

LESSON 6: LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE HANDOUT

THEME VERSE: Ephesians 5:18: *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit”*

The life of Christians is a life of Christ led by the Holy Spirit. It is the will of God that everybody receives the Spirit (Joel 2:28) and the church is empowered for ministry (Acts 1:8). The Lord fulfilled the promise of Joel 2:28 on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). We are also commanded not to be drunk on wine, but to be filled by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and this is a continuous process.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune Godhead promised and sent by the Father to equip and lead the church for ministry till the coming of Jesus. He is God (Genesis 1:1-2) He is a person, not an “it” (John 15:26), and there are personal characteristics ascribed to Him. He has emotions and feelings (Ephesians 4:30), and is the Spirit of love (Romans 15:30). He also has a mind (Romans 8:27) and will (1 Corinthians 12:11), knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:10-11), intelligence and goodness. He searches God’s heart and thoughts (1 Corinthians 2:10). He speaks (Acts 13:2), intercedes (Romans 8:26), comforts and encourages (John 16:7) 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), and He can be grieved (Acts 5:3), lied to (Acts 5:3) or blasphemed against (Matthew 12:31-32). He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14). He is omnipresent – everywhere (Psalm 139: 7-10). He is omnipotent – all powerful (Luke 1:35-37), and omniscient – all knowing (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11). He was involved in Creation and imparts life. He inspired the writers of the Bible (2 Pet 1:21).

The Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son are separate personalities, relating to one another and working together.

THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK IN BELIEVERS:

He convicts (John 16:8-11), gives new birth (John 3:5-6) and assures the believers of salvation (Romans 8:16-17). He sets the believer free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2), and leads believers into a holy life (Romans 8:14). He bears witness that we are God’s children (Romans 8:16) and brings forth fruit in a believer (Galatians 5:22-23). He guides the believer into all truth (John 16:13) and helps us understand the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-16). He brings to remembrance the words of Jesus (John 14:26), strengthens believers with power in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16) and empowers the believer for prayer (Ephesians 6:18, Rom. 8:26-27). He inspires believers for praise, worship and thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:18-20, Philippians 3:3). He calls men and sends them for specific work (Acts 13:2-4) and provides everyday guidance on all details (Acts 8:27-29, 16:6-7). The believer should ask God for wisdom and guidance.

THE FRUIT AND GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT (Gal 5:22; 1 Cor 12:7-11) 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 is the character of God and covers all dimensions of relationships with God, ourselves and others. If a believer has the fruit of the Holy Spirit operating in him, he will be able to have a Godly lifestyle. Godly character is paramount because we were primarily called to eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12, Hebrews 3:1). A believer who maintains a Spirit-filled life shows 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.

BEING SPIRIT BAPTIZED, FILLED AND LED

When we get saved, we receive the Holy Spirit to live inside us; but the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit brings us the power to live and witness supernaturally. The coming of the Holy Spirit **upon** the believer (Acts 8:14-17) leads to deeper fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14), and is an endowment with God’s power (Luke 24:29) for witnessing and doing God’s work. The Holy Spirit fills a person to the point of overflowing, bringing refreshment and replenishment of the soul and spirit. (Acts 3:19). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift promised by the Father to all who belong to Jesus (Joel 2:28), and is for purposes of service to the Kingdom. This baptism is the work of God in the heart of man. Jesus is the baptizer and the believer is the candidate. 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 to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) as a continuous process.

The believer - Holy Spirit relationship: The Bible shows that the believer can relate with the Spirit of God in the following ways: Rejoicing in the Spirit (Phil 3:1 & 4:4); Singing in the Spirit (Eph. 5:19); Praying in the Spirit (Eph 6:18); Listening to the Spirit (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 19 and 3:6, 13, 22); Desiring Him earnestly (Ps 42:1); Following Him (Gal. 5:16-18); Honoring Him (Ps 115:1.); Not grieving, quenching or resisting Him (Eph. 4:30, 1 Thes. 5:19); Not lying to Him (Acts 5:3-4).

Being Spirit-filled and led is therefore: a continuous experience (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 31, Eph 5:18), and an act of the will (John 4:15). It needs a life of faith (Mark 11:24, Col. 2:6, Jas 1:6-7), Is a command (Eph 5:18), and requires a yielded life-style of repentance. This 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 (Jn 16:7, 2 Cor. 1:3-4).