

God's Good Spirit

Lesson	Title	Page
	Introduction	2
1	John the Baptizer, filled with the Spirit	3
2	The Incarnation or Divine Conception	4
3	Prophecies of The Spirit of the Lord	5
4	The Spirit at the Dedication and Baptism of Jesus	7
5	The First Temptation and the Sword of the Spirit	8
6	Jesus, the Christ	9
7	The Teaching of Jesus on the Spirit	11
8	Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus	13
9	The Spirit of God in Acts	16
10	The Person of the Spirit	21
11	The War Within	23
12	The Work of the Spirit	27
13	The Spirit and the Word	30
14	The Eternal Spirit	31
15	Filled and Led	32
16	Nuggets from the New Testament	34
17	Names of the Spirit	35
18	Thank you Spirit, part 1	38
19	Thank you Spirit, part 2	41
20	Thank you Spirit, part 3	44
21	The Spirit of God from Genesis to Malachi	47
22	The Good Spirit from Matthew to John	51

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Introduction

In 2009 I began seeking God and asking Him to help me love Him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. Through the next several years He has been answering this request in ways I never foresaw or expected. I have been led through deep valleys and into a deeper understanding of scripture. On this journey I have gone from referring to God as Lord to Dad and I have a deeper appreciation for Jesus and the price He paid on Calvary. While sitting in church one Sunday, the pastor closed with this benediction, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

God had revealed the grace of Jesus and His love for me in a new way, but the phrase “fellowship of the Holy Spirit” caught my attention. I pondered about what a relationship with the Spirit of God looked like. What does fellowship, or communion in another translation, mean to me. I began asking God to help me understand more about life with the Spirit.

The past few years have been rich in beginning to appreciate and know the Good Spirit. I recognize now that I could not have tasted the love of the Father without the help of this behind the scenes, but ever present Spirit. As I sought to love God more, I had my eyes opened to how much God loved me. I remonstrated God and said “I know you love me, but I want to love you more.” but He kept revealing His love in new ways. Finally my eyes were opened and I remembered the passage in 1 John 4:19, “We love because He first loved us.” I now see this has a direct result of Romans 5:5, “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” The more God’s love was poured into my heart, the more I loved God. Thank you Spirit.

Nor could I have learned so much about Jesus and His death and resurrection without the illumination of the Spirit. The word of God is inspired, or in-spirited. These sacred writings were the work of the Spirit and point to Jesus. “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!” (John 5:39 NLT)

All of my insights were a result of having my eyes opened by the Advocate to see Jesus in a new way. “I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.” (John 15:26 NLT)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-14)

The more I studied the greater the wonder to discover the Faithful Spirit’s fingerprints were all over my journey from salvation to sanctification. I hope some of these insights will bless you as well.

Lesson 1 John the Baptizer, filled with the Spirit

Zechariah

It is difficult to select portions of scripture when all of God's inspired word is rich and edifying, but as we observe in these passages, the Spirit was present before and during the birth of John the Baptist in the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Zechariah, a prophet and father of John, encountered the angel of the Lord in the temple, and informed him that he was to have a son and this child would be filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb.

"In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.'" (Luke 1:5-17)

Elizabeth

Elizabeth, a relative of Mary, and the mother of John, was also filled with the Faithful Spirit when she heard Mary's greeting.

"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'" (Luke 1:39-45)

Zechariah, who had been mute, was filled with the Spirit, and immediately prophesied about his own son John and the Savior, Jesus.

"The angel answered him, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to

“speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” (Luke 1:19-20)

“And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.” (Luke 1:67-80)

Lesson 2 The Incarnation or Divine Conception

The Good Spirit of God is not readily visible in scripture. But as we will see in the life of Jesus, God’s Spirit played a huge role in the incarnation, temptation, public ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord. Some of the most powerful statements uttered by Jesus concerned the Spirit. We have a wonderful task before us as we discover more about the humble third person of the Trinity. May the Spirit guide us into all truth concerning Himself.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15)

Mary

In Luke 1, Gabriel appears to Mary and communicates the incredible news that she is to give birth to the Son of God. When she asks how this is possible, she is told the Holy Spirit will come upon her.

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the

angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy— the Son of God.” (Luke 1:26-35)

Joseph

When she had conceived, Joseph was also visited by an angel in a dream, who affirmed that the child in her womb was indeed from the Holy Spirit.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:18-25)

In both gospel accounts the conception of the Son of God was declared to be the result of God the Holy Spirit, coming upon the virgin Mary.

Lesson 3 Prophecies of The Spirit of the Lord

Isaiah to Luke

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’” (Luke 4:16-21)

The key phrase is found in verse 18, which I have underlined. This verse refers to Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound”.

Isaiah to Matthew

The Spirit of the Lord will come upon Jesus and anoint Him to minister. From the very beginning of the New Testament Jesus is called Jesus Christ, or Jesus the Anointed. It is

essential to recognize how closely the person of Jesus and His earthly ministry are tied to the anointing of the Spirit.

In Matthew 12 Jesus encounters the Pharisees on a Sabbath day when His disciples were plucking ears in the grain field. On this occasion we read another prophecy from Isaiah referring to the Spirit being 'upon' Jesus.

“Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.” (Matthew 12:15-21)

This passage references Isaiah 42:1-4: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.”

Joel to Acts

“It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Joel 2:28-32)

“In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:17-21)

Isaiah to Acts

“I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’ And he said, ‘Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.’” (Isaiah 6:8-10)

“And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: ‘The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

“Go to this people, and say, ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.’ For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.” Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.” (Acts 28:25-28)

All of these prophecies were uttered hundreds of years before the Spirit came upon the virgin Mary and she conceived a child who was formed in her womb.

Lesson 4 The Spirit at the Dedication and Baptism of Jesus

Circumcised and Purified

When Jesus was presented to the Lord as a babe, we observe that the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would see the Christ, the Anointed. Then Simeon, in the Spirit, spoke inspired words over the child.

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’” (Luke 2:21-32)

Baptism

When the religious leaders came to John, he called them a brood of vipers” (Matthew 3:7) and then described his baptism. And in keeping with His role as forerunner, he also spoke of the coming one, Jesus. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

When Jesus approached John at the Jordan, the baptizer was puzzled for John knew Jesus, the Lamb of God, had never sinned and thus did not need to repent. “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold,

the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;" (Matthew 3:13-16)

When the Spirit alighted on Jesus, this was a fulfillment of Isaiah 11:2, "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." The divine Spirit was so much more than a mere gentle dove, He was God the Spirit coming upon Jesus the Son.

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist "bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.' I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:32-33)

As Jesus was in the waters of the Jordan, His Father affirmed Him and filled Him with the Spirit, signified by the dove alighting on Him. Jesus became not only full of the Spirit Himself, but the one who would baptize others in the same Spirit. "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil." (Luke 4:1-2)

Lesson 5 The First Temptation and the Sword of the Spirit

Led by the Spirit

After the wonderful events at the Jordan, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,'" and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him." (Matthew 4:1-11)

Tempted

In response to each temptation Jesus responded with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ... In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts

of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” (Ephesians 6:10-11, 16-17)

The word of God is our primary weapon when confronted by any form of temptation from the evil one. Jesus wielded it magnificently and successfully. “All Scripture is inspired by God” (2 Timothy 3:16 NLT) and a result of men directed by the Spirit as the apostle Peter declares, “No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)

David, in the Spirit

Jesus depended on the Spirit of God and the inspired words which the Spirit uttered through men of old especially David. When speaking to the Pharisees Jesus affirmed the anointing of David by the Spirit. “Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.” (1 Samuel 16:13)

“Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”?’” (Matthew 12:41-44)

Jesus was so saturated in the words of God, while experiencing the excruciating pain of crucifixion and the Father turning away His face because of our sin, echoed Psalm 22:1. “About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

Lesson 6 Jesus, the Christ

Jesus is the name given to the Son of God. He is Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus son of Joseph and Mary. Yet the expression Jesus Christ, which is more aptly translated, Jesus, the Christ, Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus, the Anointed, is found nearly 500 times in the New Testament. While there are an abundance of references to “Christ” there are also other expressions of this relationship, “Jesus Christ”, and “Christ” Jesus. Twice in the New Testament, the phrase “Spirit of Jesus” is mentioned, which reinforces the oneness of the Spirit of God and the Son of God.

“When they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” (Acts 16:7)

“I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,” (Philippians 1:19)

The continual use of this special appellation can numb us to the message inherent in this word, that Jesus depended and leaned on God’s Spirit. His ministry is a fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1 which Jesus quoted in the synagogue in Nazareth. “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me ...”

In the Power of the Spirit, Jesus returned to Galilee

“Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.” (Luke 4:14-16)

Anointed

“The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” (Luke 4:17-19)

The Spirit empowered Jesus to proclaim the truth

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.” (Matthew 12:18)

He cast out demons, by the Spirit

“If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matthew 12:28)

Anointed to Heal

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

He rejoiced in the Spirit

“In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.’” (Luke 10:21)

He taught, in the Spirit

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 1:1-2)

He shall glorify me

We know what we know about Jesus, because the Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, God’s Spirit, has fulfilled His calling, “He will glorify me” (John 16:14).

Lesson 7 The Teaching of Jesus on the Spirit

Born of the Spirit

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” (John 3:5-6)

Born from Above

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again(from above).’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:7-8)

Fullness of the Spirit

“He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.” (John 3:34)

Life-giving Spirit

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63)

Rivers of Living Water

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37-39)

Our Forever Helper

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

Wonderful Teacher

(Jesus said) “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26)

Do not be Anxious

“When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

The Spirit bearing Witness

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

Our Greatest Ally

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” (John 16:7-11)

Our Divine Tutor and Guide into all Truth

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:12-15)

Sober Words

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” (Matthew 12:31-32)

“Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.” (Luke 12:10)

The Spirit of Power

(Jesus) said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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.” (Acts 1:7-8)

Commissioned

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.’” (John 20:19-23)

Jesus gave commands through the Holy Spirit

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 1:1-2)

Wait for the Spirit

“Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“While staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, ‘you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’” (Acts 1:4-5)

You will receive power

“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.” (Acts 1:8)

Ask to Receive His Good Gift

“I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9-13)

Lesson 8 The Crucifixion and Resurrection

We have read how the Spirit of God came upon Mary at the incarnation. This account is clearly stated in Matthew and Luke. We have to search the scriptures a little more deeply to discover the crucial role the Spirit played in the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

The Spirit foretold the Suffering Messiah

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.” (1 Peter 1:10-11)

Gethsemane, the Battle before the Battle

“And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit

indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.” (Matthew 26:37-44)

Three times Jesus asked the Father “if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.” Finally after the third request, Jesus said “if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” What made the difference? Perhaps a better question is who made the difference?

In Hebrews 9 we see how the Eternal Spirit came to the aid of Jesus and helped Him say “Yes” to the will of God.

“When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:11-14)

Jesus did not want to die any more than you and I want to end our life. He was God in the flesh and was susceptible to every temptation that you and I experience.

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus was tempted to say no to the cure fate which awaited Him on the cross. He was tempted to take the easy path of life, but the Spirit helped Him to say yes to His Father, and He offered Himself a sacrifice for our sins.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Sinless Life

The most common name for the Spirit is the Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit is absolutely holy. This good, righteous, holy Spirit helped Jesus to live a holy sinless life, otherwise His supreme sacrifice would have been in vain. Jesus was enabled to live a holy life, because of the Holy Spirit.

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:14) The NLT restates this same verse: “For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.”

Later in this same chapter we see the result of the sinless sacrifice which Jesus offered for the world and which is still reverberating in our day and age: “But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.” (Hebrews 9:26)

The Spirit helped Jesus pray.

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26)

Notice the language in Psalm 22:1, as Jesus suffers on the cross; “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?” He is quoting the words of David, which the Spirit also inspired.

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:46) The faithful Spirit helped Jesus utter these words in His weakness, with groaning too deep for words.

The Spirit was with the Son of God in His darkest hour.

As bad a being crucified on a cross is, there is one thing worse, being separated from your Father for the only time in your life. I have difficulty reading this cry of agony from the heart of Jesus. He and His Dad had been together in a way we will only begin to taste when we are in heaven. They enjoyed the joy and warmth of unhindered intimate fellowship since the beginning of eternity.

Yet because of our sin, He was separated.

“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:45)

Even in this dark hour, He was not “alone” for the Helper, the Comforter, was with Him, for He was at the side of Jesus forever. “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever,” (John 14:16).

The Resurrection

After enduring the cross and being separated from His Father, Jesus rose from the dead, but only with the divine assistance of the Life-giving Spirit. We have to work through Paul’s letter to the Romans to uncover this nugget to truth.

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11)

Lesson 9 The Spirit of God in Acts

Acts the Spirit

If I were choosing a title for the book of Acts, I would call it Acts of the Apostles Empowered with the Holy Spirit. There are over 50 references to the Spirit in this one book and the variety of situations adds much to our understanding of this divine member of the Trinity.

As we have followed the lives of these ordinary men being disciplined by Jesus, we readily identify with Peter, James, John and the others as they struggle to comprehend the life and teachings of their Messiah. And following the crucifixion of their master, they are predictably depressed and despondent for three days. Then their Risen Lord appears and teaches them for 40 more days until they watch Him ascend on the Mount of Olives.

For the next 7 days they are waiting and tarrying in Jerusalem, as Jesus had commanded them, until the Spirit would be poured out on them. This happens on the day of Pentecost. From that point on, these ordinary men, empowered by the Spirit begin to change the world. They began in Jerusalem, continued in Judea and Samaria, and finally reached the uttermost parts of the earth. This incredible transformation is because they, like their Savior, had been filled-baptized-empowered by the same Spirit who filled-baptized-empowered Jesus.

Jesus commanded, through the Holy Spirit

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:1-3)

You will be baptized in the Holy Spirit

“While staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, ‘you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’” (Acts 1:4-5)

You will be empowered to be my witnesses

“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.” (Acts 1:8)

The Spirit also spoke through David

“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.” (Acts 1:16)

Pentecost, which according to sacred writ, is 50 days after Passover

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)

This outpouring of the Spirit fulfills Joel 2:28-32.

“In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:17-21)

Jesus and the Spirit

“Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.” (Acts 2:33)

The Gift of the Spirit for believers in Jesus

“Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)

Brought before rulers and elders, the Holy Spirit taught Peter what to say

“On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders,’” (Acts 4:5-8)

“When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

David, in the Spirit

“Who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?’” (Acts 4:25)

Filled Afresh

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

Don't Mess with the Spirit

“Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?’” (Acts 5:3)

“But Peter said to her(Sapphira), ‘How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.’” (Acts 5:9)

Obedience and the Spirit

“Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.’” (Acts 5:29-32)

Qualifications for Servant Leadership

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.” (Acts 6:3)

“And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.” (Acts 6:5)

Stephen, “full of the Spirit and of wisdom”

“They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.” (Acts 6:10)

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” (Acts 7:51)

“He, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:55)

Deeper in the Spirit through the laying on of hands

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14-17)

The Spirit is not to be trifled with

“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!’” (Acts 8:18-20)

The Spirit directing Philip

“And the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and join this chariot.’” (Acts 8:29)

“And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.” (Acts 8:39)

Paul, healed and filled with the Spirit

“Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 9:17)

The Comfort of the Spirit

“The church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” (Acts 9:31)

The Spirit spoke to Peter and gave him directions

“While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.’” (Acts 10:19-20)

Jesus, anointed and empowered

“Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.’” (Acts 10:34-38)

The Overseer of the Church, the Spirit, ushering the Gentiles

“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.” (Acts 10:44-45)

“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” (Acts 10:47)

Peter rehearsed to others the work of the Spirit

“The Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction.” (Acts 11:12)

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 11:15-16)

Barnabas, full of faith and the Spirit

“He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” (Acts 11:24)

The Spirit speaking through a prophet

“One of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).” (Acts 11:28)

The Spirit directing the affairs of the apostles

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:2-4)

The Spirit empowering Paul to cast out demons

“But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, ‘You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?’” (Acts 13:9-10)

Joy and the Spirit

“The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:52)

The Spirit wisely chose Peter to be the point man in receiving the Gentiles

“The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.’” (Acts 15:6-9)

The Spirit directing the missionary outreach of the church

“They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” (Acts 16:6-7)

New believers learning about the Spirit

“He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ And Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.” (Acts 19:2-6)

Paul is forewarned and constrained by the Spirit

“Behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.” (Acts 20:22-23)

Paul recognizes the Leadership of the Spirit over the church

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

More forewarning by the Spirit through the disciples

“Having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.” (Acts 21:4)

“Coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit, “This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.”’” (Acts 21:11)

The Jews reject the message of the gospel, and Paul goes to the Gentiles

“And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: ‘The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: “Go to this people, and say, ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.’ For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.” Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.’” (Acts 28:25-28)

Lesson 10 The Person of the Spirit

I have come to relate and understand this passage in new ways. In 2012 I began to appreciate the love of God in new and deep ways. I then had a new appreciation for the unconditional love, or grace, of Jesus. And because of this passage, began to seek to know and experience the fellowship, or communion, of the Holy Spirit. This verse encapsulates the Trinity we’ll.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The third person of the Trinity is often categorized as a force, or energy. He is thought of as an “It” and represented in scripture as wind or fire. But as the following scriptures reveal; the Spirit is a distinct person, with a mind, a will, feelings, who speaks, hears, and manages the Body of Christ.

In the three chapters of John 14-15-16, the Spirit of God is referred to as “**He**” thirteen times, and “**Him**” four times. I used **bold** letters to highlight these masculine pronouns.

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **He** will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **He** will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send **Him** to you. And when **He** comes, **He** will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” (John 16:7-11)

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, **He** will guide you into all the truth, for **He** will not speak on his own authority, but whatever **He** hears **He** will speak, and **He** will declare to you the things that are to come. **He** will glorify me, for **He** will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that **He** will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:12-15)

He has a Mind and Helps us Pray

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

He Knows and Comprehends

“Who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:11)

He has a Will

“All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. ” (1 Corinthians 12:11)

He Loves

“I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,” (Romans 15:30)

He is God

“Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.’” (Acts 5:3-4)

He has Feelings and can be Grieved

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

“They rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.” (Isaiah 63:10)

He teaches and instructs

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

“You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.” (Nehemiah 9:20)

He Speaks

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice,” (Hebrews 3:7).

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ” (Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22)

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” (Revelation 22:17)

He Hears and Speaks

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)

He Oversees and Manages the Affairs of the Church

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:” (Acts 15:28)

The Spirit Directs the Missionary Outreach of the Church

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” (Acts 13:2)

“They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” (Acts 16:6-7)

Lesson 11 The War Within

We have read about the close relationship between Jesus and the Spirit. His very name reflects their unity, Jesus the anointed or Jesus the Christ. The last command He gave to His disciples was for them to tarry in Jerusalem until they too were filled, baptized, and anointed by the same Spirit. In the book of Acts we observe the remarkable transformation of these simple men of Galilee when the Spirit came upon them. Truly the faithful Spirit was given to them “without measure” (John 3:34).

In his epistles to the churches Paul gives us more insight into the work of the Spirit in the inner man of all disciples of Jesus. There are several significant portions of scripture that chronicle this battle between our new nature and our sin nature. I have chosen a few translations to illuminate the conflict between these two powerful forces which are warring within the heart of each follower of Jesus.

These two natures have different words which are employed to describe them. Older translations render the Greek word “sarx” as “flesh” while newer versions translate this work “sinful nature”, “carnal nature”, “sensual nature”, or “sinful passions”. I have selected several passages for you to read from Galatians 5 and Romans 7-8 before I begin commenting on them.

“Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” (Galatians 5:16-17 NLT)

“I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.” (Romans 7:21-25 NLT)

“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.” (Romans 8:5-8 NLT)

We have each inherited an adamic sinful nature from the first father Adam and passed down through many generations of sinful men. This is our old man. But when we are born again and become a new creature, we receive a new nature which is being conformed to the image of Christ. While we wish we were completely transformed and only possessed our new nature, unfortunately both natures dwell together and they are at war within us.

We are all aware of this internal conflict which Paul describes so well in these chapters. We recognize how important it is for the Spirit of God in our new nature to have the upper hand and not our old man or sinful nature. One of the ways we identify our passions is by examining the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

Fruit of the Sinful nature, the Flesh

“The works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21 The Message)

“While we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.” (Romans 7:5)

When behaviors such as are described for the flesh emerge, these are indicators that I am being motivated by my sinful nature and not by my godly nature. These warning lights encourage me to repent and run to God and ask to be filled, led by, and walk in the Holy Spirit, and and produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Fruit of the Spirit

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” (Galatians 5:23 NLT)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:23)

Perhaps you are familiar with these descriptions of the fruit of the Spirit. I was helped by reading these verses in more than one translation. Here are the ESV and NLT words on the right, and the same words translated in The Message on the left. I hope they help to illuminate the wonderful work the Spirit does in our hearts.

(The Message)	(ESV-NLT)
• affection for others	love
• exuberance about life	joy
• serenity	peace
• a willingness to stick with things	patience
• a sense of compassion in the heart	kindness
• a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people	goodness
• involved in loyal commitments	faithfulness
• not needing to force our way in life	gentleness
• able to marshal and direct our energies wisely	self-control

Two Wolves

“An old Cherokee told his grandson, ‘My son there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, and truth.’ The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: ‘Which wolf wins?’ The old man quietly replied, ‘The one you feed.’” (author unknown)

My responsibility, as a follower of Jesus is to feed the Spirit and starve the flesh. I need help in saying “Yes” to God and His good Spirit, and “No” to my sinful nature. Following are several passages which give me hope and practical strategies in this daily life and death conflict.

Put to Death the Sinful Nature

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. ... for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:11, 13)

The Spirit helped Jesus to cast out demons (Matthew 12:28) and the same Spirit can help us declare war on our fleshly carnal nature. He is not only a comforting Spirit but a warrior Spirit. Think of the many times in Judges when the Spirit came upon men like Gideon and Samson and won great victories.

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” (Colossians 3:5, 8-10)

Sow to the Spirit

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)

“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.” (Galatians 6:7-8 NLT)

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63)

Sowing is not a word many of use in everyday life, but I think of it as planting seeds and watering them. To that end, I engage in daily disciplines to sow, or feed and encourage the Spirit. Reading scripture, which is Spirit food, is one practical way. Participating in regular times of fellowship with other believers is also necessary. I set aside regular times to walk for a mile or so and seek God and commune with Him. I listen to edifying uplifting music which encourages my spirit. I also ask with childlike faith, for my Dad to help me sow and walk in the Spirit. I need God. I am dependent on Him.

Walk in the Spirit

“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

I often ask God to help me walk in the Spirit, for in doing so, I will not be walking in the flesh. I believe the best defense is a good offense. Instead of working to not carry out the desires of the flesh, I like to focus on walking in the Spirit. When I am walking in the Spirit I can expect the good fruits which were outlined above, to follow. Conversely, when I feed the flesh, those repugnant fruits will also emerge.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” (Romans 13:14)

Faith is the Work of God

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:24-25)
5:25

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” (Galatians 5:24-25, NLT)

“So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:11)

“The message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith” (Hebrews 4:2)

Let me pull together these passages. Even when my carnal self seems very much alive, the word of God declares it has been crucified. It is my responsibility to mix faith with the promises of God. Faith comes by hearing the words of Christ. The more I have hid God’s word in my heart, the greater my ability to believe what God has declared. For “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Lesson 12 The Work of the Spirit

Born From Above

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘‘You must be born again.’’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’” (John 3:1-8)

Nicodemus was puzzled, as are many people when they learn we must each be born again. We should not be surprised at this teaching, for Jesus was born of the Spirit. The Spirit came upon Mary, she conceived, and Jesus was born.

The Amplified version renders verse 3: “Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

When we turn away from our sins, or repent, and then turn to God in faith and ask Him to forgive our sins and usher us into His kingdom, He does. We are miraculously born from above. This birthing process, which is a work of God, is a mystery. While we do not understand the process we do know from scripture that conviction of sin is a work of the Spirit, as is our ability to declare God to be our Savior and Lord.

“When he (the Spirit) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:” (John 16:8)

“No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,” (1 John 4:2)

The Spirit Helps us Know Jesus

“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,” (Ephesians 1:16-17)

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

Sanctified

Not only were we washed, we were justified, and also sanctified by the faithful Spirit. Sanctified means to be made holy, to be changed and conformed to the image of Jesus. “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)

“According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.” (1 Peter 1:2)

“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

“On some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:15-16)

Spirit of Holiness

This deep work is consistent with his name for He is most often called the “Holy” Spirit and He is simply working deep in us to make us holy.

“Declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 1:4)

The Spirit at work Within Us

“According to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the

saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:16-21)

Sealed by the Spirit

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,” (Ephesians 1:13)

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

Witness of the Spirit

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Romans 8:14-17)

When we trust in Jesus, we are adopted into the family of God. He is our Dad, we are His children. We have been given a spirit of adoption and God’s Spirit communicates with our spirit that we now belong to God. I don’t know how to describe the “witness of the Spirit” but our spirit knows.

Pray in the Spirit

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.” (Romans 8:26-27)

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit,” (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Notice the role of the Spirit in effectual prayer and spiritual warfare. The Spirit helps us pray even when we do not know how to verbalize what is on our heart. For this reason, Paul exhorts us to praying “at all seasons in the Spirit.” At the beginning of this section we are asking the Spirit of God to fill us and be in us. Now we are seeking to be in Him. What a lovely dilemma. May God fill us, baptize us and cause us to be filled with His wonderful Spirit and enable us to live, worship, and pray in Him as well.

Lesson 13 The Spirit and the Word

All Scripture is Inspired and Breathed Out

“As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

David in the Spirit

“These are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: ‘The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.’” (2 Samuel 23:1-2)

“Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’?” (Matthew 12:41-44)

“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.” (Acts 1:16)

Jesus was so saturated in the words of God, while experiencing the excruciating pain of crucifixion and experiencing the Father turn away His face because of our sin, echoed Psalm 22:1. “About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

The Sword of the Spirit

“Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” (Ephesians 6:17)

The amazing and multifaceted Spirit, is the author of scripture. In His honor we say the word of God is inspired or in-spirited. The word and the Spirit go hand in hand, just as Jesus and the word are one and the same. He is the word made flesh. God is true. His words

are true. Men worked with God to pen their accounts, and these men were carried along by God the Spirit.

Spirit of Truth

“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.” (1 John 5:6)

“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,” (John 16:13)

Carried along by the Holy Spirit

“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:16-21)

Lesson 14 The Eternal Spirit

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:14)

When I read this verse I amusedly focused on the efficacy of the blood of Jesus. But there is a powerful phrase tucked in this sentence which has incredible ramifications. It is, “through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God.” Even within this short phrase I find two wonderful insights.

Insight 1: “Jesus, through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself.”

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus wrestled with God’s call for Him to die on the cross. He sweat blood in anguish. He asked God to take this cup of suffering from His lips. Then the faithful Spirit of God came alongside Jesus and helped Him to say yes to God’s highest plan. When Jesus uttered these words, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42), the whole course of human history changed.

Jesus, with the help of, or through, the Holy Spirit, said your will be done, not mine.

Insight 2: Jesus, through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish

The sacrifice of Jesus would not have been effective, if He had not lived a sinless life, without blemish. The Spirit of Holiness, or Holy Spirit, kept Him holy. The Spirit kept Jesus from yielding to temptation. The Spirit led Jesus in victory each minute and each hour of every day, for over thirty years.

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

For Followers of Jesus

“Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’” (Matthew 16:24-25)

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

We see that the Eternal Spirit helped Jesus die. This series of studies is focused on the Spirit, but the Spirit and the Son are one and in complete harmony. We know that Jesus died so that we might live. While teaching His disciples, He counseled them to take up their own cross, deny themselves, and follow Him. As we follow His teaching, He promised we would find life.

The same Spirit who helped Jesus say yes to God’s plan and delivered Him from temptation, is given to His followers so that we too can say “nevertheless not my will but thine be done” and live godly lives for the will of God.

“The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” (Titus 2:11-12)

”To live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.” (1 Peter 4:2)

Lesson 15 Filled and Led

Full of the Spirit and Led by the Spirit

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,” (Luke 4:1)

Jesus was filled with the Spirit and He was led by the Spirit. I am aware there are differing thoughts about what it means to be filled and led, I am simply seeking to state that both are essential in the life of Jesus, and His followers. I regularly seek God to fill me with, and lead me by, His good Spirit.

Be Filled with the Spirit

“Be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

“You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.” (Romans 8:9-10)

“I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9-13)

Even though it is by the Spirit that I have been convicted of sin, and am now empowered to say Jesus is Lord, and I have been sealed by the Spirit, I still frequently ask God to fill me with His good Spirit. God likes to be asked. And when I ask, I believe He does fill me right up to the brim, by faith alone.

“Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?” (Galatians 3:2)

“He gives the Spirit without measure.” (John 3:34)

“Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)

Be Led by the Good Spirit

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

“When they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” (Acts 16:7)

God knows how to lead us. Sometimes He uses the counsel of people, other times the written word of God, and He may even bring a word to our mind to make us know what we should do. There is no set pattern for all of these instances are present in the scripture.

One rule of thumb to remember is God will never lead us contrary to the inspired scriptures. When God communicates to me by His Spirit, I then seek to discern if what I have “heard” is according to the Bible.

Gift of the Spirit by Faith

There is teaching abroad that when one receives the Spirit there should be accompanying external signs. Without discounting any manifestation the Spirit chooses to give, these passages in Galatians remind us that we receive the promised Spirit by faith, just as we believed and were justified by faith.

“Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’?” (Galatians 3:2-6)

“It is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith.’ In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:11, 14)

Ask and You Shall Receive

A powerful promise to remember when praying is found in 1 John 5:14-15, “This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” After reading these passages we are persuaded it is God’s will to be helped by His Spirit. On the basis of what we have discerned, here is a prayer which I believe God will answer for each of us.

Father, I ask in Jesus’ name that you would fill me with your Spirit. Teach me how to walk in the Spirit and let the Holy Spirit guide my life. Assist me in being led by the Spirit. Show me how to sow to the Spirit, live to please the Spirit, and live in the Spirit. Give me ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to me throughout the day. Let my thinking be controlled by the Spirit of God. Help me learn to pray in the Spirit and give me the gumption to put my sinful nature to death through the power of the Spirit.

Lesson 16 Nuggets from the New Testament

Consider the richness of the following passages and notice the deep and effectual work of the Spirit in our salvation, sanctification, and ongoing life in the Spirit.

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” (Titus 3:5-6)

Love of the Spirit

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:5)

“I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,” (Romans 15:30)

Life Giving Spirit

“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2)

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11)

Architect

“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:22)

Hope of the Spirit

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)

Help of the Spirit

“I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,” (Philippians 1:19)

Worship by the Spirit

“We are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3)

Testifying Spirit

“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.” (1 John 5:6)

Lesson 17 Names of the Spirit

There are multiple appellations for the Spirit. Beside each specific name, is the number of times this expression appears in sacred writ. May these names reveal more about the person and power of the quiet third person of the Trinity.

Holy Spirit (92)

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.” (Psalms 51:11)

The Spirit of the Lord (27)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,” (Isaiah 61:1)

Spirit of God (26)

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)

Helper, or Comforter, or Advocate, or Counselor (4)

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever” (John 14:16)

Spirit of Jesus (2)

“I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance” (Philippians 1:19)

Good Spirit (2)

“You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.” (Nehemiah 9:20)

Spirit of Christ (1)

“The Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.” (1 Peter 1:11)

My Spirit (1)

Then the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.’” (Genesis 6:3)

His Spirit (1)

“Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!’” (Numbers 11:29)

Your Spirit (1)

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” (Psalms 139:7)

The Spirit of your Father (1)

“It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” (Matthew 10:20)

The Spirit of truth (1)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,” (John 16:13)

The Spirit of holiness (1)

“And was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness” (Romans 1:4)

The Spirit of life (1)

“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:2)

The Spirit of glory (1)

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” (1 Peter 4:14)

The Eternal Spirit (1)

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God,” (Hebrews 9:14)

The Spirit of grace and supplication (1)

“I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him,” (Zechariah 12:10 ASV)

Sevenfold Spirit

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:2)

Multiple Names for the Spirit

The eighth chapter of Romans is a revelation of the varied aspects of the Spirit. I have chosen the first seventeen verses to illustrate multiple titles and descriptive names for the Spirit.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24) We have read and examined many scriptures about the third person of the Trinity, God the Spirit. With full hearts and minds we have the opportunity to give honor to whom honor is due, and give thanks and worship to God the Spirit.

Thank you Spirit for ...

Creating

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)

“When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.” (Psalms 104:30)

Giving Life

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

Equipping

“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship” (Exodus 31:3)

Coming upon Moses and the Elders

“The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied.” (Numbers 11:25)

Stirring the Gideon, Othniel, Jephthah, and Samson

“The Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet” (Judges 6:34)

“When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother. The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel.” (Judges 3:9-10)

“Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah” (Judges 11:29)

“The woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him” (Judges 13:24-25)

Coming upon Saul

“When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, they saw a group of prophets coming toward them. Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy.” (1 Samuel 10:10 NLT)

Coming upon David

“Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.” (1 Samuel 16:13 NLT)

Speaking through David

“The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.” (2 Samuel 23:2)

Coming upon Prophets

“The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded” (2 Chronicles 15:1)

Warning Your People

“You bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets.” (Nehemiah 9:30)

Clothing Zechariah

“Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest” (2 Chronicles 24:20)

Instructing

“You gave your good Spirit to instruct them” (Nehemiah 9:20)

Giving the children of Israel Rest

“Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.” (Isaiah 63:11-14)

Being Omnipresent

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” (Psalms 139:7)

Leading Me

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” (Psalms 143:10)

Revealing God’s word

“If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit upon (ASV) you; I will make my words known to you.” (Proverbs 1:23)

Bearing Fruit

“Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.” (Isaiah 32:15)

Impacting Our Offspring

“I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.” (Isaiah 44:3)

Energizing Ezekiel

“As he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.” (Ezekiel 2:2)

“The Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles.” (Ezekiel 11:24)

Being In Us

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Giving Life

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ... And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:1, 14)

Being Poured Out

“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29)

Being Mighty and Powerful

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

Resting upon Jesus

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:2)

“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.” (Isaiah 42:1)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1)

Conceiving Jesus

“When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18)

“An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)

Descending upon Jesus

“When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him” (Matthew 3:16)

Leading Jesus

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)

Giving Jesus Power

“It is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons” (Matthew 12:28)

Helping Jesus Rejoice

“In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” (Luke 10:21)

Lesson 19 Thank You Spirit, part 2

Teaching disciples what to say

“The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:12)

Helping Disciples Speak

“It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” (Matthew 10:20)

Revealing Truth

“These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)

Baptizing Believers

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

Giving Christ-followers a New Birth

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.” The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’” (John 3:5-8)

Giving Life

“It is the Spirit who gives life” (John 6:63)

“If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:10)

“The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:6)

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit(1 Peter 3:18)

Living Water

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.’” (John 7:37-39)

Being with us Forever

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever” (John 14:16)

Teaching All Things

“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

Pointing to Jesus

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

Glorifying Jesus

“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:14)

Convicting of sin

“I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:7-8)

Guiding into all Truth

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)

“You have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge” (1 John 2:20)

“The anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.” (1 John 2:27)

Speaking

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice’” (Hebrews 3:7)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelation 2:7)

“The Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and join this chariot.’ ... And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.” (Acts 8:29, 39)

“The Spirit told me to go with them” (Acts 11:12)

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” (Acts 13:2)

“Behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.” (Acts 20:22-23)

Pouring God’s Love into our Hearts

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Setting us Free

“The law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2)

“The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Leading Us

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

“Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” (Psalm 143:10)

Partnering with Us

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

Re-setting our Thinking

“Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.”

(Romans 8:5)

Putting the Flesh to Death

“If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:13)

“I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:16-18)

Lesson 20 Thank you Spirit, part 3

Convincing us we are Adopted Children of God

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:14-16)

“Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)

Help in Prayer

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” (Ephesians 6:18)

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

“Building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20)

Righteousness, Peace, and Joy

“The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

Hope

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)

Words of Power

“My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Corinthians 2:4)

Words with Conviction

“Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Cleansing, Justification, and Sanctification

“You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13()

“According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood” (1 Peter 1:2)

Regeneration and Renewal

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5)

Enabling Believers to Affirm Jesus is Lord

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Confessing that Jesus is God Incarnate

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God” (1 John 4:2)

Empowering the Body of Christ with Gifts

“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, ... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-9, 11)

Bearing Witness

“God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.” (Hebrews 2:4)

Sealing us

“Who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” (2 Corinthians 1:22)

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

Your Fellowship

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Being Received through Faith

“In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14)

Good Fruit

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness” (Galatians 5:22)

Eternal Life

“The one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:8)

Unity

“Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit –just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call” (Ephesians 4:3-4)

Filling

“Be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

The Word of God

“Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17)

Authoring the Word of God

“No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)

Deliverance

“I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance” (Philippians 1:19)

Inspired Worship

“We are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:3)

Joy

“You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 1:6)

Power, Love, and Discipline

“God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Enabling Jesus to Die

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:14)

Resting on us

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” (1 Peter 4:14)

Confirming our Abiding in Jesus

“Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.” (1 John 3:24)

“We know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” (1 John 4:13)

Making us One with You

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” (Revelation 22:17)

Lesson 21 The Spirit of God from Genesis to Malachi

Hovering at Creation

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)

Joseph

“Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?’” (Genesis 41:38)

Bezalel, the anointed Craftsman

“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,” (Exodus 31:3)

“He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,” (Exodus 35:31)

The Spirit resting upon Moses and the Elders

“The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.” (Numbers 11:25)

“Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” (Numbers 11:29)

The Prophetic Spirit

“Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him,” (Numbers 24:2)

Joshua

“The LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.” (Numbers 27:18)

“Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.” (Deuteronomy 34:9)

In the books of Judges and 1 Samuel, the expression in the ESV is “rushed upon” the man being empowered by the Spirit of God. The NLT translates this expression, “came powerfully upon” him. Other versions say “came mightily upon him.” I lean towards mightily or powerfully, over rushed, because these men did mighty powerful acts after the Spirit came upon them.

Othniel

“The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.” (Judges 3:10)

Gideon

“Then the Spirit of the LORD took possession of Gideon. He blew a ram’s horn as a call to arms, and the men of the clan of Abiezer came to him.” (Judges 6:34)

Jephthah

“At that time the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he went throughout the land of Gilead and Manasseh, including Mizpah in Gilead, and from there he led an army against the Ammonites.” (Judges 11:29)

Samson

“The Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.” (Judges 13:25)

“At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion’s jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn’t tell his father or mother about it.” (Judges 14:6)

“Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him.” (Judges 14:19)

“When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.” (Judges 15:14)

Saul

“Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush(came powerfully) upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” (1 Samuel 10:6)

“When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed(came powerfully) upon him, and he prophesied among them.” (1 Samuel 10:10)

“And the Spirit of God rushed(came powerfully) upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.” (1 Samuel 11:6)

David

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed(came powerfully) upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.” (1 Samuel 16:13)

“Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.” (2 Samuel 23:1-2)

Elijah

“As soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.” (1 Kings 18:12)

“They said to him, ‘Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.’ And he said, ‘You shall not send.’” (2 Kings 2:16)

David’s Mighty Men

“Then the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, “We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you.” Then David received them and made them officers of his troops.” (1 Chronicles 12:18)

Prophets

“The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded,” (2 Chronicles 15:1)

“Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, ‘Which way did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?’” (2 Chronicles 18:23)

“The Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.” (2 Chronicles 20:14)

“Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, ‘Thus says God, “Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’” (2 Chronicles 24:20)

Books of Wisdom

“As long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils,” (Job 27:3)

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalms 51:10)

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” (Psalms 143:10)

“The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Isaiah

“‘Ah, stubborn children,’ declares the LORD, ‘who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;’” (Isaiah 30:1)

“Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them.” (Isaiah 34:16)

“Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?” (Isaiah 40:13)

“‘Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there.’ And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.” (Isaiah 48:16)

“‘And as for me, this is my covenant with them,’ says the LORD: ‘My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,’ says the LORD, ‘from this time forth and forevermore.’” (Isaiah 59:21)

“Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.” (Isaiah 63:14)

“The Spirit lifted me up” in Ezekiel

“Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: ‘Blessed be the glory of the LORD from its place!’” (Ezekiel 3:12)

“The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the LORD being strong upon me.” (Ezekiel 3:14)

“He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem,” (Ezekiel 8:3)

“The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east.” (Ezekiel 11:1)

“The Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles. Then the vision that I had seen went up from me. And I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.” (Ezekiel 11:24-25)

“The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.” (Ezekiel 43:5)

When I read these accounts of Ezekiel being lifted up by the Spirit I am reminded of Philip in Acts when the Spirit carried him away. “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.” (Acts 8:39-40)

More from Ezekiel

“The Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, ‘Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind.’” (Ezekiel 11:5)

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.” (Ezekiel 37:1)

“I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:14)

“I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 39:29)

Micah

“As for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.” (Micah 3:8)

Not by Might, but by my Spirit

“Then he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.’” (Zechariah 4:6)

Through the Former Prophets

“They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 7:12)

Lesson 22 The Good Spirit from Matthew to John

In the four gospels, there are 52 references to God the Spirit. Matthew has 12, Mark has 6, Luke has 17, and John has 17. Most of these have been referenced in the previous sections, but they are all listed here by book.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18)

“As he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

“When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;” (Matthew 3:16)

“Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)

“It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” (Matthew 10:20)

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.” (Matthew 12:18)

“If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matthew 12:28)

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” (Matthew 12:31)

“He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord” (Matthew 22:43)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19)

“I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8)

“When he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.” (Mark 1:10)

“The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.” (Mark 1:12)

“Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” (Mark 3:29)

“David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.”” (Mark 12:36)

“When they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11)

“For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.” (Luke 1:15)

“The angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy— the Son of God.’” (to Mary) (Luke 1:35)

“When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41)

“His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied” (Luke 1:67)

“There was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,” (Luke 2:25-27)

“John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’” (Luke 3:16)

“The Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’” (Luke 3:22)

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness” (Luke 4:1)

“Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.” (Luke 4:14)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18)

“In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.’” (Luke 10:21)

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)

“Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.” (Luke 12:10)

“The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:12)

“Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” (John 1:32-33)

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” (John 3:5-6)

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

“He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.” (John 3:34)

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63)

“This he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:39)

”I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” (John 16:7-11)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15)