

LESSON 5: LIVING A HOLY LIFE HANDOUT

THEME VERSE: 1 Peter 1:14-15: *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct”*

INTRODUCTION Our God is holy. He cannot tolerate sin. Every believer needs to be holy. Without holiness, no-one shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). Surrender your struggles with sin to God. In order to understand holiness, we need to understand God’s work in our lives and our appropriate response to this divine work.

GOD’S WORKS:

Salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9): God has made it possible for man to be fully restored to Him through the sacrificial death of Jesus. By this salvation, a new and living relationship is established between God and the believer.

Righteousness (Romans 4:18-25, 2 Cor. 5:21): Because of man’s faith, God declares him righteous. By this declaration, man is given a right standing before God. This is a new position before the Lord God.

Purification : The Lord, through His Word and blood, cleanses man from all unrighteousness. This work rebuilds the foundations and checks what is in man’s life i.e. spirit, motivation and attitude.

Adoption (Galatians 4:6-7): The Lord declares those who believe in Him to be His Sons. We get a Father who loves and cares for us, and a great inheritance in heaven .

Sanctification (1Peter 5:10, John 15:2): The Lord sets a believer apart and trains him to become the right channel for God’s blessings.

Justification (right legal standing before God) (Ephesians 1:13-14): The Lord declares the believer free from the penalty of offenses committed and this is on the basis of Jesus’ death on the cross. The believer is released from the guilt and fear due to sins and enters into the love and divine protection of God. If the justified believer is determined to walk in the Spirit, he has no fear of any condemnation from God (Rom 8:1). It is in response to this work of God that the believer lives a holy life.

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
Legal standing	Internal condition
Once for all time	Continuous throughout life
Entirely God’s work	We cooperate with God
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

STAGES OF HOLINESS

Living a holy life is a **journey of faith** with the following phases:

- **Instant Phase (Romans 10:9-10):** The moment we put our faith in Jesus, we are made holy by the miracle of salvation.
- **Continuous Phase (Philippians 2:12-13):** The holiness attained through salvation is daily demonstrated by a life that is acceptable before God because of faith in Jesus.
- **Completion Phase (Matthew 10:22):** The Lord is coming back for those whose lives are holy in His sight. He will take them away from the presence of sin and set them in His holy presence. In His presence, the work of salvation is completed.

The requirements for holiness: Hear, understand and respond to the call to holiness through repentance.

Holiness begins with God: God is holy – it is His nature and character, He doesn’t conform to standards-He is the standard, and He calls us to God-centered living.

SIN is rebellion against God, i.e., doing what we want instead of what God wants both in actions and attitudes.

Consequences of sin: Loss of peace and fellowship with God (Psalm 32, Isaiah 48:22 & 59:20-21). Answers to our prayers will be hindered (Psalm 66:18). For non-believers, it prevents them from having a relationship with God.

REPENTANCE is turning away from the way of wickedness and turning to the way of righteousness in the Lord Jesus. True repentance involves: Change of one’s thinking in regard to sin, the world and God, submitting to the will of God, and conviction and contrition of heart

FORGIVENESS means pardoning someone or excusing them for a fault or an offense. All believers sin and break fellowship with God; therefore, there is need to know how to experience God’s love and forgiveness. Christ’s death is the basis for our forgiveness that brings us into a proper relationship and fellowship with God. All our sins were paid for in full and so the whole list is completely erased.

THE PROCESS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE: Every Christian needs to deal with sin on a moment by moment basis in order to maintain fellowship with God. When the Lord points out any sin in your life, confess it immediately.

- He teaches all truth (John 14:26).
- He leads, directs (Romans 8:14), and commands men (Acts 16:6-7).
- He calls and appoints men to work (Acts 20:28).
- He comforts and encourages (John 16:7).
- Can be grieved (Acts 5:3, Hebrews 10:29), lied to (Acts 5:3) or blasphemed against (Matthew 12:31-32).

PROOF THAT HE IS GOD

- He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).
- He is omnipresent – everywhere (Psalm 139: 7-10).
- He is omnipotent – all powerful (Luke 1:35-37).
- He is omniscient – all knowing (John 14:26, 16:12-13, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

HIS WORKS:

- Creation (Job 33:4, Psalm 104:30)
- Impartation of life (Genesis 2:7, John 6:63, 2 Peter 1:21).
- Authorship of divine prophecies (2 Samuel 23:2-3, 2 Peter 1:21).
- Peter called the Holy Spirit God (Acts 5:3-4).

DISTINCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON

The three are separate personalities, having mutual relation to one another, acting upon one another speaking of or to one another, applying the second and third pronouns to one another.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN BELIEVERS

- Gives new birth (John 3:5-6).
- Assures the believers of salvation (Romans 8:16-17).
- Sets the believer free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).
- Strengthens believers with power in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16).
- Leads believers into a holy life (Romans 8:14)
- Bears witness that we are God's children (Romans 8:16).
- Bears witness to the truth regarding Jesus Christ (John 15:26, Acts 5:30-32).

- Convicts us in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11).
- Brings forth fruit in a believer (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Guides the believer into all truth (John 16:13).
- Brings to remembrance the words of Jesus (John 14:26).
- He reveals the deep things of God and imparts power to discern, know and appreciate what He has taught (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).
- Enables the believer to communicate to others in power the truth he/she has been taught (Acts 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5).
- Empowers the believer for prayer (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 8:26-27, Jude 20).
- Inspires the believers for praise, worship and thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:18-20, Philippians 3:3).
- Calls men and sends them for specific work (Acts 13:2-4)
- Provides everyday guidance on all details (Acts 8:27-29, Acts 16:6-7). The believer should ask God for wisdom and guidance (Psalm 32:8-9, James 1:5-6).
- Quickens the believer's mortal body (Romans 8:11).
- Equips for ministry (Acts 4:33, 6:8, 5:12,8:5, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Romans 12:4-9, Ephesians 4:6-11).

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22): We need to bear fruit (Matthew 21:18-19, John 15:16):

- It is a manifestation of Christ's character, the expression of the transforming power of the Spirit, the true measure of a genuine believer.
- The distinction between the servant of the Lord and those of the enemy is by the fruit they bear.
- The fruit of the Spirit covers all dimensions of relationships with God, our selves and others.

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God.

Whereas the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us cease when we die, the fruit of the Spirit is eternal. (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

If a believer has the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in him/her, he/she will be able to have a Godly lifestyle and also serve God's purposes in the world.

Sadly, many ministers operate powerfully using their giftings that are irrevocable (Romans 11:29), but because of lack of fruit, may end up not making it to heaven, unless they repent (Matthew 7:21-23).

Many believers admire gifted people because they can "deliver" miracles and great manifestations. It's true that miracles glorify God and we believe Him for them (John 14:11, Acts 4:29), but Godly character is paramount because we were primarily called to eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12, Hebrews 3:1).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

A believer who maintains a Spirit-filled life manifests the character of Christ and demonstrates the power of the Spirit. The power grants the believer divine enablement for service in God's Kingdom. These divine 'enablements' are known as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPIRIT BAPTISM

Just as we have our biological and spiritual birth days, Spirit baptism is a definite experience that one needs to know they have gone through (Acts 19:2).

WHAT IT MEANS

- The coming (falling) of the Holy Spirit upon the believer (Acts 8: 14–17).
- An entrance into deeper fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13: 14).
- Endowment with God's power (Luke 24:29).
- In –filling to the point of flowing with rivers of living water (John 7:37- 39).
- Refreshment and replenishment of soul and spirit of man (Acts 3:19).
- Receiving God's power to be witnesses (Acts 1:8).

REASONS FOR THE BAPTISM

- It was commanded by God (Acts 1:6-8).
- Jesus did not enter ministry without this (Luke 4:1, 14 -18, Acts 10:38).
- The Apostles emphasized it (Acts 8:14-16 & 19:1-2).
- It is a gift promised by the Father for all (Joel 2:28).
- It is the essence of the New Testament (2 Corinthians 3:7-18, Hebrews 8:10).
- There are tremendous results that we all need (Acts 4:31:33).
- Baptism in the spirit is for purposes of service to the Kingdom (Luke 24:49, Acts 9:17, 20, Acts 1:5-8).

WHO QUALIFIES (ACTS 2:28)?

- Those called of God (Romans 8:30).
- Those that ask for the gift of God (Luke 11:11-13)
- Those that believe in God (John 7:37-39).
- Those that obey the Lord's commands (Acts 5:32).

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

This baptism is the work of God in the heart of man. Jesus is the baptizer and the believer is the candidate. It is observed in the Bible that the baptism happens:

- By way of God's choice and will Galatians 3:2, Acts 10:44).

- Through the laying on of hands.
 - Examples: the Samaritan believers (Acts 8:17), Paul (Acts 9:17 -18).
- By asking in prayer (Luke 11:11-13).
- By earnestly desiring e.g. Elisha (2 Kings 2:9-10).
- By faith in God (Galatians 3:2).

ASSURANCE OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

To those who desire the experience, the Bible indicates that the following signs shall prove the experience

- In the Spirit: speaking in tongues or other supernatural gifts of the Spirit.
- In the soul: calmness, joy, peace confidence, etc.
- In the body: varied, but include: warmth, tears, laughing, clapping, dancing, etc.

There is an inward witness of the Lord's presence in the receiver and the outward expression of the inward work of God. As the receiver continues on in faith, various gifts become evident. The experience is both instant and continuous. There has to be a continuous flow, operation of the Holy Spirit and continuous in-filling of the believer in order to enjoy the full benefits of the baptism.

Relationship between baptism and speaking in tongues

- The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1, 1:5-8)
- Paul got baptized and we learn that he used to speak in tongues (Acts 9:17-19, 1 Corinthians 14:18).
- In Caesarea in Cornelius' house (Acts 10:44-48)
- In Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7).

NOTE: Those who don't speak in tongues shouldn't feel as if they are not Christians. In fact, Paul says to pursue the higher gifts, and says it is more beneficial to prophesy than to pray in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:1). The point is that we must be pursuing the Holy Spirit to receive the gifts that he has for us.

As a person continues to desire to speak in tongues and pray, they might receive a prayer language, or discover other gifts. People can experience this as time goes on if they don't get it the first time. If we walk in obedience, we can experience a measure of all the gifts, though our God-given gifts will be more pronounced (1 Corinthians 12:6).

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM

You can be baptized in the Holy Spirit right now if you take the following steps:

Thirst for the Spirit (Psalm 42:1, Psalm 63:1-7, Matthew 5:6). You must choose. The Holy Spirit will not force His way in.

Repent of any unconfessed or ongoing sin (Acts 2:38-39).

Ask Jesus to baptize you. Come to Him through prayer, praise and devotion. Don't hurry about this. Enjoy His presence. **Wait** patiently (Psalm 27:14, Psalm 40:1). Drink: **relax** in His presence, let His Spirit flow in you like a river or waterfall. **Yield** yourself totally to Him because you are His temple.

Believe (Galatians 3:2). As you keep receiving, you will come to the awareness that He actually filled you.

Thank Him by faith for the good work He has done in your life. As you express your thanksgiving in words, songs, etc., rivers of living water will flow out of you. Once a language of praise comes up, don't resist it. Keep speaking it, and don't analyze it. Just enjoy the Lord. Don't lose this at any time.

RESULTS OF THE BAPTISM

Manifestations are not the same for every person (1 Corinthians 12:4-10). There will be a gift for anyone baptized (1 Corinthians 12:7). The gifts are distributed as the Spirit wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). There is an impartation of power and boldness in testimony and service (Acts 4:29-31), and one becomes pre-occupied with God and spiritual things (Acts 4:31, 33, 8-10, Acts 9:17, 20, Acts 10:44, 46).

BEING SPIRIT-FILLED AND LED

The Lord baptizes us with His Spirit (Luke 3:16). However, because of our sinful nature, we limit His work in our lives. Therefore, every believer needs to keep going back to God to be filled again and again. It's only then that we can overflow with His abundant life and power as we keep ourselves holy and ready for Him (Matthew 25:1-13). We are commanded not to be drunk on wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). This command indicates that it is a continuous process.

The believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit:

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head. He is the one at work among the believers since the Ascension of Jesus. The Bible recommends that the believer must relate with the Spirit of God in the following ways:

- Rejoicing in the Spirit (2 Samuel 6:12-14, Philippians 3:1 & 4:4);
- Singing in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:19);
- Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18);
- Listening to the Spirit (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 19 and 3:6, 13, 22);
- Desiring Him earnestly (Psalm 42:1);
- Following Him (Galatians 5:16-18);
- Honoring Him (Psalm 115:1.);
- Not grieving, quenching or resisting Him (Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19);
- Not lying to Him (Acts 5:3-4).

Being Spirit-filled and led therefore:

- Is a continuous experience (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 31, Ephesians 5:18).
- Is an act of the will (John 4:15).
- Needs a life of faith (Mark 11:24, Colossians 2:6, James 1:6-7)
- Is a command (Ephesians 5:18).
- Requires a yielded life-style of repentance (exhaling sin) and inhaling /drinking of the Spirit all the time (1John 1:8-10).
- Is possible because the Lord is near us and willing to fill us all the time.

INDICATORS OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

The believer has been Spirit baptized and has submitted to the Spirit to control his/her life, having a daily relationship with the Holy Spirit.

PURPOSE OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE:

- Encouragement (Acts 7:31);
- Exhortation (Acts 9:31);
- Empowerment (Luke 24:49);
- Comfort (John 16:7, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).