Life Connexion Group Study Notes
Power and Purity Belong Together
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Series Overview

In this series, we are exploring what it means to live as people who belong to God. Biblical holiness is not withdrawal from the world or outward religious performance. It is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in which believers are increasingly separated from sin, surrendered to God and conformed to the character of Christ.

As God forms holiness within us, our lives become a visible witness to the people around us. We do not merely speak about the light of Christ—we are called to live as light wherever God has placed us.

Introduction

The Church can be tempted towards two opposing extremes.
Some believers pursue spiritual power, prophecy, healing and supernatural experiences while neglecting character, integrity and holiness. Others react against the misuse of spiritual gifts by becoming suspicious of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit altogether.

Scripture does not ask us to choose between power and purity. The same Holy Spirit who empowers believers to witness also sanctifies them and produces the character of Christ within them.

Authentic spiritual power and genuine holiness belong together.

> **Whenever the Holy Spirit truly gains influence over a person's life, He produces power through that person and holiness within that person.**

Power and Purity Belong Together

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8
Paul urges believers to live in a way that pleases God "more and more." He then states plainly:

> **"For this is the will of God, your sanctification."**
> — 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Sanctification involves being consecrated or set apart for God. It includes learning to govern our bodies, abstain from sexual immorality, treat others honourably and reject impurity.

Paul concludes by reminding believers that this call to holiness comes from God, who gives us His Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8

> **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

The Holy Spirit gives power for a clear purpose: to make Jesus known through the witness of His people.

Three key truths

1. God's will concerns who we are becoming

People often seek God's will by asking questions such as:

- What job should I pursue?
- Where should I live?
- Whom should I marry?
- What ministry or opportunity should I accept?
- What is God's destination for my life?

These questions can be important, but Scripture reveals something even more fundamental: God's will is our sanctification.

Before God's will concerns where we are going, it concerns who we are becoming.

God is forming believers who are increasingly:

- Conformed to Christ
- Separated from sin
- Surrendered to God
- Governed by the Holy Spirit
- Distinct in character and conduct

We may be preoccupied with changing our circumstances while God is concerned with transforming us. We may desire promotion while God desires purification. We may seek opportunity while God seeks maturity.

The most important question is therefore not simply, "Lord, where are You taking me?" but: "Lord, what are You making me?"

An open door is not, by itself, evidence of spiritual maturity. The deeper question is whether Christ will be glorified through our character when we walk through that door.

> **"Before asking, 'Lord, where are You taking me?' perhaps we should ask, 'Lord, what are You making me?"**

2. The Holy Spirit gives power for a purpose

In Acts 1:8, Jesus did not promise power so that His followers could appear impressive, gain influence or build a platform. He promised power so that they could be His witnesses.

A witness represents another person and testifies to what they know. The credibility of a witness matters. If a believer's conduct contradicts their message, people may dismiss what they say even when their words are correct.

Christian witness therefore includes both:

- What we proclaim about Jesus
- How we represent Jesus through our lives

The Holy Spirit empowers the Church so that Jesus can reveal Himself to the world through His people.

Spiritual power is not given for entertainment, performance, celebrity or personal importance. Every genuine work of the Spirit should direct attention to Christ:

- Healing should point to Jesus.
- Prophecy should honour Jesus.
- Deliverance should demonstrate the authority of Jesus.
- Miracles should glorify Jesus.
- Evangelism should proclaim Jesus.
- Our conduct should display the character of Jesus.

The power of the Holy Spirit was never given to make us impressive. It was given to make Christ visible.

> **"The power of the Holy Spirit was never given to make us impressive; it was given to make Christ visible."**

3. The Spirit who gives gifts also produces fruit

First Corinthians 12 teaches about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5 teaches about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Church needs both.

The gifts demonstrate what God can do through a person. The fruit reveals what God is doing within that person.

A person may:

- Prophesy accurately but still need to grow in patience.
- Preach powerfully but still need to grow in humility.
- Minister healing while still needing greater self-control.
- Possess tremendous charisma while having undeveloped character.

We must never confuse giftedness with maturity.

Spiritual gifts are given by grace and can operate through people who still have significant areas requiring growth. Maturity is revealed as the Holy Spirit increasingly governs our responses, relationships, speech and conduct.

> **"The gifts reveal the Spirit's power through you; the fruit reveals the Spirit's government within you."**

One of the clearest places to observe spiritual maturity is in our relationships—particularly with those closest to us.

Holiness is demonstrated through love, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It shapes not only what we say but also:

- How we say it
- When we say it
- Where we say it
- Why we say it
- Whether our approach is likely to produce reconciliation

A correct message delivered without wisdom, love or self-control can still cause unnecessary harm. This also applies when conflict arises in the Church. Spiritual maturity does not use "God told me to leave" as a way to avoid a difficult conversation. Jesus calls believers to pursue reconciliation and address conflict biblically.

Abraham modelled this attitude in his relationship with Lot. Although they separated geographically, Abraham refused to allow quarrelling to destroy their kinship. When Lot later needed help, Abraham came to his rescue.

Holiness is not merely avoiding obvious sin. It is reflecting the character of Jesus in every relationship.

> **"We must never confuse giftedness with maturity."**

Bringing the three truths together

The three key truths	*What this means*
1. God's will is our sanctification.	Before God's will concerns where we are going, it concerns who we are becoming. The Holy Spirit increasingly forms the character of Christ within us.
2. The Holy Spirit empowers us to make Christ visible.	Spiritual power is given for witness and mission—not to make us impressive, but to reveal Jesus through our words and lives.
3. The Holy Spirit gives both spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit.	The gifts reveal the Spirit's power working through us, while the fruit reveals the Spirit's transforming government within us. We need both giftedness and maturity.

Together, these truths show that the Holy Spirit's work cannot be divided into power on one side and purity on the other. A healthy Church desires His power, fulfils His purpose and submits to His sanctifying work.

We need power to fulfil God's mission and purity to represent Christ faithfully.

Reflection Questions

Choose one area in which to respond:

- **Character:** Ask the Holy Spirit to develop one particular fruit in your life.
- **Witness:** Look for one opportunity to make Christ visible through your words and conduct.
- **Holiness:** Surrender a habit, attitude or area of impurity to God.
- **Relationship:** Initiate a gracious conversation where reconciliation is needed.
- **Purpose:** Pray, “Lord, give me power to fulfil Your purpose.”