Session 1 I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



John 16:5-15

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Introduction

I. The Holy Spirit is a Distinct Person

A. His Ascriptions John 15:26; 16:13-14

B. His Attributes

1. Intellect: He thinks (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

2. Will: He decides (Acts 13:2; 1 Corinthians 12:11)

3. Emotion: He feels- grieved (Ephesians 4:30), insulted (Hebrews 10:29), and blasphemed (Matthew 12:31)

C. His Activities

- 1. He speaks (Acts 13:2)
- 2. He leads /guides (John 16:13; Acts 8:29)
- 3. He commands (Acts 16:67)
- 4. He testifies/witnesses (John 15:26)
- 5. He teaches (John 14:26)

II. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person

A. His Aliases—18 Old Testament titles

39 New Testament titles ("Spirit of our God" 1 Corinthians 6:11; "Spirit of Jesus" (Acts 16:7); "another [allos] helper" (John 14:16); "Holy Spirit"; "Spirit of Life" (Romans 8:2)

B. His Attributes—Omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:11)

Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10)

Omnipotence (Job 33:4), Truth (1 John 5:6)

- C. His Activities—Creation (Genesis 1:2), Inspiration (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16), Incarnation (Luke 1:35)
- D. His Associations—Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 5:3-4

III. The Holy Spirit is a Deflecting Person

John 15:26; John 16:14-15

IV. The Holy Spirit is a Dynamic Person

Acts 1:8

- 1. How much study have you done that focuses on the person of the Holy Spirit? How does what was presented in this video compare with your prior thoughts about who the Holy Spirit is?
- 2. How satisfied are you with the current level of your spiritual life? Would it be characterized as dry and barren or fruitful and exciting? Why do you think this is so?
 - 3. On average, how many times each week do you talk to others about the Lord Jesus (evangelize)? Do you wish to do more but don't know how or feel uncomfortable about it? Why is this so?
 - 4. If asked the question, "Who is the Holy Spirit to you?" What would your honest answer be? How well do you know Him? Can you honestly say that you enjoy Him in your life?

Session 2

HOW DO YOU GET THE HOLY SPIRIT?



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Acts 2 (Jews)

- 1. Repented
- 2. Baptized
- 3. Received the Spirit

Acts 8 (Samaritans—Half Jews/Half Gentiles)

- 1. Believed
- 2. Baptized
- 3. Apostles (Peter and John) laid hands on them
- 4. Received the Spirit

Acts 10 (Gentiles)

- 1. Believed
- 2. Received the Spirit
- 3. Baptized

Acts 19 (Old Testament Saints)

- 1. Believed
- 2. Re-baptized
- 3. Paul laid hands on them
- 4. Received the Spirit

Conclusion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In this session, Dr. Hitchcock reveals from Scripture four different ways that people in the early church received the Holy Spirit. Does knowing that these different ways occurred reveal anything to your life today? Had you always thought there was only one way and perhaps you hadn't received His indwelling as a result? What does Ephesians 1:13-14 reveal about being "sealed" with the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Dr. Hitchcock says that the book of Acts is a "transition from Judaism to Christianity" and that it takes an entire generation of believers for their experience to catch up with their position in Christ. Discuss how this might be true today for us as believers (it takes a while for our experience to catch up with our position in Christ).



3. Can you relate to Oswald Chambers' experience when he first realized that he already had the Holy Spirit despite how he "felt" about his Christian walk? What does it say to you?

Session 3

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION



Introduction Dr. Mark Hitchcock

John 16:5-11

I. Sin

II. Righteousness

III. Judgment

Conclusion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. On average, how many times each week do you talk to unbelievers about the Lord Jesus (evangelize)? Do you wish to do more but don't know how or feel uncomfortable about it? Why is this so?
- 2. What is/was your understanding about the relationship between the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of an evangelist? In what ways is the teaching in this video the same, similar, or different from your prior thinking?
- 3. What changes might you make in your approach to sharing the Gospel message to others as a result of this teaching?



4. Does understanding the necessity of the Holy Spirit preceding any successful evangelism provide some clarity as to the results of your evangelistic efforts? Does it change how to pray for lost people in any way?

Session 4

BACK FROM THE DEAD



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

"regeneration" 2x in the New Testament: Matthew 19:28 (world); Titus 3:5 (rebirth of humans)

John 3:1-15

The instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life The impartation of spiritual life.

I. The Necessity of Regeneration

- A. Our Deadness
- B. Our Destiny

II. The Nature of Regeneration

- A. A Singular Work
- B. A Sovereign Work
- C. A Supernatural Work

Conclusion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. We may have heard people say, "I've been a Christian all my life." Can this be true? How does this fit with the fact that some people may not remember the exact day or time they were saved/reborn but others can?
- 2. Dr. Hitchcock says that regeneration is a sovereign work and a supernatural work, that we don't control it. Do we decide WHEN we want to be saved? How might this differ from deciding IF we want to be saved?
- 3. The word DEATH in the Bible always means separation (not annihilation). How can understanding this help new/potential believers better understand how humans can be both alive (physically) and dead (spiritually)?



4. Read aloud Numbers 21:7-9. Discuss why Jesus would use this Old Testament story to help Nicodemus understand salvation. What parallels are there in the serpent on the pole story with Jesus work on the cross for salvation of mankind?

Session 5 THE INDWELLING



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

God's 7 Temples

2 Past	3 Present	2 Future	
Solomonic Temple Second Temple	Individual Believer (1 Corinthians 6:19) Local Church (1 Corinthians 3:16) Universal Church (Ephesians 2:22)	Tribulation Temple (2 Thessalonians 2:4) Millennial Temple (Ezekiel 40-46)	

		Universal Church (Ephesians 2:22)	
1	I. Common Indwelling		
1	II. Complete Indwelling		
1	III. Continuous Indwelling		

Conclusion

- 1. According to Romans 8:9 the Holy Spirit indwells you at the moment of salvation. You don't have to ask or plead for the Holy Spirit to come in to your life. Does this match what you previously thought or were taught?
- 2. According to Dr. Hitchcock, there are two primary verses (Luke 11:13 and Acts 5:32) in the New Testament that people point to as an indicator that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit isn't immediate and universal. How did Dr. Hitchcock explain why this interpretation is incorrect?
- 3. Do you believe that every believer has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? What about immature, sinning Christians? What is the threshold of godliness that a person has to exhibit in order for the Holy Spirit to indwell them?
 - 4. Dr. Hitchcock says, "I always have all of the Spirit in me that's the indwelling of the Spirit. But the Spirit doesn't always have control of all of me, that's the filling of the Spirit." Discuss the difference.

Session 6 SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Ephesians 1:13-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

I. The Picture

2 Corinthians 1:22

II. The Process

Hearing

Believing

Sealing (Ephesians 4:30)

III. The Pledge (14)

2 Corinthians 5:5

Conclusion

- 1. What did Dr. Hitchcock say about the specific order of events that lead to the sealing of the Holy Spirit in you? (See Ephesians 1:13) Contrast the difference between historical belief and personal belief. What is required for salvation?
- 2. How is the indwelling Spirit pictured as a promise of even greater things in the future (i.e., lay-away plan, engagement ring, earnest money or a down payment to purchase something)? Why can't God walk away and abandon the down payment or promise He made?
- 3. How does knowing who you belong to take away anxiety? How does/should it provide a sense of security? What do you know about the promise that comes with the sealing of the Holy Spirit?
 - 4. What does the "seal of the Holy Spirit" mean as it relates to the "ownership" of a person (not who you are, but whose you are)? How does the seal of the Holy Spirit compare to the mark of the beast in Revelation?
 - 5. In Ephesians 1:3 believers are promised "all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" as our inheritance. What does that mean? How valuable do you consider it to be?

Session 7

THE BAPTISM THAT SAVES

Introduction

I. Spirit Baptism Expected



Dr. Mark Hitchcock

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Matthew 3:10-12 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Mark 1:8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:16 "John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John 1:33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 1:5 "for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

II. Spirit Baptism Experienced

Acts 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

III. Spirit Baptism Explained

1 Corinthians 12:13 "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Conclusion

- 1. 1 Corinthians 12:29 says that "not all believers speak in tongues." If that is true, then tongues cannot be the "sign" that someone is saved. How does this statement fit with your belief about the topic of tongues?
- 2. How does the story of the witness protection program fit with your understanding of your position in Christ post-salvation?
- 3. Some people say that we need to seek and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for empowerment for Christian living and for service. How does this fit with the word ALL in 1 Corinthians 12:13? What does that say about someone who does not "seek and pray" for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - 4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit only occurs once in the life of each believer, it is not repeated. What is the difference between being baptized in the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit?

Session 8 WHEN YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER



Introduction	Dr. Mark Hitchcock Romans 8:26-27
I. The Problem (26a)	
II. The Partner (26b)	
III. The Product (27)	
Conclusion	

- 1. When considering your prayers, do you feel they are "weak" or "strong" or perhaps don't even think about them at all? Regardless of how we "judge" our prayers, what does Romans 8:26-27 tell us about them? Knowing this, what does it drive you to do?
- 2. Dr. Hitchcock makes two statements: (1) We don't know the mind of God, and (2) Even in our best days, our prayers are horribly flawed. How do these statements relate to each other? How should these facts affect our prayers?
 - 3. Do you think of the Holy Spirit as your "prayer partner?" What does it mean when we are instructed to "pray in the Holy Spirit?" Why do you think we were instructed to do this?
 - 4. Never worry that your prayers aren't "just right." What is the role/job of the Holy Spirit relating to your prayers? How should this effect your regular prayer life?

Session 9

HURTING THE HELPER



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock
Ephesians 4:25-32

Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) **Do not grieve the Spirit** (Ephesians 4:30)

- I. The Sin of Grieving the Spirit (30)
 - A. What it is not
 - B. What it is
- II. The Specifics of Grieving the Spirit (25-29, 31-32)
 - A. Lying
 - B. Stealing
 - C. Unrighteous Anger
 - D. Corrupt Speech
 - E. Bitterness
 - 1. Bitterness
 - 2. Wrath
 - 3. Anger
 - 4. Clamor
 - 5. Slander
 - 6. Malice

III. The Solution to Grieving the Spirit

Conclusion

- 1. Discuss the two "negative commands" in the New Testament that have to do with the daily life of the believer and the Holy Spirit see if you can provide some examples from your own life:
 - 1. Do not quench the Spirit (saying "no" to something the Spirit says "yes" to)
 - 2. Do not grieve the Spirit (saying "yes" to something the Spirit says "no" to)
- 2. Dr. Hitchcock says that the word "grieve" in these passages means to cause pain, sorrow or distress. When we sin, the Holy Spirit within us is grieved. But grieving the Spirit does not cause you to lose your salvation (Ephesians 4:30). This is one of the most misunderstood issues in the Christian life. How does this occur? What does this reveal about believers that non-believers find "hypocritical?"
- 3. Discuss the five ways to grieve the Holy Spirit listed in Ephesians 4:25-32 as it relates to everyday life. List examples of how you might have "innocently" sinned in one or more of these ways (be as honest as you can):



- 1. Lying (v. 25)
- 2. Anger that is self-defensive and self-serving. (v. 26)
- 3. Stealing (v. 28)
- 4. Corrupt, unwholesome speech (v. 29)
- 5. Bitterness, clamor, wrath, slander and malice (v.31)

Session 10

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT



Introduction

Galatians 5:16-25

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

- I. Command (16)
- II. Conflict (17-18)
- III. Contrast (19-23)

A. Works of the flesh (19-21)

B. Fruit of the Spirit (22-23)

IV. Conquest (24-25)

Conclusion

- 1. Have you considered that the New Testament instruction to "walk in/by the Holy Spirit" is a present-tense, continuous command? It is not an option all believers have been commanded to do so. Your "walk" is basically your life so it could be translated as, "live your life by the Spirit." What does that mean? Is it possible to obey this command? If so, how?
- 2. At what "age" in your Christian life does this command begin? Does it matter to God that many believers have probably not even read or studied the Scriptures enough to know what the commands are?
- 3. What are we supposed to do if/when we discover that we can't seem to do what we are commanded to do (or not do, as the case may be)? Dr. Hitchcock says, "The remedy for the flesh (sin) is not trying harder." What is the remedy?
 - 4. What is the "fruit of the Spirit" (nine facets of one fruit) can you recite it? If/when you begin to experience and thus demonstrate this fruit, what does it tell you about your walk with the Spirit?

Session 11

UNDER THE INFLUENCE



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Ephesians 5:18-21

I. What is the filling of the Spirit? (v.18)

The Meaning

A. The Contrast

- B. The Command
 - 1. Present
 - 2. Passive
 - 3. Plural

II. How can you be filled with the Spirit?

The Means

A. John 7:37-39

B. Colossians 3:16

III. What happens when you are filled with the Spirit? (vs.19-21)

The Marks

- A. Music (gladness)
- B. Thankfulness (gratefulness)
- C. Submission (graciousness)

Conclusion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Dr. Hitchcock asks his listeners to answer 3 basic questions: What is the filling of the Holy Spirit? How can I have it in my life? And what will it look like if I have it? What is your answer to these questions?
- 2. Concerning Ephesians 5:18, Dr. Hitchcock says, "Getting drunk with wine is a sin of co-mission, something you do that's wrong, but not being filled with the Spirit is a sin of omission, failing to do something that God has commanded us to do. The positive command to be filled with the Spirit is just as binding as the negative command of not to be drunk with wine." How do you respond to these statements?
- 3. The filling of the Spirit is, in the original Greek, a present-tense, passive command. What do the words (a) present-tense, (b) passive and (c) command tell us about Ephesians 5:18?
- 4. "The Spirit-filled life is a life under the influence and in the control of the Holy Spirit. How can you be filled in your life?

 By trusting in the Lord and by obeying His Word. What will it look like if you are a Spirit- filled person?

You will have gladness and gratefulness and graciousness as the pattern of your life." A.W. Tozer said, "Throw your heart open to the Holy Spirit and invite Him to fill you. Every man is as full of the Spirit as he wants to be." Based on these definitions, do you feel you are living a Spirit-filled life? Would others around you say the same?

Session 12 **FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE**



Introduction

	1 Corinthians 2:14-3:
I. The Natural Person (2:14)	
II. The Spiritual Christian (2:15-16)	
III. The Baby Christian (3:1-2)	
IV. The Carnal Christian (3:3-4)	
Conclusion (Lessons for our lives) What is the spiritual life?	How do we live it out?
What will it look like if I am spir	tual?

- 1. What does Dr. Hitchcock mean when he says, "Discernment is a skill that is developed by use and by practice." How does one practice a skill taught in the Scriptures?
- 2. How do you interpret this statement: "The life of a spiritually mature believer should be a puzzle to lost people if they 'understand you' there might be something wrong."?
 - 3. What information does Hebrews 5:14 provide about spiritual discernment? "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."?
 - 4. Could the fact that most Christians today are "Carnal Christians" account for the reason most unbelievers call us hypocrites? What should be done to correct this?

Session 13

UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT (PT. 1)



Introduction

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

I. The Definition

Spirit-given enablement to carry out a specific function with ease and effectiveness. Spirit-given ability for Christian service.

II. The Distribution

- A. The Source
- B. The Sovereignty
- C. The Schedule (1 Peter 4:10)

III. The Design

- A. Exaltation
- B. Edification

Conclusion

- 1. How would you answer the question, "Why are so many believers today spiritually unemployed?"
- 2. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Describe them to your group.
 - 3. Are you using them to glorify God and build up the body of Christ? If yes, describe your actions to your group. If no, why not?
 - 4. Have you found yourself "wishing" you had a spiritual gift that you don't have? Does it cause you to be (at least inwardly) jealous of another believer? What do you think you should do about this?

Session 14

UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT (Pt. 2)



Introduction

- I. The Definition—Spirit-given ability for Christian service
- II. The Distribution—Sovereignly given by the Spirit at the moment of conversion
- III. The Design—To glorify God and edify other believers

Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Romans 12:6-8 1 Corinthians 12:28 Ephesians 4:11 1 Peter 4:10-12

IV. The Division/Description

Passing Gifts

Special Gifts—Apostle and prophet (Ephesians 2:20)
Signs Gifts—Tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, healing

Permanent Gifts

Speaking gifts

- 1. Teaching—1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7 Clearly explain and apply God's Word
- 2. Pastor-Teacher—Ephesians 4:11 Graze, guide and guard a local flock
- 3. Evangelist—Ephesians 4:11 Proclaim the good news
- 4. Encouragement/Exhortation—Romans 12:8 Come alongside to strengthen, reassure, warn, admonish, support and console

Serving gifts

- 1. Service/Helps—Romans 12:7 "service" = to serve or minister

 1 Corinthians 12:28 "helps" = take the place of someone
- 2. Giving—Romans 12:8 "to share with"
- 3. Leadership—Romans 12:8 "to stand before, in the first place"
- 4. Administration—1 Corinthians 12:28 Pilot who steers a ship / keeps on course
- 5. Mercy—Romans 12:8 Active demonstration of sympathy, compassion and help to the hurting (ill, bereaved, aged, or needy)

V. The Discovery

- A. Delineation
- B. Dedication
- C. Desire
- D. Discernment of others
- E. Doing

- 1. How much time have you spent thinking about your spiritual gift/gifts? Do the gifts really matter in your daily life and activities?
- 2. Do you know what your spiritual gift/gifts are? If no, why not? If yes, how did you discover it/them?
- 3. How effective are you in your area of spiritual gifting? What results do you see/hear from the work you do in that area? Are you satisfied with the results?
 - 4. Have you consecrated yourself to the Lord intentionally doing that and reaffirming it on a daily basis? What difference would it make?

APPLICATION & COMMITMENT

James 1:22-25 NIV "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does."

John 15:5 NIV "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Don't try to do this alo			
	nat was taught in this series ct one change in your behav		sed for God's purposes as you apply what
	et one thange in your bena	nor as a result or your pro	ye. dille.
Date Series Began:			
Date Series Ended: Participant's Name:			
rarticipant's Name.			
A Biblical truth (princip	ole) I learned from the lesso	ons was:	
I intend to apply this	truth (principle):		
		_	ely. I ask and expect my group to hold meddoing so. Please ask me:
Signa	nture		Date

