

THE HOLY SPIRIT

week 5



NOTES

We have seen how salvation is the greatest gift one could ever received. It gives us an eternal home in heaven, peace in knowing that we will never have to suffer the flames of hell, and the ability to have a fellowship with our Creator that supersedes all earthly relationships.

This unique relationship with God is nurtured through communication to Him through prayer, and from Him through His Word. However, it is possible for unsaved individuals to read the Bible and attempt to pray to God, but to them these actions are nothing more than reading a book or talking to a wall.

So how do these actions serves as means of communication to a Christian? How does the Bible come alive to a believer? How does prayer become a sweet time of fellowship? This is all enabled by Holy Spirit of God.

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit came to dwell inside of you. The third Person of the Trinity took up residency ion your heart. Now, God through his Holy Spirit can actively work in your life.

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

The Spirit of God is the orchestrator of your relationship with your Heavenly Father. He causes the Bible to become a love letter of truth from your Creator. He guides the words and thoughts of your prayers to the ears and heart of an Almighty God.

Though the idea of a spirit living inside of you can seem mystical to some, the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a real person who desires to work in your life. In this lesson, we will study what the Holy Spirit does in your life, how you can cooperate with Him, and the result of allowing Him to work in your life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN MINISTER TO YOU.

Before Christ's crucifixion, he spoke to his disciples concerning the Holy Spirit. He described one who would take His place after He returned to heaven.

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

We have studied how the Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity. He is God. Once we

accept Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside of us. From this time forward, he starts ministering to us in specific ways.

HE IS THE COMFORTER.

As we read in John 14:16, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Comforter.” This is one of four instances in Scripture in which He speaks of the Spirit in this manner.

John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7

As you may already realize, becoming a Christian does not free you from the difficulties and pain of this life. In some cases, Christians can experience additional struggles because they are Christians. But we find a divine comfort through the Holy Spirit. He give us a peace that passes all understanding by reminding us of the promises of God. The very presence of God’s Holy Spirit within us is evidence that God will always be with us.

HE GUIDES TO TRUTH.

You do not have to observe human behavior for long to realize that man can make some foolish decisions. The unsaved man has to navigate through life on his own, but the Holy Spirit provides guidance to those who are saved. He is able to reveal the daily will of God through Scriptural truth.

John 14:26; 16:13

The Holy Spirit wants to guide you in understanding the Bible. At times, you may find it difficult to understand the meaning of a particular passage in God’s Word. Remember that the same Holy Spirit that inspired those who penned the Scriptures lives within you and can help you understand what it means.

CONVERSATION STARTER: Have you ever been reading a book or piece of literature and wished you could ask the author a question? The author of the Bible lives inside of us and can help us understand what it means if we ask.

HE STRENGTHENS FOR SERVICE.

Later on in our discipleship study, we will find that the Holy Spirit has supernaturally equipped each believer with specific talents and abilities that can be used for service in your local church. However, serving in ministry can be physically exhausting at times. The Holy Spirit can reignite our passion and give us spiritual strength and endurance to help us carry out the work of the Lord.

Romans 15:13; Ephesians 3:16

HE EMPOWERS OUR WITNESS.

The good news of salvation is something that every believer should want to share with others. You will find that trying to convince someone to trust Christ through persuasion or clever tactics is not possible and can cause an unsaved person to become confused about the gospel. The Holy Spirit can use your witness (telling others what Jesus did for you) to convict the heart of the sinner of their need for salvation.



The Holy Spirit ministers to your heart daily, many times in ways you don't even realize. As he continues to work in your life, you will understand the importance of trusting in him as your grow in Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN FILL YOU.

Life is hard, and as we alluded to earlier, life can be even harder for a Christian. Trying to live a fulfilling life on our own strength is impossible, but the Holy Spirit provides an empowerment for believers that allows us to accomplish more for God than could ever be humanly possible.

BE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT.

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

Being filled with the Spirit, as spoken of in this verse, should not be confused with the indwelling of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has dwelt within us since the moment we accepted Jesus Christ. Now he desires to fill us. He wants to control our every action and reaction.

This passage uses the illustration of one who is drunk on alcohol. The excessive consumption of the intoxicating substance has caused the person to yield control of his body to the influence of the alcohol. In contrast, we should become so consumed with the Holy Spirit that He controls all that we do.

CONVERSATION STARTER: *Consider this statement: "When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it is not that we have more of Him but that He has more of us." Are there areas in your life that you need to yield to the Holy Spirit?*

WALK IN THE SPIRIT.

Christian growth occurs through daily choosing to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Though this concept seems simple, all Christians struggle with the desires of our old sinful nature. When we regularly say "yes" to the leading of the Spirit, we will find ourselves saying "no" to the lusts of the flesh.

DO NOT SIN AGAINST THE SPIRIT.

When we are filled with the Spirit and are walking in the Spirit, He gives us constant reminders to do right. Sadly, Christians will often grieve and even quench the Holy Spirit.



Grieving the Holy Spirit occurs when we choose to sin regardless of His conviction that we are doing wrong.

Ephesians 4:30–31

Quenching the Holy Spirit occurs when we consistently ignore or resist His leading. After doing this for a time, we will cease to hear His voice.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Going through the life of a Christian on your own power is discouraging and spiritually destructive. God has given us His Holy Spirit to fill us and empower us to do great things for His glory.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN PRODUCE FRUIT IN YOU.

The beauty of life as a disciple of Christ is that God does a transforming work from the inside out. He starts by placing the Holy Spirit inside of you and allowing Him to minister to you and control you. As your relationship with the Holy Spirit continues to grow internally, evidence of His grace will begin to appear externally.

In the book of Galatians, God gives us a list of specific attributes that we will demonstrate with our lives as the Holy Spirit continues to work within us.

Galatians 5:22–23

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES JOY.

John 15:11

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES PEACE.

John 16:33

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES LONGSUFFERING.

Longsuffering is patience or endurance. It is the ability to suffer long with other people or situations.

2 Timothy 2:3



THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES GENTLENESS.

1 Thessalonians 2:7

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES GOODNESS.

Galatians 6:10

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES FAITH.

Luke 17:5

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES MEEKNESS.

Meekness is not weakness. It can simply be defined as power under control. It is yielding your strength to the control of God.

Matthew 5:5; Titus 3:2

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is self-discipline. It is the opposite of excess.

1 Corinthians 9:23–24

The Holy Spirit wants to do so much for you, and though He lives inside of you, this does not guarantee that He will work inside of you. The Holy Spirit does not forcibly take control of you. The ministry to your heart, empowerment for life, and fruit produced within you can only happen when you yield to Him.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens in a moment; the working of the Holy Spirit occurs over a lifetime. You must daily yield to the Spirit of God. Listen to His voice. He is able to do the extraordinary in your life, but you must first allow Him to work in your heart.

Determine to live a Spirit-filled life by making these discipleship commitments:

Because the Holy Spirit can minister to me, I commit to allow Him to work in my life. Daily pray and tell the Lord that you are willing to allow His Holy Spirit to work in your life in any way that He wills. Do not be found guilty of grieving or quenching Him when he convicts you of sin. Remove anything in your life that could hinder the work of the Spirit.

Because the Holy Spirit can control me, I commit to yielding every action to Him and rely on Him for daily strength. God never intended for you to go through life alone. The Holy Spirit enables those who rely on His strength to do more than you could ever do on your own. Remember that the Holy Spirit is always with you. Ask him for help in even the simplest of tasks, and when the overwhelming situations of life arise, rely on His empowerment to carry you through. Allow Him to guide you through both daily and life-changing decisions.



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Because the Holy Spirit can produce fruit within me, I commit to nurturing my relationship with Him. If we are honest with ourselves, we all lack some of the spiritual fruits discussed in Galatians 5, but we all desire to have each fruit evident in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to develop specific fruits of the Spirit in your life that you may be lacking. Be attentive to what He will use to nurture that fruit. Bible preaching in church, conversations with fellow believers, and the study of God's Word are all methods the Holy Spirit uses to help us grow in our Christian lives.

