

In Jesus Steps

Disciples for Life

Unit 2: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 7 Holy Spirit

Day One

Knowing the Holy Spirit

In Lesson 6, *The Leader's Fire of Holiness*, we studied and practiced the art of being holy. Trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior makes us holy, justified, and delivered from the *penalty* of sin. However, we still have a human nature and free will to disobey God. Therefore, we enter into the sanctification process whereby we are delivered from the *power* of sin. This takes reliance on the Holy Spirit's power and presence as well as our cooperating effort. Finally, when Jesus returns and we are glorified, we will be delivered from the *presence* of all sin.

Read Hebrews 2:11–12 and answer questions 1–2:

Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises." Hebrews 2:11–12

1. Why is Jesus not ashamed to call *you* a brother or sister (v. 11)?
2. What thoughts go through your mind as you read verse 12?

Read Hebrews 2:13-15 and answer questions 3-5:

And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." ¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:13-15

3. What is another term Jesus applies to Christians who belong in His family (v. 13)?
4. How did Jesus share in our humanity or in the human race (v. 14)?
5. Who destroyed the devil's power of death (v. 14)?

According to Scripture, believers are called brothers and sisters to Jesus and God's children. The point the author of Hebrews is making is that we are part of God's family. We belong! We have a holy place in *the* family because of God's plan in sending His Son to earth.

Not only do we belong in God's family, but He has also given us an all-powerful and reassuring family member to help us. This family member is also a member of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit. He helps us in many ways such as guiding, comforting, convicting, encouraging, and leading us.

Read John 14:26 and answer questions 6-7:

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

Definition: The English word *Advocate* is translated from the Greek work *parakletos* (παράκλητος). It has a basic meaning of one called alongside to help. It can be used as 1. a legal technical term, as one who appears in another's behalf *advocate*, defender, intercessor or 2. one who gives protection, help, security, comfort, counsel and encouragement.

6. Who does the Father send in Jesus' name?

7. What does the Advocate, the Holy Spirit teach and remind disciples of?

8. Read 1 John 2:6. What are believers supposed to do with the Spirit's teaching and His reminding us of everything Jesus has said?

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6

The Holy Spirit not only teaches and reminds believers of Jesus' words, but He helps us live in Jesus. The Spirit has been given to believers to empower us to be holy and walk in Jesus' steps. These are holy steps and to walk in them, we must listen and live by the *Holy* Spirit.

Three ways to begin or to continue living by the Holy Spirit:

1. Recognize the Holy Spirit of God is with us at all times—treat Him as an honored guest.
2. Strive to know Him.
3. Follow His guidance and direction.

Picture this: A friend has invited you over for dinner. You arrive at your friend's home and ring the doorbell. No answer. You ring it again. Still, no one comes to greet or meet you.

The front door is ajar, so you walk in and find the house dark and quiet. You flip on the light switch and then make your way into the kitchen. There you find a note on the fridge that reads:

I'm not home because I was invited to a party. Go ahead and make your dinner and enjoy yourself. Don't forget to wash the dishes and clean anything else in the house that needs it.

What emotions might you experience? Most likely you would feel used, unappreciated, unloved, and basically unwanted. These are the feelings that usually cause us to act out in anger toward ourselves and others. We want to be loved; it is a basic need in our lives.

God wants to be loved also (Matthew 22:36–40). When we invite Him to live in our hearts and in our lives, we are inviting a Holy Guest into our bodies. We do not just leave the door of our hearts cracked open for the Spirit to come in, entertain Himself, and then clean up our messy behaviors (sin) while we are mentally engaged elsewhere. We must be there to welcome our Guest with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds.

Just as we try to learn about our earthly guests in order to serve and interact with them properly, we need to know our Divine Guest so we can serve and cooperate with Him correctly. The best way to know about the Holy Spirit is to study and read the Scriptures. As with all things, God's Word gets us on the right path.

God the Spirit is revealed throughout the Old and New Testaments. He is not an "it", force, figurative expression, or divine vapor. Like God the Father, He is spirit (John 4:24). The Spirit is a Supernatural Being without the limits of time, space, or matter.

The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person of the Trinity to know, love, and obey. We learned in *Christian Leadership: Lesson One, Leadership Model*, God is three Persons, and He is also one God. Complete understanding of God is not possible with our finite (limited) minds and therefore the Trinity will probably remain a mystery until we reach heaven's gate. Nevertheless, each Person is fully God. This means the Holy Spirit shares the same attributes with the Father and Jesus. For example, the Holy Spirit does not change; He is immutable (Malachi 3:6). We can rest in His unchanging presence and counsel.

Pray: *Help us to know, love, and submit to You O Holy Spirit of God. Amen.*

Three Ways to Live by the Spirit

1. Recognize the Holy Spirit

Read Genesis 1:2 and answer questions 9–11:

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. Genesis 1:2

9. What is the first book of the Bible?

Definitions: The English word *hover* means to float in the air without moving far from the same area or spot. The Hebrew word *rachaph* (רָחַף) which is translated *hovering* in the NIV English

translation also means to move gently, cherish, and *brood*. The English verb *brood* is used to describe a bird sitting on her eggs to hatch them and to cover the nestlings (baby birds) for warmth. The word has other meanings but given the context¹ of this passage, these definitions are appropriate.

10. How soon are we introduced to the Spirit?

11. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from Genesis 1:2?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #10–11 with your discipleship team.

From the very beginning God the Spirit reveals His massive strength and enormous tenderness. In cooperation with God the Father and God the Son (John 1:1–3), He took great pleasure in making our world. The Spirit gives a powerful yet serene picture of this colossal event of creation.

It is clear the triune God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), but some people find this fact difficult to accept. Although they have not identified a plausible (reasonable) alternative to God, they still keep trying to explain Him away. If God does not exist, then people can justify anything they want to do. There is no one to call them to account for their evil actions.

Some scientists, whom God has greatly blessed with intellect, try to explain earth's beginnings in various ways. They are favored with knowledge but not always wisdom. One of the ways they theorize (imagine) the world developed is called the *big bang* theory. "In short, the Big Bang hypothesis states that all of the current and past matter in the Universe came into existence at the same time, roughly 13.8 billion years ago. At this time, all matter was compacted into a very small ball with infinite density and intense heat called a Singularity. Suddenly, the Singularity began expanding and the universe as we know it began."² In other words, a massive explosion kicked off the expansion and this was the origin of all known space, matter, energy, and time.

Who created the Singularity (small ball or tiny mass)? No one has ever been able to explain that. No one has been able to explain the origin of matter or how something can be created out of nothing. That is, no one except those who believe in God and His Word.

Regarding the *big bang theory*, you may have heard this expression and rebuttal to it, "God spoke and *bang*, the universe was created." The Bible confirms—God spoke and created the world. No matter the theory (speculation), it always comes back to God as the Creator.

¹ The context of a passage of Scripture means the surrounding words or ideas expressed before or after the subject. Information such as the setting, history, or background provide readers with details to interpret verses accurately.

² Matt Williams, Phy.org, "What is the Big Bang Theory?" <<https://phys.org/news/2015-12-big-theory.html>>(accessed 11/10/2020).

God chose not to give us specific or detailed data describing creation. We do know the Bible is true and it is not in conflict with true scientific facts. God created the earth, and it runs on His design, principles, and plans.

God does act through supernatural events and may override the way things were designed to work (Joshua 10:13–14). The Bible carefully records and makes divine intervention obvious to the reader. There is always a distinction between the way the world is scientifically designed to work and when God overrides His natural, created order.

Read Job 33:4 and answer questions 12–13:

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

12. Who made you (v. 4a)?
13. What is another name for the Spirit of God (v. 4b)?

Read John 6:63 and answer question 14–15:

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. John 6:63

14. According to Jesus, who gives life (v. 63a)?
15. What are Jesus' words full of (v. 63b)?

2. Learn from the Holy Spirit
(*Second of three ways to Live by the Spirit*)

Read Nehemiah 9:20 and answer 16–17:

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. Nehemiah 9:20a

16. What adjective describes the Spirit?
17. What is one reason that God gave us His good Spirit?
18. Read Psalm 143:10. How else does the Spirit help you (v. 12b)?

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
Psalm 143:10

The Spirit is good. This is also another way to recognize Him. Our Holy Companion who resides within us is perfectly good—we can rely on Him to instruct and lead us in God’s ways. We do not have to worry about doing the right thing when we listen and trust the Spirit. He wants us to succeed in being a Christian leader and doing good works. He will empower us to do so. The Holy Spirit is so good, He will even convict (declare guilty, expose evil) and admonish (warn), in order to get us on the right path of following Jesus (John 16:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Nehemiah 9:30).

In John 16:13–14 below, Jesus is talking to the first disciples about Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4). This is the day when the disciples were all gathered together in one place and the Holy Spirit descended and filled each one of them.

Since Pentecost, Jesus’ disciples or believers receive the Holy Spirit when we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior (Ephesians 1:13). The more yielded or obedient we are to the Spirit, the more He will work through us (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18). Our next lesson, *Filled with the Holy Spirit*, will address being filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Read John 16:13–14 and answer questions 19–21:

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

John 16:13–14

Definition: The Greek verb *doxazo* (δοξάζω) that English translates *glorify* means to render or to give praise and honor. It means to *glorify* and to exalt. When we *glorify* God we elevate and recognize Him as the most significant and important Person in the universe. We serve and *glorify* a triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus *glorified* God the Father (John 17:1–5) and as we walk in His steps, we also *glorify* God.

19. Why do you think it is important to learn from the Holy Spirit (v. 13)?

20. Who glorifies Jesus (v. 14a)?

21. How does the Spirit glorify Jesus (v. 14b)?

The Spirit of truth takes or receives from Jesus facts about His nature and character and makes them known to believers. He gives us the truth of salvation, the truth of being born into God’s family, the truth of Jesus being fully God and fully man, and many other realities. The Holy Spirit honors Jesus because the truth He makes known to us, comes from Jesus.

The Holy Spirit will not lead us to make a person, place, or thing more significant or more important than Jesus. This includes anyone—spouse, child, parent, friend, or even yourself. If we

are not listening to the Spirit, but putting ourselves or others before God, we are failing to honor Him.

Think of the martyrs who gave up their lives rather than deny the Lord Jesus. Their flesh or basic human instinct would have been to put themselves first and survive the danger of death or torture. This is the concept of self-preservation whereby we protect ourselves from harm or death. However, led by the Holy Spirit, martyrs placed God's honor above their own. They listened to the Holy Spirit and glorified our triune God.

22. How do you think self-preservation and glorifying God are diametrically (totally) opposed?

Pray for the strength and conviction to place God first and foremost in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a spirit of selflessness in order to be like the Lord Jesus who gave up His own life in order to glorify God. Rely on the *Breath of the Almighty* to praise God daily.

Action Step

23. Ask the Spirit of truth to show you how to be selfless this week and glorify God. Share what happened:

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #19–22 and Action Step #23 with your team.

—End Day One—

Day Two

Ignorance of the Spirit

In 1647, on the heels of the Protestant Reformation,³ Scottish and English leaders wrote a doctrinal (belief) statement in the format of questions and answers for church members. It is called the “Westminster Shorter Catechism” and was used extensively by various Protestant denominations. The first question/answer of the Catechism is:

Question: *What is the chief end of man?*

Answer: *Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for people to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth. We cannot know God except through Christ (John 14:6) and we cannot know the truth of Christ apart from the Holy Spirit. He convicts the world of sin (John 16:8) and the truth of God’s plan for salvation.

Our purity and power come from the Holy Spirit of God actively working in our lives. Christian leaders who attempt to serve God in ignorance of His Spirit will become easily frustrated, overwhelmed, and entirely ineffective. The Spirit keeps us on the right track—bringing God glory and honor. The wrong track is seeking after the Spirit for our honor or worldly ambitions.

Read Acts 8:18–21 and answer questions 24–28:

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money¹⁹ 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.” Acts 8:18–21

24. What did Simon offer the apostles for the gift of the Spirit (v. 18)?

25. How did Peter reply to Simon (vv. 20–21)?

26. Why do you think Peter replied to Simon in that way (v. 21)?

27. Do you think Simon wanted to help others glorify God? Yes No (Underline One)

³ The Protestant Reformation began in Germany as a protest against certain practices of the Catholic Church. Martin Luther nailed his objections to a church door and a movement began that resulted in the creation of Protestant churches.

28. Explain your answer to #27 about whether Simon wanted to help others glorify God.

Simon, who had previously practiced sorcery⁴, did not have the right heart toward God and was not interested in glorifying Him. The heart is a term used to refer to the center of a person, which includes the will, intellect, and feelings. A right heart trusts in Christ and desires to obey and please God with righteous thoughts and deeds.

The fact Simon offered money is a clue to his motivation. Perhaps he thought he could make money or just get attention. From Peter's response to Simon, it appears he was ignorant of the Spirit and had no real interest in knowing Him. Simon wanted to use the Spirit's power for his own benefit and honor.

In addition, all of God's gifts are free. We do not pay for our salvation, nor do we pay for the Holy Spirit to work through us. God extends His grace and good favor without financial gifts or payments.

Read Luke 11:13 and answer questions 29–30:

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

29. According to Jesus, how do you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (v. 13b)?

30. Do you have to beg and plead with God for the Holy Spirit? Yes No (Underline One)

When we sincerely ask Jesus to come into our lives, we also receive His Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). We become one with our triune God (John 17:20–23). But we can always have a deeper relationship with God and a more powerful movement of His Spirit in our lives. Jesus tells us to ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7–8; Luke 11:9).

Jesus draws an analogy between how parents care for their children and how God cares for His. Most do give good gifts to their children but not all. If you did not have the kind of parents that took adequate care of you, be encouraged! You now have an amazing Father who will give you the ultimate gift, far superior to any gift a human parent could provide.

God loves you more than anyone in the world and wants to give you His Holy Spirit. But it is critical to remember the Holy Spirit cannot be used or exploited in any way. The Holy Spirit inhabits human hearts for God's good and perfect will (Acts 2:4; John 14:26). Nothing and no one controls the Spirit. The Spirit is God and acts according to His good pleasure and purposes.

⁴ Sorcery is the use of power or magic through the help or control of evil spirits.

God's purposes are for our good also. We can thwart or prevent the good He has planned for us by disobedience. If we deliberately keep on sinning, we insult the Spirit of Grace and there is nothing left but judgment (Hebrews 10:25–39). This was true under the Old Covenant (promises to God's people under Moses) and it is true under the New Covenant (promises fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 9:15).

3. Follow the Holy Spirit

(Third of three ways to *Know the Holy Spirit*)

Saul lived and reigned in about 1,000 B.C. He was the first anointed king of Israel and although he started out on the right track, he soon lost his focus. Saul was anointed to serve God and lead Israel according to God's plans and not his own. It was not his place to make decisions and rules but to obey the LORD.

Definition: In the Old Testament, *anoint* meant to apply or rub oil on a person or thing (Exodus 40:9). Biblical *anointing* is used for consecration (setting apart), healing (James 5:14), and burial (John 19:39–40). God gave Moses a special formula for the oil that was to be used only for *anointing* the priests. The first priest Aaron and subsequent priests were *anointed* with this special oil (Exodus 30:30). Saul and subsequent kings were also *anointed* with oil. This oil for the kings seems to have been a different mixture from what was used for the priests. Most likely it was a spiced or plain olive oil.⁵ (New Testament anointing covered in the next lesson, *Filled with the Holy Spirit*).

The anointing ceremony revealed to others the anointed one's right to office and that God's power and favor rested upon him. God was with him through His Holy Spirit and would enable him to fulfill his duties. The Holy Spirit rested upon an individual for God's greater purposes of helping His people know and serve Him.

31. Read 1 Samuel 10:1. Who did Samuel say anointed Saul as ruler over His inheritance?

Definitions: *Kiss* is a sign of allegiance in 1 Samuel 10:1 and remains a sign of respect in Near Eastern cultures. *Inheritance* is a legal transmission of property after death to a person known as an heir. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word that English translates *inheritance* generally means to take possession. God does not receive an *inheritance* in the same way humans do; He gives an *inheritance* to Himself. God takes possession of Israel as His own people. God, who owns everything, gave Himself Israel as His *inheritance*.

Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?" 1 Samuel 10:1

⁵ Trent Butler, "Anoint" *Holman Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), 59.

Read 1 Samuel 10:6–7 and answer questions 32–33:

The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them [prophets]; and you will be changed into a different person. ⁷Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 1 Samuel 10:6–7

Definition: A *sign* points to something else—an object, occurrence, or person through which one recognizes, remembers, or validates something. In the Old Testament *signs* may be classified according to seven somewhat overlapping functions: to impart knowledge, to protect, to motivate faith, to recall significant events, to witness to the covenant, to confirm, and to illustrate through prophetic action.⁶ God is a God of order and intention. From creation to redemption, there is a plan in effect. God’s ways are never haphazard or happenstance. As with all God does, He gives *signs* for a purpose.

32. Name three of the signs God used in Saul’s life to confirm his appointment as leader (v. 6):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

33. Once the signs were fulfilled, what instruction did Samuel give the new king, Saul (v. 7)?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #32–33 with your discipleship team.

The signs Samuel prophesied about Saul were fulfilled, and Saul changed in three ways. *First*, the Spirit of God came upon him powerfully, as never before; *second*, he spoke God’s words with prophets; and *third*, he became a different person in ways that were recognizable by the people. Before Saul had been anointed, he did not have the Spirit’s power, he did not prophesy, and he did not have great faith. He was small-minded in the ways of God (1 Samuel 9:21).

Saul became a different person with a distinct purpose in life. He was changed by God in an instant. One moment Saul had little responsibility of importance and in the next, much responsibility of great significance.

Do not be discouraged if God works in your life differently. For example, He worked distinctly in Joseph’s life. (Genesis 37–50). Joseph went through long-term trials and tribulations before God brought Him into a responsible position. He was given the ability to interpret dreams, namely the pharaoh’s dreams, and as a result saved millions of people from starvation.

God confirmed His choice of Saul as an earthly king by signs. The signs showed the Israelites that God was with Saul. However, God was with the king for *His* plans and purposes.

⁶ Ibid., 1277–78.

God would be with Saul as long as he was obedient to His commands. When Samuel told Saul to *do whatever your hand finds to do*, he was not saying you are free to do whatever you wish. He was giving this order in the context of Saul's position and authority as king and representative of God's command on earth. Saul was to use godly wisdom and good judgment to do whatever he thought best to keep God's people holy and save them from their enemies.

Definition: *Context* is defined in two ways. As the word *context* is used above, it means surrounding circumstances, conditions, or events. *Context* also means the text (words) surrounding the word or passage in a body of writing or speech that clarifies its full meaning.

Make sure you understand the context of the passage or words when you are reading and studying the Bible. It is critical for accurate interpretation. Here are some helpful questions:

What is this particular book of the Bible about?

What was written before and after this particular verse?

What is the point the author is trying to make here?

What was the cultural situation at the time this passage was written?

How does this verse line up with the rest of the Bible?

Action Steps

Reflect on your desire to know the Spirit.

34. Do you desire the Spirit for God's purposes, or to impress others with His power?

35. Confess any ignorance, wrong thoughts, or attitudes that you have regarding the Holy Spirit. Ask forgiveness and pray for a pure knowledge and understanding of the Spirit.

I have prayed. Yes No (Underline One)

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Grieving the Spirit

Saul started out with God's Spirit and favor. He was promoted to be the king of his country and had the opportunity to be a great man of God. But sadly, Saul went astray. He sinned against the very One who had created him and made him king.

Read 1 Samuel 15:23 and answer questions 36–40:

“For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” 1 Samuel 15:23

36. What is rebellion compared to (v. 23a)?

37. What is arrogance compared to (v. 23b)?

It may be helpful to further define the sins listed in 1 Samuel 15:23. Rebellion is refusing or resisting authority. Simply, it is being disobedient to the one in charge. Divination is seeking knowledge, especially future information, by supernatural means. It is an occult (witchcraft) activity that attempts to bypass or ignore God.

Arrogant people are prideful, thinking they are superior to others. These kinds of people would have contempt (disrespect) for God and other people. Idolatry is the worship of anything, including self, rather than God. In the Old Testament, some people made statues or carved images known as idols to be their gods.

God hates these sins in His people so much that they are compared to covenant violations (Leviticus 19:26; Exodus 20:1–4). The covenant (treaty, agreement) was the basis of God's relationship with His people and violations were grave and had extreme results. Jesus is now the basis for our relationship with God, but rebellion and arrogance will still bring serious consequences (Matthew 7:21–23; Hebrews 12:5–6).

38. How is arrogance like the evil of idolatry?

39. Do you struggle with either the sin of rebellion or arrogance? Y N (Underline One)

40. How may your discipleship team pray for you in your fight against rebellion and arrogance?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #36–40 with your discipleship team.

Read 1 Samuel 16:14 and answer questions 40–42:

Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14

40. Who left Saul (v. 14a)?

41. Why did the Spirit of the LORD depart from Saul (See 1 Samuel 13:13)?

42. Why do you think the LORD allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul (See 1 Kings 22:19–23; Job 1:9–12; Isaiah 10:5–6)?

Action Step (Sincerely pray the following prayers and answer question 43–44.)

Merciful Lord, You are patient and longsuffering. I bow in humble submission to Your authority and rule in my life. You are good and all that You do is right and just. Please forgive me for all my rebellion and arrogance. These times in particular I remember (confess your sins). Thank You for continually forgiving me and changing me into Your obedient and humble servant. Thank You for giving me the grace to lead Your people in Your purpose, will, and ways. Amen

Holy Spirit, guide and counsel me in right thinking so I may never be rebellious or arrogant again. Convict me at once of my wrongdoing so I may always be set apart and in immediate readiness for my Lord's call. I live, love, and pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

43. I have sincerely prayed, and I sincerely bow in submission to God. Yes No (Underline One)

44. If you were not able to pray and bow in submission to God, please explain why.

Read 1 Samuel 13:13–15 and answer questions 45–48:

“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.”

1 Samuel 13:13–14 (The command was to wait—not to offer the burnt offering (1 Samuel 10:8).

45. According to Samuel, how did Saul act (v. 13a)?

A foolish person acts unwisely displaying a lack of good sense and judgment. A foolish person is the opposite of a wise person. The book of Proverbs has much to say about fools. *The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.* Proverbs 10:8

46. What did Saul fail to do (v. 13b)?

47. What was the consequence of Saul's failure to keep the LORD's command (v. 14a)?

48. What kind of person did the LORD seek, find, and appoint to take Saul's place (v. 14b)?

A leader does not have tenure, or a lifetime claim on God's Spirit, His favor, or blessing; no one does. A leader does not have a permanent position with no penalties for being disobedient. This was true in Saul's time, and it is also true in our time. Christians are forgiven in the blood of Christ, but there are still consequences to our disobedience. Thinking about these things should give us a holy fear so that we continually seek God's face, His grace, and His mercy.

Read 1 Samuel 16:13 and answer questions 49–50:

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. 1 Samuel 16:13

49. Who did God choose and anoint to take Saul's place because of his disobedience?

50. Who came powerfully upon David (v. 13b)?

Read Acts 13:22 and answer questions 51–53:

After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'
Acts 13:22

51. Why was David *a man after God's own heart* (v. 22b)?

52. What is one word that summarizes "he will do everything I want him to do"?

53. What do you have to do in order to be called a man or woman after God's *own heart*?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #49–53 with your discipleship team.

Read Ephesians 1:13–14 and answer questions 54–58:

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13–14

Definitions: A *seal* is a sign of identification or ownership. When Paul wrote Ephesians, a *seal* was used to make one's distinctive and permanent mark into soft clay and used as an official signature. The idea is similar to an ink stamp used to mark a document. *Seals* were important in the Hebrew and Greek cultures and gave identity, definition, and authority to the person who carried it. In many cases this instrument, which was used to sign clay tablets, was worn around the person's neck or finger revealing that it was a most valuable possession.⁷ A *deposit* is a pledge or down payment. Figuratively⁸ both *seal* and *deposit* are used to represent the Holy Spirit of God.

54. What is the message of truth (v. 13a)?

55. When you believed in the gospel, you were _____ in Him (Jesus) with a _____, the promised _____ (v. 13b).

56. What does the Spirit guarantee believers (v. 14)?

57. What is the believer's inheritance (cf. Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 1:3–5)?

58. Why do Christians receive the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (v. 14b)?

We receive the Holy Spirit to worship God in every way. The Holy Spirit directs us minute by minute through our actions, thoughts, and feelings. He works in us to make Jesus the center of our lives and to be just like Him. With free will, we can choose to follow or resist the Spirit—therefore, we may fail or disobey at times. When we disobey, we are not praising God. However, in the future sin will have no power over us—the Holy Spirit is our pledge for future perfection, whereby we blissfully and eternally praise God.

Anyone who truly places their trust in Jesus receives His Spirit. Any believer can attest to this truth. The evidence of the Spirit in our lives comes through our repentance and real desire to know and please God. Some believers change quickly and dramatically, others change more slowly and modestly.

59. Read Romans 8:9. Who does not have the Spirit of Christ (v. 8b)?

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9 (The Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, and Holy Spirit are one and the same.)

⁷ Ibid., 1240.

⁸ Figuratively or metaphorically conveys a symbolic rather than an actual meaning.

Doctrine is important in knowing God. He wants to be known and followed accurately. Doctrine is a system or way of knowing the truth. It is a set of principles or core beliefs. In Christianity, doctrine is based on the Bible and sound, historical, evangelical theology.

Let us look at the doctrines regarding our ability to grieve the Holy Spirit and God's impassibility. Impassibility is an attribute of God. It means that God has different feelings but not changing passions. God is self-sufficient and unchanging (immutable). He is perfect and lacks nothing. Passion arises from a desire for what is lacking; God lacks nothing and is in control of everything. His feelings are not the result of our actions.⁹ Think about it, how could God ever be happy if billions of people in the world could inflict pain or suffering on Him?

When Jesus became man, He took on human flesh willingly. He chose to experience life as a man. He chose to suffer and identify with human pain, joy, and passion. But remember, Jesus remained fully God.

To help us understand God, who is Spirit, the Bible uses three kinds of metaphorical statements about God. First, *anthropological* descriptions of God illustrate God in human form. For example, God is said to have arms (Deuteronomy 33:27). Second, *anthropopathisms* represent God as having changing human feelings like grief (Ephesians 4:30). Third, *anthropoieses* characterize God as having human actions like repenting (Genesis 6:6). All of these help us in knowing what God is like without seeing Him.¹⁰

As we will learn below, the Holy Spirit is said to feel grief in order for us to recognize the importance of our actions. God wants us to behave in certain ways and uses terms and language to help us grasp what our sinful behaviors are like. Sin is serious business and can cause pain and suffering for ourselves and others.

Read Ephesians 4:30–32 and answer questions 60–62:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:30–32

Definition: *Grieve* is a verb that describes someone experiencing deep sorrow, pain, or sadness. To *grieve* another means that we have caused that person pain, hurt, sorrow, or distress. In this passage we are commanded not to *grieve* the Spirit, but to remove all wickedness, and to be kind.

60. What behaviors (acting in certain ways) grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 31)?

61. What behaviors bring pleasure and joy to the Spirit of God (v. 32)?

⁹ Dr. Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 2 (Minneapolis, Bethany House, 2003), 112–113.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 28.

King Saul had grieved the Holy Spirit of God with rebellion and disobedience. About 1,000 years later another Saul, perhaps named after this king, was also in rebellion and persecuting the Son of God (Acts 9:4). But this Saul did not follow in the footsteps of his namesake. After he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became completely obedient to God. He is also known to us by his Greek name, Paul.

Paul's conversion (change) to Christianity was real and complete. He became extremely sensitive to the Holy Spirit and was used to write thirteen epistles (letters) or about 32% of the New Testament. This gives us hope to change no matter what we have done or whatever label someone tries to pin on us. It does not matter who you were named after, who your parents were, or what you have done in the past—God is calling *you* now.

62. How will you cooperate and change any thoughts or actions to bring joy to the Spirit?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #62 with your discipleship team.

Throughout the Bible, God reveals His great love and mercy in creating and providing for humankind. He deserves and expects loyalty, allegiance, and fidelity as Creator and Ruler of the universe. When He does not receive our allegiance, He is right to punish and cast us out, just like He did with Adam and Eve's rebellion and His people, the Israelites.

Read Isaiah 63:9–10 and answer questions 63–65:

In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. Isaiah 63:9–10

63. What did God do when His people were distressed (v. 9)?

64. How did the people grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 10a)?

65. What did God do when the people rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit (v. 10b)?

The Spirit guides believers' with patience and kindness for God's honor and for our good. Although God is always merciful, He will not tolerate wrong actions toward His Spirit. God's Spirit fills us with His love, brings us to salvation, relays Jesus' instructions and truth to us, and is good to us in every way. God is just to hold accountable anyone who grieves His good Spirit.

—End Day Three—

Day Four

The Spirit's Sanctifying Work

All three Persons of the Trinity are involved in a believers' salvation (Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:9; John 1:11–13, 3:8). The Holy Spirit prepares hearts for placing faith in Christ. He draws people to Christ and enables them to recognize the truth about the Son of God. The Spirit also convicts of sin and enables people to recognize their wrongdoing and desperate need for forgiveness.

Definition: The Greek word *elegcho* (ἐλέγχω), translated *convict* in English, means to show or convince someone of their fault or error. It also means to prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove. *Convict* in English is defined as declaring one guilty or showing they are at fault.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and answer questions 66–67:

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. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Firstfruits are the first fruit or grain crops harvested and presented to God.)

Definition: The Greek verb, *hagiasmo* (ἁγιάζω), translated *sanctify* or *sanctifying* in English means to set apart for sacred use. Other meanings of the Greek word include consecration, dedication, holiness, and the state of purity. The English word *sanctify* is defined as making something holy or giving something a holy status.

66. What are the two means that God uses to bring people to salvation (v. 13b)?

67. Who and what is the truth (See John 14:6)?

Recall our introduction to this lesson: Trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior makes us holy, justified, and delivered from the *penalty* of sin. However, we still have a human nature and free will to disobey God. Therefore, we enter into the sanctification process whereby we are delivered from the *power* of sin. This takes reliance on the Holy Spirit's power and presence as well as our cooperating effort.

The Spirit helps us overcome the power of sin and choose holy thoughts and actions. We are called to holy living because God is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15–16). Sanctification is not an option for the Christian; it is an essential and necessary part of our lives and salvation experience.

Sanctification is progressive. This means we are continually making progress, moving forward—becoming more and more like Christ each day. Sometimes we may become discouraged and think that we really have not changed at all. But if we review our lives since becoming a Christian, we should notice that there has been steady progress. There are many sinful things that we no longer take part in and there are many good things we have done in Jesus' name.

However, if we see absolutely no change in our lives, we should pray sincerely and ask God for His perception (view) of our lives in Christ.

In the Old Testament when priests were set apart (sanctified, made holy, pure) for God they were anointed with oil. The priests and the Levites worked for God in and around the sanctuary or temple. This was a *place* set apart as holy. It was sacred and revered not only by the priests but by the Israelites as well.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 and answer questions 68–71:

Do you not know that your bodies are temples 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 bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

68. What is your body (v. 19a)?

69. Who is in you (v. 19b)?

70. Who gave you His Holy Spirit (v. 19c)?

71. We were bought at a price, therefore we _____ God with our _____ (v. 20).

Esther Ahn Kim dedicated her life to the Lord Jesus; she would not allow her body to be used for anything other than a temple of the Holy Spirit. Esther was a Korean living during the time of Japan’s occupation of Korea. Since she refused to bow to the idols set up on the streets, she knew it would only be a matter of time before she would be arrested.¹¹

Esther knew extreme deprivation and torture awaited those in Japanese prisons. Therefore, led by the Holy Spirit, she began preparing both spiritually and physically for that time. First of all, she prayed and fasted so she would not falter but would stand firm in Christ.

There would be no Bibles where Esther was going, so she memorized Scripture daily. With the Spirit’s help, she committed to memory over one hundred chapters of the Bible. Esther also trained physically by eating decaying foods and other unappetizing things so she would be able to eat the types of “food” provided.

Esther was eventually arrested and imprisoned for six years from 1939–1945. The Holy Spirit empowered her with Christ’s love to serve fully and glorify God. Remember, it does not matter where you are or what your circumstances are that determine how God will use you.

“One night a young Chinese woman convicted of killing her husband was brought in. She moaned incessantly and beat on the doors until the guards tied her hands behind her back. It was

¹¹ Francis Chan, *The Forgotten God* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009), 97–99.

this woman that God called Esther to love and reach out to. Esther held the woman's feet at night to warm them, even though the woman was covered in her own excrement. Though food rations were small, Esther gave up her portions for three days to this woman. Over time, the Chinese woman began to respond, carrying on a conversation and eventually accepting the good news of the gospel. The woman was later executed for her crime, but she went to her death alive in Christ."¹²

Esther embraced and honored the Holy Spirit. Lives were transformed. Prison became a path to heaven.

During her imprisonment, through the Holy Spirit, Esther touched many lives for Christ. She was challenged like any human being, but she persevered so that even the guards and officials noticed the holy difference. She did not just passively accept her situation, but aggressively served to the glory of God.

Esther treated her body as God's temple. No matter the extreme circumstances she faced, she would not allow her body to bow to false gods. She relied on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide her and counsel her in the way she should go. The Spirit sanctified Esther—enabling her to exalt Jesus and deny herself. The Spirit also loved through Esther and revealed the Father's love to those imprisoned with her.

72. How does Esther's example encourage or inspire you?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #72 with your discipleship team.

Esther knew the importance of God's Word. She memorized Scripture so she would not be without it when she was arrested and imprisoned. In this way the Spirit brought her memorized verses to her attention so she could continue to walk in truth.

Read John 17:17 and answer questions 73–74:

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

73. What is truth (v. 17b)?

74. How do *you* listen to or read the Bible daily?

¹² Ibid., 98.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12–14 and answer questions 75–77:

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:12–14 (Discern means to realize, come to know, or recognize something.)

75. How can we understand what God has given us (v. 12)?

76. How do we explain and teach spiritual realities or truths (v. 13)?

77. Why does a person *not* accept the things that come from the Spirit of God (v. 14a)?

People without the Spirit may understand the words of the Bible but they do not understand the wisdom of following its commands. The Spirit brings God’s Word and the truth of it alive for believers. The Holy Spirit helps us to know, love, and serve God through the truth of His Word.

78. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. How might this verse be used as a warning against reading and studying Scripture without the Spirit’s guidance?

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:6

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #78 with your discipleship team.

Recall that the Pharisees knew the Law and the Prophets better than anyone else, yet Jesus said they were like whitewashed tombs full of dead men’s bones (Matthew 23:27). Jesus had explained earlier in Matthew chapter 22 that all the Law and the Prophets depend on loving God and your neighbor. The Spirit takes God’s Word with its laws and commands and leads us in following them for the right reasons.

Paul is making the point that the Law, as an external standard, brought condemnation and death. The Holy Spirit, as a gift of the New Covenant, brings forgiveness and life. The Spirit helps us to serve in the way of Christ. He helps us understand what is required and stirs our hearts with the right motivation.

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Holy Spirit, our Guide

The good Spirit guides and leads God’s flock with the same love and care as the Father and the Son. He assists in many and varied ways so that in following God we may be good shepherds of His people on earth. Good shepherds always lead others to God through Christ. In order to be successful Christian leaders and disciples, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Read Romans 8:26 and answer questions 79–82:

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. Romans 8:26

79. Who helps us in our weakness (v. 26a)?

81. Who helps us to pray and also intercedes for us with wordless groans (v. 26c)?

To intercede is to plead on behalf of another, mediate, or to intervene. The Spirit pleads our issues or situations before God. Jesus also intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25). They deeply and earnestly talk to God the Father about us and those we are concerned about. God the Spirit and God the Son do not want us asking for things that are not good for us or for others. They want us to pray and care about the things God cares about—things with eternal significance.

82. How does it make you feel when you consider the Holy Spirit is interceding for you?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer #82 with your discipleship team.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness and to give you the strength and fortitude (staying power, guts) to overcome in the name of Jesus. Our Lord walked this earth in human flesh and can sympathize with your situation. Remember the Spirit takes from Jesus and makes it known to us.

Read Luke 10:21 and answer question 83–85:

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.” Luke 10:21

83. Jesus was full of joy through the _____ (v. 21a).

84. Will the Spirit fill us with joy (Cf. Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22)? Yes No
(Underline One)

85. Explain your answer to #84 about the Spirit filling us with joy as He did Jesus.

Following God and seeing His will revealed and displayed brings joy through the Holy Spirit. Jesus was full of joy seeing the wise and learned people confounded while the foolish (in the world's eyes) and uneducated understood God's truth. When we see God working on earth, the Spirit brings us joy in a similar way.

Acton Steps

86. Meditate on and memorize 2 Corinthians 3:17–18:

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17–18

87. What do these verses (2 Corinthians 3:17–18) mean to you personally?

88. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for an opportunity to reflect the Lord's glory and show the love of Christ. Ask to meet someone's need in a special way that is out of the ordinary and reveals God's love and care for that person. Share your experience.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your memory verses # 86 and answers to #83–85, 87–88 with your discipleship team. Your facilitator may have noted these Action Steps at the beginning of this lesson. If not, take an extra week for these last three steps and share the following week.

—End Day Five and Lesson 7—

Next—Unit 2: Christian Leadership, Lesson 8: Filled with the Holy Spirit

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