁶Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

1. What does it mean to have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
2. How does our sin affect the Holy Spirit living in us?
3. What are the benefits of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?



THE SEALING OF THE SPIRIT

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



1. What does it mean to be sealed by the Spirit?



Illustration: When a letter is placed in an envelope, the envelope is sealed and sent to a address. The content of the sealed envelope doesn't change as it travels to its intended destination.

2. What is the significance of being sealed by the Spirit?

3. What is the responsibility of being sealed by the Spirit?

THINKING IT THROUGH



WARNINGS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

How do Christ's warnings to the following churches relate to the promised work of the Holy Spirit?

1. Baptism – Ephesus

Revelation 2:4-5

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

2. Indwelling – Sardis

Revelation 3:1-3

¹ These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.





Note: The seven spirits are listed in Isaiah 11:1-2. There are seven aspects of one complete Holy Spirit.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.

3. Sealing – Philadelphia

Revelation 3:8-10

⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



THE ESSENCE OF THIS STUDY

The words Paul wrote to the church at Colossae.

Colossians 1:24-29

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.



Note: Christ's affliction is presented to the world through our sharing of the gospel and our suffering on his behalf.

How does this passage capture the essence of the whole study on the Holy Spirit?



PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PERSONAL EVALUATION

How can you use the list of the fruit of the Spirit in lesson 5 to evaluate the effect of God's Spirit in your life?

If there isn't an increasing evidence of God's Spirit in your life, what should you do?



PRAYER

Write out your prayer for the work that you want the Spirit to do in your life.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.