



My Dear Holy Spirit

30 Days to Fall in Love with the Spirit

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HOLY SPIRIT: A REAL PERSON

The Holy Spirit has always been there fulfilling our Savior's promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (**Matt. 28:20**). Abiding presence—not just a theological abstract. Indwelling Spirit—He became a Friend, Counselor, Comforter, and Teacher even as Jesus had promised He would. The Holy Spirit—*He*, not *it*—has become our constant companion.

Jesus gave you the Holy Spirit, so what have you done with Him? Ignore Him and you sentence yourself to a Christian walk filled with striving, doing, trying, and becoming frustrated. Experience the Holy Spirit, and discover for yourself a Christian walk filled with intimacy, prayer, change, growth, power, and trust. In your own strength, you cannot walk the Christian walk. But by the Spirit, you will have the closeness with God to be and do all that He desires of you.

Are you ready? Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? Are you tired of trying to be good and ready to be God's? Are you longing to know Him intimately? Because you are a believer, God's Spirit dwells within you. He's closer than your breath. Breathe on your hand. You cannot see your breath, but it's real and it reveals that life is in you. God has breathed His breath on you. The breath of God is the Holy Spirit. You are alive spiritually. This journey of experiencing the Holy Spirit will free you to allow His breath to fill you, empower you, anoint you, flow in you, speak to you, burn in you, and enliven you in every aspect of your Christian walk.

In this study, you will uncover from the Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit (**2 Tim. 3:16**) these key truths:

- The Holy Spirit is always at work within you and in other believers.
- The Holy Spirit pursues an intimate relationship with you, making you holy—body, soul, and spirit.
- The Holy Spirit invites you continually to mature as the new creation you are in Christ Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit always convicts you of sin, comforts you in every circumstance, and communicates the truth of God's Word to you.
- You must receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and seek His gifts to minister through you to others.
- You are bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit so that the person of Christ might live in and through you as you die to self.
- The Holy Spirit empowers you to witness to Jesus, serve Him and His church, and minister His grace and truth to both the saved and the lost.

THE BREATH AND WIND OF GOD

In swimming we learned that for the person who had drowned (and was at death's door) to come back to life, we had to breathe our breath into him. Doing so required closeness, intimacy, and a willingness on the lifesaver's part to give breath.

By His Spirit, God breathed both life and new life into us. He came close and gave us the gift of physical life: "And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person" (Gen. 2:7). The Hebrew word for the Spirit of God is literally His breath (*ruach*). God's creative breath speaking His word brought us into being. God's Spirit created us with purpose and destiny. When we are born again (John 3:1-7), God's Spirit breathes new life into us.

The prerequisite for experiencing the Holy Spirit is trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. The Bible teaches us that the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to us when we repent and receive

Jesus: "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

If you have not been born again, then read each of the scriptures at the top of the next page, and check them off as you read them.

- John 3:16: God gave His only Son to die for you and give you eternal life.
- John 3:1–8: Being born again is being born of water and the Spirit of God into His kingdom.
- Romans 3:23: Everyone has sinned and is separated from God by sin.
- Romans 5:6–11: Jesus died for our sins and delivers us from eternal judgment into eternal life.
- Romans 10:9–10: Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved.
- Romans 10:13: Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.
- Acts 2:38: When you are saved, you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As a believer, you have received the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit who now indwells your life and empowers you to live for Christ. Together we will explore how you can experience the Holy Spirit continually as you walk in His Spirit. Get ready for a powerful, wonderful, spiritual journey of experiencing the Holy Spirit!

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Day 1: CREATED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

God's Spirit has been intimately involved in your life from the creation of humanity to the moment of your conception. Genesis 1:2 reveals that God's Spirit "hovered" over creation. Then God's Spirit created us, and His breath gives us life (Job 33:4). You may feel as if you never knew Him, but He knows your beginning and all your ways. Before you were aware of Him, you experienced the Holy Spirit. By His Spirit, God fashioned you in the womb and gave you life.

Q: Read aloud Psalm 139:1–18 and emphasize each personal pronoun. What does this psalm reveal about God's Spirit?

Always There, Always Seeking Us Out for a Relationship

The Holy Spirit is always with us. Even when we are unaware of His presence, He is there. Even if we refuse to acknowledge His involvement in our lives, the truth remains: the Spirit of God is always present and ever seeking us out to draw us into a relationship with Him. You do not have to find the Holy Spirit; He finds you. You do not have to come to Him; He has already come to you. As near as your breath and as close as your most intimate thought, the Holy Spirit is at work around you all of the time. What He is doing will be the subject of our study the rest of this week. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit never permanently indwelt a person. Although He was ever present, He did not indwell people and continually abide in God's people until Pentecost in the New Testament (Acts 2).

EXPLORE THE WORD : The Holy Spirit Is at Work All Around Us

God's Spirit is continually at work all around you. He constantly changes and shapes the landscape of your life. You may be unaware of His presence, yet you can see evidences of His work in the lives of others and in your relationships with them.

Q: Each of these scriptures records one way that God's Spirit is at work in the world around you.

Read the scripture, and then jot down how the Spirit works.

Exodus 31:3:	Judges 14:6:	1 Samuel 10:6:
2 Samuel 23:2:	Job 32:8:	Isaiah 11:2:
Isaiah 59:21:	Ezekiel 36:27:	Joel 2:28–29:
Zechariah 4:6:		

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Is the Holy Spirit at Work in Your Life?

Review the ways the Holy Spirit was at work in the scriptures you just read. How is the Holy Spirit at work around you? Even if you do not know Him well, you may have experienced His presence at work in your life. Check some of the ways you may have experienced Him.

Q: How have you experienced the presence of God's Spirit at work all around you?

- Having the knowledge that God created all the universe and me
- Sensing His presence when reading the Bible
- Feeling near to the Spirit in a time of need or crisis
- Fellowshiping in His Spirit when I'm with other believers
- Being in awe of His Spirit's presence in worship
- Hearing the voice of His Spirit in prayer
- Having a sudden insight of truth while reading Scripture
- Being led by the Spirit's supernatural peace when facing a decision
- Other: _____

The Holy Spirit has always been there, but you may not have been aware of or sensitive to His presence. Just because you haven't been aware of His presence doesn't alter the truth that He's always there.

Q: What keeps you from experiencing His presence?

Circle the things that hinder or distract you from experiencing the Holy Spirit’s closeness:

- Fear of losing control to the Spirit
- Ignorance about the Spirit
- Distractions in my life
- Lack of experiencing God in my life
- Misunderstanding who the Spirit is
- Lack of hunger or thirst for His presence
- Other:_____

Whatever builds a wall between you and the Spirit can be removed from your life by repenting and giving attention to your relationship with God. God the Father sits on the throne ruling all of creation (Dan. 7:9), and on His right hand is Jesus Christ, who makes continual intercession for us (Eph. 1:20; Heb. 4:14–16; 9; 10). To comfort, counsel, and reveal all truth to us, Jesus has sent us the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:5–15). The very Spirit of God has come alongside us.

Q: If you desire to have a closer relationship with God’s Spirit, then repent of whatever hinders your relationship with Him.

Pray NOW for repentance, with what hinders your relationship with the Spirit:

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Ready for a Deeper Walk with God?

For years I wondered with my people, *Is there more to the Christian walk?* Studying the Word of God together, we discovered that God wants us as believers to grow spiritually moment by moment. Later we will discover that this journey or process of growing spiritually and maturing in Christ is called sanctification. That is, Jesus is making you holy by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person (He), not an it. He is the very real presence of God who never leaves or forsakes us (Heb. 13:5–6) and is always with us (Matt. 28:20). How close are you right now in your relationship with God’s Spirit?

Q: Mark an X on each line to indicate where your relationship is right now with the Holy Spirit.

VERY CLOSE-----VERY DISTANT

PERSONAL-----IMPERSONAL

INTIMATE-----SEPERATED

Through the Spirit, Jesus wants to have a close, intimate, personal relationship with you. Is that something you want in your life?

- Yes, I want to grow closer to the Lord and have a deeper walk in the Spirit.
- No, I do not have a hunger and thirst for a more intimate relationship with the Spirit.
- Other:_____

The Holy Spirit continually seeks you out and invites you to spend time with Him in the Word, worship, prayer, and fellowship. As you go through this workbook, you will learn different ways you can fellowship with the Spirit as the Bible promises: “May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:13). Just as a relationship with a friend grows with continual contact, conversation, and communion, so your relationship with the Holy Spirit will grow and deepen.

Q: Read aloud the promise of God in Ephesians 1:13–14. Emphasize the word *you*.

At the end of each day's lesson review and summarize what you have learned and experienced. Your review will become a daily journal of your growing relationship with the Holy Spirit. You may return often to your previous journal days to see how your relationship with the Holy Spirit has grown and how the Holy Spirit has been at work in your life.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study.

Ask God to teach you through the Holy Spirit the truths that you learned and to seal them in your heart. Pray for the Spirit to lead and guide you in applying these truths in your daily walk with Him.

- What was the most meaningful thing you learned today?
 - How has your relationship with the Holy Spirit grown today?
 - What continues to hinder your intimacy with the Holy Spirit?
 - Describe one way that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world around you.
-
- Write a prayer inviting God's Spirit to communicate with you, fellowship with you, and teach you all that He wants you to know.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Spirit of God created me and gave me life.
- When I was born of the Spirit, I was given the guarantee of eternal life in Christ Jesus.
- The person of the Holy Spirit desires continual communion, fellowship, and relationship with me.

Day 2: BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Is there life after birth? The speaker asked the question, which then resonated in our mind and heart. What did he mean? What unsaved humans call life is really just existing. Controlled by the power of sin, we do not really experience life until we meet Life—Jesus Christ. He says to us, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me” (**John 14:6**).

When His life enters us at our conversion, we are born of the Spirit. Born of the flesh, we exist like the First Adam, and our destiny is to die. Born of the Spirit, we become the children of God, and our destiny is eternal life.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Born of the Spirit?

Life is more than existence. Day-to-day existence produces the perfume of death. All we say and do smells of decay. When people smell your life, do they sense death or life in you?

Read this passage, and then paraphrase in your own words how it describes your life before being born of the Spirit.

Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else. (EPH. 2:1-3)

Once you left behind existence, you stepped into resurrection power. Paul described it this way: “But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s special favor that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus” (**Eph. 2:4-6**). Describe your *life* after being born of the Spirit.

Read the following scriptures, and describe what it means to be born of the Spirit.

John 1:10-13:

John 3:1-8:

Romans 8:1-14:

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Really Living?

Imagine a baby being born and then staying in an infant developmental state the rest of his life. Never eating meat, drinking only milk, that infant never matured or grew into childhood, adolescence, and finally adulthood. We would say that the immature infant was disabled.

Many Christians love their Spirit-birthed life in a disabled state. They are stuck in infancy. They can tell you how they were born again and what Jesus did for them years ago, but they can’t tell you what Jesus did in them today. Where are you in your walk in the Spirit? After being birthed in the Spirit, have you been growing?

Underline on the closest word that describes where you are right now spiritually.

INFANCY

CHILDHOOD

ADOLESCENCE

MATURITY

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Ready to Move On?

Too many Christians are stuck in spiritual apathy. Their new birth became mired in mediocrity and routine. Faith turned into religion, and enthusiasm for Jesus turned into ritual. If you are stuck, now is the time to move on from milk to meat in the Spirit.

Read Hebrews 6:1-6. Describe how this passage speaks to your walk in the Spirit today.

No matter what the Spirit has done in your life, there is more. The best is yet to come. You've been called not just to live but also to live life abundantly (**John 10:10**). Stop looking back, and start looking to Jesus (**Heb. 12:1-2**).

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. After you were born again, what happened, and what's happening?

- Describe when and how you were born of the Spirit.
- Write down the major landmarks or defining moments of spiritual growth in your life.
- How have you grown in the Spirit? Describe how you are more mature today than you were a year ago.
- Write a prayer asking God's Spirit to take you beyond where you are to a new and deeper level of spiritual intimacy with Him.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The only way for us to experience real life was to be born of the Spirit.
- After we were born of the Spirit, God mandated growth and maturity in our life.
- We need to repent of and leave behind whatever keeps us from growing in the Spirit. We look forward to Christ, not backward to the past.

Day 3: FILLED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

Our lives are much like sailboat. We are powerless to live the Christian life until we are filled by God's Spirit. Filled by the Spirit, we are gifted and inspired to do these things that are required by God. In our own strength, we helplessly try to live for Christ but find ourselves stumbling with every step.

Before the Holy Spirit filled our life, we desperately tried to set and implement goals in our life without success. Like someone making vain New Year's resolutions, we resolved in our own abilities to pray and read the Bible more, only to miss the mark again and again. In frustration, we try to follow through on obeying Christ and seeking to please Him, only to fail more than we succeeded. As a result, we became more legalistic with ourselves and others.

Walking in the Spirit is intended to be not a duty but a joy. Fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit is more than having a scheduled appointment once a day during a prayer or devotional time. It's talking with Him all the time about every decision. It's sharing with Him every joy and disappointment. Such fellowship and communion with God's Spirit are impossible without His filling.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Filled to Serve God

Imagine being commissioned to help build the tabernacle. What an awesome and challenging responsibility that would be! Such a commission was given to **Bezalel**, son of Uri, grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah. God appointed **Bezalel** to make many of the beautiful crafted artifacts in the tabernacle. Such a job was impossible without the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Q: Read the following scriptures, and then answer the questions.

- Read **Exodus 31:1–5**. What did the filling of the Holy Spirit empower Bezalel to do?
- Read **Exodus 35:30–33**. After Bezalel was filled with the Spirit, what did Moses report about him to God's people?
- Read **Ephesians 5:18–20**. When you are filled with the Spirit, what are you empowered to do?

Through the filling of God's Spirit, you receive purpose, direction, gifting, and empowerment to live the Christian life. It's important for you to hoist the sails of your life and let the wind of God's Spirit fill you and take you to deeper depths and higher heights in Christ than you have ever known.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Stagnating?

When we walk into our house after being gone for a week, and the odor overwhelms us. The pungent smell of death permeated everything—carpet, drapes, furniture, and the whole atmosphere in our home. We can barely breathe, and our eyes watered from the toxic fumes that engulfed us.

Walking in the Spirit produces a sweet aroma in our Christian lives. The apostle Paul wrote, "But thanks be to God, who made us his captives and leads us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now wherever we go he uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a fragrance presented by Christ to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those being saved and by those perishing" (2 Cor. 2:14–15). When we are alive in the Spirit, we smell of God—the aroma of life on everything and everyone around us. When we stagnate in our spiritual walk, we begin to smell of death!

You don't have to stagnate in your Christian walk. Stagnation leads to lukewarmness and frustration. A stagnated Christian goes through the motions of worship but is never filled with the joy of worship. A stagnated believer prays repetitious prayers but rarely prays from the depths of his spirit. A stagnated follower of Christ obeys out of duty but seldom surrenders radically and wholeheartedly to the leading of God.

Q: Are the sails of your life filled with God's Spirit? Underline the word indicating where you are right now.

The Holy Spirit fills you with the gifts and abilities to do God's will. Your obedience to God is

BURDEN **DUTY** **EXCITED**

The Holy Spirit inspires you to study the Word and pray. Your study and prayer life in the Spirit are

BORING **ORGANISED** **EXCITING**

The Holy Spirit fills you with a hunger and thirst for God. Your worship is

RITUAL **REGULAR** **JOYFUL**

If you find yourself more empty instead of being—filled with the Spirit—then invite the Holy Spirit to fill your life to overflowing so that you are moved by the Spirit to live totally surrendered to the Lord in every area of your life—feelings, attitudes, actions, spiritual disciplines, thoughts, and motives.

Q: Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill those areas of your life that are stagnant, empty, and listless.

Are You Ready to Be Filled by God's Spirit?

Filling requires preparation and willingness. The Holy Spirit never imposes Himself upon you like a puppeteer controlling a puppet. He works with, in, and through you but never without your permission. Throughout the New Testament, we read the reports of what happened when the Holy Spirit filled those early believers. What the Spirit did through them, He will do now through you as long as you are ready and willing.

There is story of a teacher asking the people in a Bible class if they were willing to be used of God—to go wherever God commanded them to go and to do whatever He asked them to do. One student responded, "I'm not willing yet." To which the teacher responded, "Then, sir, are you willing to be made willing?" Are you willing? Or are you willing to be made willing by the Spirit?

Q: Read each scripture on the next page and then describe what happened after the Spirit filled each believer. Then check "Yes, I am willing," and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and use you this way. Or check "Yes, I'm ready to be made willing," or "No, I'm not willing."

Acts 2:4:

- Yes, I am willing.
- Yes, I'm ready to be made willing.
- No, I'm not willing.

Acts 4:31:

- Yes, I am willing.
- Yes, I'm ready to be made willing.
- No, I'm not willing.

Acts 7:55:

- Yes, I am willing.
- Yes, I'm ready to be made willing.
- No, I'm not willing.

Acts 13:52:

- Yes, I am willing.
- Yes, I'm ready to be made willing.
- No, I'm not willing.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. If you pictured your walk in the Spirit as a boat on the water, how would you see yourself? Check one.

- Dead in the water
- Sails up but waiting to be filled
- Filled and moving ahead
- Rapidly going forward in the Spirit to win the race

Other:

When you are filled by the Spirit to accomplish something that you in your own strength could never do, how is your relationship with God deepened and strengthened?

- Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill you.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit fills me with His power and ability to do God's will.
- The filling of the Spirit gifts me to accomplish things beyond my natural abilities.
- For the Spirit to fill me, I must be willing or willing to be made willing.

Day 4: EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

Trying is not trusting. Experiencing the Holy Spirit is not about working and exerting effort to please God. In fact, it's impossible to live the Christian life without His power. God's people discovered this truth in the Old Testament. Every time they tried to do what was right "in their own eyes," everything ended up a disaster.

Time and time again after the Israelites had inhabited the promised land, they fell away from God's will and began to worship idols. Then Israel's enemies in the land, especially the Philistines, rose up and oppressed them: "In those days Israel had no king, so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes" (Judg. 17:6). Doing what seemed right, but not being led by the Spirit, left Israel oppressed and defeated.

Have you ever been caught in the endless spiritual cycle in your life of trying to do what you think is right only to be attacked, depressed, and defeated? Without the constant empowering of the Holy Spirit, you will never live a steadfast, victorious Christian life. You and I can't do it by ourselves. We need God's empowerment through His Spirit.

EXPLORE THE WORD : What Are You Trying to Accomplish in Your Own Strength?

As a disciple, we often try to minister in our own strength. At times, our ministry goes great, and we feel wonderful. At other times, attendance are down, the visiting friends are low, or someone in the church hurt another person. We have felt discouraged and set our sights on trying harder to be an effective next time.

We achieve great successes and defeats. On the spiritual discipline front, for weeks we have joyous quiet times with God, and then for weeks we are completely off course and unresponsive to God. Have you ever been there? Is walking your spiritual walk like being on a roller coaster? It will always be up and down when you try instead of trust, when you do your best to live the Christian life without the Spirit's power.

Q: Read Zechariah 4:6. Rewrite or paraphrase the verse in your own words.

Complete these sentences:

- I find myself trying to live the Christian life in my own strength when I
- I experience ups and downs in my spiritual walk because I

In the Old Testament, God raised up judges for the people of Israel. God empowered those judges to lead His people out of bondage and back into freedom.

Q: Read the book of Judges about these mighty leaders empowered by the Holy Spirit, and then jot down what God's Spirit empowered them to do.

Othniel (Judg.3):

Gideon (Judg.6):

Jephthah (Judg.11):

Samson (Judg.13-15):

God's Spirit wants to empower you today to do all that God purposes in your life. Read **Acts 1:1-8**. Write down what these verses say to you about what the Holy Spirit empowers you to do.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : What's Damming Up the Spirit's Power in Your Life?

Where's the power in your life? Empowered by the Spirit, the judges provided leadership to a wayward nation. Where is the Holy Spirit empowering your life? In what areas of your life do you still try to exercise control?

Repentance and confession precede empowerment. Only when we acknowledge our weakness, sin, and failings can we receive the power of the Holy Spirit to change and strengthen our lives. Read **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**.

Q: Repent to God. The greatest dam holding back the river of the Spirit's power in my life is

Q: Confess to God. I confess that my weakness is

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Where Are You Being Empowered by the Holy Spirit?

We read earlier in this study that the reason the Spirit pours out His power on us is to make us bold witnesses and disciples for the gospel. When the lost who know your weaknesses see you live the Christian life in spite of those failings, the power of the gospel to change, transform, deliver, heal, and overcome becomes evident to them. It's called *power evangelism*. The power of the Spirit is demonstrated in you, attracting the lost to Jesus.

The Spirit's power may also work through you in supernatural ways. In the early disciples and followers of Jesus, the Spirit's power was demonstrated in miracles, signs, wonders, salvations, spiritual gifts, boldness, and mighty, supernatural works.

Q: Complete these sentences:

- One way I am experiencing the Spirit's power is
- I need to experience the Spirit's power in

ASSIGNMENT:

As you review today's study, surrender your strength to the Spirit's power. Pray this prayer:

Almighty God, You are strong, and I am weak. Spirit of God, You are my Helper, for I am helpless. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Without Your Spirit, I can do nothing. Spirit of God, empower me to be a bold witness. Use me as a vessel of Your wonder-working power in my life. Amen.

- List the areas of surrender in your life where the Spirit's power is free to flow.
- List the areas of trying in your life that need to be transformed by the Spirit into trusting.
- Describe where the dams must break within you to allow the river of the Spirit's power to flow out of you.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit empowers me to do mighty things beyond my own abilities.
- Repentance and confession demolish the dams within me that hold back the rivers of the Spirit's power.
- The Holy Spirit empowers me to be a bold witness of the gospel and to be a vessel of His signs, wonders, miracles, and mighty works.

Day 5: THE SPIRIT COUNSELS AND COMFORTS

We learn that Jesus called the Holy Spirit “the Advocate,” which means both Counselor and Comforter. The Holy Spirit is the One who stands alongside us, guiding us through life, counseling us in all truth, and comforting us with the presence of God.

Jesus promised that He would be with us always (Matt. 28:20). He abides with us through the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is constantly telling us what He says (John 16:13–15) and guiding us in all truth.

We learn some of the qualities of a good counselor. Through the years, we have experienced that the Holy Spirit excels in all these qualities. A good counselor does the following:

- Listens without interrupting
- Understands the person’s pain and suffering
- Empathizes without sympathizing
- Helps the person test his perceptions against the truth
- Comforts and encourages
- Builds up instead of tearing down
- Helps the person make his own decisions based on truth
- A counseling session with the Holy Spirit—*Priceless!*

There are certainly times when it is beneficial to go to a counselor, but know that you always have by your side the Counselor of all ages—the Holy Spirit.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Has the Spirit Counseled You Lately?

When walking in the Spirit, we need daily counseling sessions with the Holy Spirit. He needs to be a part of every decision, conversation, action, thought, and feeling. Here are some of the questions we can constantly ask Him:

- Holy Spirit, how should I respond to that negative remark or behavior?
- Holy Spirit, whom shall I tell today about Jesus?
- Holy Spirit, how shall I pray?

Like three-year-olds who love to learn about everything around them, we should ask endless questions. No question is too trivial or trite to ask the Holy Spirit.

Read the following scripture aloud. It records Jesus’ words.

Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it! If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. . . . But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative—and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you. I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid. (JOHN 14:14–18, 26–27)

Underline the phrases that you need the most or mean the most to you. Circle the words that answer the needs of your heart.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Taking His Counsel?

It’s one thing to be counseled by the Holy Spirit. It’s another to receive, obey, and follow His counsel. His counsel and wisdom may go against your human nature or the advice of others. Such counsel may cause you to feel uncomfortable. If you feel uncomfortable with the Spirit’s counsel, how do you usually respond? (Circle the words that fit your response.)

- Frustrated
- Obedient
- Angry
- Worried
- Upset
- Challenged
- Other: _____

When the Spirit counsels us and we disobey, He often waits until we repent and obey before speaking to us about the next situation in our lives. If you are having a difficult time hearing the Spirit's counsel in a present circumstance, examine yourself and see if there is any recent counsel from the Spirit you have disobeyed that could be hindering His work in your life now.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : When Do You Need His Counsel?

Where do you run when you are afraid? To whom do you talk when you are upset? Who listens when you are working through a problem? Who cares for and comforts you when you are hurting? No human being can be there for you all the time. But the Holy Spirit can and will be there. Jesus promises that He will never leave you.

Complete these sentence prayers that apply to your life now:

- Holy Spirit, help me conquer my fear of
- Holy Spirit, hear my troubled cry about
- Holy Spirit, help me solve
- Holy Spirit, comfort me because I am hurting about
- Holy Spirit, guide me in how to handle my relationship with

The Holy Spirit is as close as your next breath. He is waiting and ready to counsel and comfort you in every situation. Don't let anything keep you from asking for His priceless counsel.

Day 6: THE SPIRIT CONVICTS

Conviction is being told what's right even when it hurts. Conviction is finding out that we're wrong even when we think we're right. Conviction is learning the truth about ourselves. And there are times when no one has the courage to tell us the truth about ourselves except the Spirit of truth!

We believe the church to be my source and our abilities to be the strength we needed to do ministry. Yes, pride does come before a fall (**Prov. 16:18**). We mistakenly believed that we serve the ministry instead of serving Christ. We think that God needs our abilities to do ministry when He really needed our availability. The Holy Spirit continues to convict us of my sinful ways, but we aren't listening.

When the Spirit convicts you, do you respond, repent, and begin anew, or do you carry the baggage of past sin and guilt around with you for a long time?

EXPLORE THE WORD : How Does the Spirit Convict?

The Holy Spirit uses the sword of God's Word to pierce our hearts when we sin. The writer of Hebrews declared, "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are" (**Heb. 4:12**). And Paul told us that the sword of the Spirit is God's Word (**Eph. 6:17**). So the Spirit uses the Word of God like a scalpel to cut out the cancerous sin in our lives.

Read John 16:6–15. Describe in your own words how the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin.

Read Hebrews 4:7. When the Spirit speaks to you with a convicting word, how do you respond?

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Does the Spirit Get Your Attention?

The Holy Spirit has many ways to get your attention and convict you of sin. How does He get through to you when you have sinned?

He gets your attention. Check all the different ways you have heard the voice of the Spirit convicting you of sin:

- In a sermon
- In a Bible study or lesson
- Through a Christian book or devotional
- Through a comment or conversation with a friend
- In the criticism of an enemy
- Through facing a crisis or problem
- Other: _____

How do you respond when the Holy Spirit convicts you? At the top of the next page, put an X on the line near the phrase that represents your response.

REPENT QUICKLY ----- DENY SIN
CONFESS HONESTLY----- MAKE EXCUSES

The writer of Hebrews urged, "Today you must listen to his voice. Don't harden your hearts against him" (**Heb. 4:7**). When the Holy Spirit convicts, admit your sin, quit doing what's wrong, and then move on with your life, forgetting the past condemnation.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Listening to and Obeying the Spirit's Voice?

The Holy Spirit is talking to you. He wants a face-to-face, personal dialogue with you. His conviction brings you to repentance so that you will not be hindered by sin. He desires for you to grow and mature in Christ without returning to past bondages.

When the Spirit convicts, don't try to make things right with God by trying harder to keep the law and justify yourself.

Read Galatians 5:1, 4–5.

Doing what's right now doesn't cover up what's been wrong. The Spirit desires repentance, not self-righteousness.

One wall that keeps us from experiencing the Spirit is self-righteousness. When He convicts, we run to Him in repentance or away from Him in self-righteousness. Deep repentance brings a flow of the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Read Acts 3:19. If the Holy Spirit has been convicting you of sin and you've been avoiding repentance, write a prayer of repentance right now.

- Be assured that your repentance will not bring condemnation; confession brings forgiveness.

Read the following passages, and then complete the sentences.

"God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death" (2 Cor. 7:10).

The Holy Spirit has been using conviction and sorrow to turn me away from

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

The Holy Spirit convicts me of pride and humbles me when

"If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts" (1 John 1:8-10).

I confess that what keeps me from confessing my sin is

With sincere repentance and continual confession comes the refreshing and renewing presence of the Holy Spirit.

Day 7: MEET THE ADVOCATE

Jesus named the Holy Spirit the advocate—Counselor, Comforter, the One who comes alongside us. At first, we walk, talk, and make decisions dragging the advocate (the Holy Spirit) around with us. We never notice Him. He is tagging along without any input, say, or counsel. Do you ever treat the Holy Spirit that way? Yes, He's with you, by your side, but you never really notice Him or give Him any attention. You go about living your life, your own way, without any regard for the Holy Spirit.

Of course, we dragging around another person looks humorous to the audience. But there's nothing funny about dragging the Holy Spirit through life as if He's just excess baggage in our life.

Then we ask the person (the Holy Spirit) to take control of us. We promise not to make any decision and not to go in any direction without His leading. Now the person by our side speaks, and we listen. He nudges us in the direction we should go, and we follow His lead. The One beside us truly becomes our Counselor, Guide, and Teacher.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Listening to the Holy Spirit?

Jesus knew we couldn't live without Him, without His omnipresent Spirit with us to guide and direct us. So He gave us the Holy Spirit. The question confronting you is, Are you listening to the Spirit?

Q: Read John 14:15–16. Write down all the revelations Jesus gives about who the Spirit is and what He does in your life.

We will probe deeper into Jesus' teachings about the Holy Spirit in our later lessons. For now, it's important for you to recognize His presence in your life. It's time to build a relationship with Him. He is speaking to you about everything in your life. Are you listening?

Jesus spoke a number of times about how He has given you the Holy Spirit. Just to confirm that the Spirit is with you, read how Jesus has given the Spirit.

Q: Read each text, and write down how Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to us.

Matthew 28:19:

Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12:

Luke 24:49:

John 20:22:

Acts 1:1–8:

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Do You Respond to the Spirit's Counsel?

Jesus promised, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth" (**John 14:16–17**). When the Holy Spirit begins to lead you into all truth, how do you receive what He says? Jesus further teaches in **John 14:17** that the world cannot receive Him or what He says, but how about you?

At times, His counsel will be correction, rebuke, conviction, or admonition. When the Spirit's counsel is correcting, how do you respond? (Mark the response you most commonly have.)

- Anger
- Surprise
- Defensiveness
- Hurt
- Brokenness
- Repentance
- Gratefulness
- Other:

At times, the Holy Spirit will encourage and affirm you. But at other times, He may correct and admonish you. The attitude He desires no matter what He counsels is complete surrender and receptiveness to how He is leading. Nothing short of total surrender will meet His will for your response.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Begin Talking to the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is right by your side. Don't delay. Begin talking with Him about everything— your decisions, feelings, goals, frustrations, problems, joys, and more. Don't hold anything back from Him. Remember that you must invite Him to talk to you or lead you. He will not impose Himself on you. When you invite, He comes and leads.

Q: Write down now what you want to say to the Holy Spirit. Tell Him of your love for Him and your need for His guidance.

The Holy Spirit will counsel you in everything if you will only listen to Him. Acknowledge His presence, and respond to His voice.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Remember that the Holy Spirit is the advocate. He is always with you.

- What will you do today to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- List the problems, decisions, feelings, and goals you need to discuss with Him today.
- Now write a prayer covering this list with the Holy Spirit. Spend time listening to Him as well as talking to Him.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit is with me always.
- I can talk to the Holy Spirit about everything.
- He counsels and guides me whenever I ask.

Day 8: THE SPIRIT MAKES US HOLY

The Hebrew word for holy (*qadosh*) means “to be set apart, consecrated, and separated” for the sole use of God Himself. Think about that for a moment. By His Spirit, God is setting you apart for His unique and special purposes. He has consecrated you solely as His. No other person, corporation, or country owns or controls you. Being holy means belonging to and living completely for Christ.

The Holy Spirit sets you and me as believers apart solely for Him. We are part of the body, the church, but we don't belong to an institution. We belong to Jesus (1 Cor. 3:23).

EXPLORE THE WORD : To Whom Do You Belong?

Being holy means being set apart—belonging solely to Jesus as His bride, His beloved. We will explore how the Holy Spirit's sanctifying (making us holy) work in us purifies us. Purification is part of being made holy. But now let's turn our attention to being set apart by the Holy Spirit so that we belong solely to Christ.

Read each of the passages at the top of the next page, and describe how you belong to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 3:

Romans 12:4–8:

Romans 8:1:

Romans 1:6:

John 17:10:

John 13:8; 15:21:

The indwelling Holy Spirit is making you holy. One experience you will have of that holiness is the sense that you belong first to Christ and then to those who are also sanctified by the Spirit.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Lonely or Longing?

When you belong to Christ, you are never lonely. At times, you may be alone with Him, having withdrawn from the world and come apart to pray, commune, and be undistracted in time with Christ.

However, belonging leads to longing. A husband and wife long to be with each other because they love each other. The same is true for parents and children and close friends. Even more so, the indwelling Holy Spirit longs for the One who sent Him, Jesus. The Spirit imparts to you that longing to be with Jesus.

Complete the sentences there.

- I long to be with Jesus when
- My longing to be with Jesus is satisfied by
- The Holy Spirit has created a longing in me for

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Cry Out for Him

When the Spirit inspires you to long for the Savior, don't hold back. That longing sets you apart for Him. That longing draws you close to Him. That longing creates in you a hunger and thirst for holiness.

Say aloud or pray the following verses from Psalms:

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire.

He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see what he has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the LORD. (PS. 40:1–3)

O God, listen to my cry! Hear my prayer!

From the ends of the earth, I will cry to you for help, for my heart is overwhelmed.

Lead me to the towering rock of safety, for you are my safe refuge, a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me.

Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings! (PS. 61:1–4)

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.
I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I come and stand before him? (PS. 42:1-2)*

*I reach out for you. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain.
Come quickly, LORD, and answer me, for my depression deepens.
Don't turn away from me, or I will die.
Let me hear of your unfailing love to me in the morning, for I am trusting you.
Show me where to walk, for I have come to you in prayer.
Save me from my enemies, LORD; I run to you to hide me.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. (PS. 143:6-10)*

Set apart by the Holy Spirit, you will long for the One to whom you belong—Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Is your desire for holiness driving you to a deeper hunger and thirst for Him?

- In what ways has the Holy Spirit set you apart and separated you from the world?
- How has belonging to Jesus created in your spirit a longing for Him?
- Write a prayer thanking the Lord for giving you His Spirit, who makes you holy.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit has set me apart and is making me holy unto the Lord.
- Set apart and holy, I belong solely to Jesus.
- Because I belong to Him, I continually long and thirst for Him.

Day 9: PURIFIED BY THE SPIRIT

When the Spirit sanctifies us (makes us holy), He makes us pure. To be holy also means to be pure and clean. The apostle Peter told us, "God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by his blood" (1 Peter 1:2).

The Holy Spirit purifies us in many ways. First of all, He cleanses us of all immorality and keeps us morally pure. Next, the Spirit cleanses our thoughts and attitudes so that we have pure motives. He gives us a pure heart. By applying the blood of Jesus to our lives, the Spirit cleanses us of sin and wickedness.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Spiritual Purity

Only the pure in heart see God: "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God" (Matt. 5:8). We cannot make ourselves pure. But the Spirit cleanses our inner selves and washes us as white as snow. Discover what the Bible says about purity. Read each scripture, and write down all the qualities of purity described within it.

Psalm 18:24–28:

Psalm 24:4:

Psalm 51:1–2, 7:

Psalm 119:9:

Proverbs 15:26:

Proverbs 16:1–2:

Luke 11:34:

2 Corinthians 7:1:

Hebrews 9:14; 10:22:

James 3:17:

As the Spirit makes us holy, our lives are made pure in God's sight by the blood of Jesus.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Pure?

Every area of life needs the cleansing purification of the Spirit.

Check the areas of your life that need to be cleansed.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies and videos | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet surfing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughts | <input type="checkbox"/> Motives | <input type="checkbox"/> Attitudes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desires | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behavior | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

To stay pure requires a constant accountability to God's Word and other Christians who will confront you with the truth in love when you evidence impurity in your life.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Let Him Purify You?

The Holy Spirit will not use an unclean vessel. The impure vessels are convicted, judged, and put through the fire by the Holy Spirit. One may hide sin for a season, but sin will always find the person out (Num. 32:23).

Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to purify every area of your life and convict you of any hidden sin.

- The Holy Spirit not only purifies; He helps keep you pure.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Ask the Holy Spirit to deal with any impurity that arose in your life today.

- What did you learn about God's demand for purity in your life?
- What process does the Holy Spirit use in your life to convict you of impurity and cleanse you?
- To whom are you accountable in staying pure in your walk?
- Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to keep you pure.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit insists that I become and stay pure.
- Staying a pure vessel, I can be used powerfully by the Spirit.
- Being accountable to another believer can help me stay pure.

Day 10: DON'T REJECT THE HOLY SPIRIT

All our life we have heard that the one unforgivable sin is to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Of course, in a sense the second unforgivable sin is to be unforgiving (**Matt. 6:15**). Jesus warned, "I assure you of this: If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I, the Son of Man, will openly acknowledge that person in the presence of God's angels. But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before God's angels. Yet those who speak against the Son of Man may be forgiven, but anyone who speaks blasphemies against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven" (**Luke 12:8-10**).

To blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to reject Jesus Himself. Everything the Spirit says and does points to Jesus (**John 15:26**). To blaspheme the Spirit is to reject His presence in your life. And Jesus sent Him to give us new birth. Unless we are born again, we cannot receive the gift of eternal life and be with Jesus forever.

EXPLORE THE WORD : How Precious Is the Spirit?

Jesus places ultimate importance on the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Without the Spirit, we cannot know Jesus. He reveals Jesus to us and teaches us all about Him. The Spirit is so precious to Jesus that some of the strongest warnings in the Bible pertain to rejecting the Holy Spirit.

Q: Read Matthew 12:22-32 and Luke 12:8-10. Answer the questions at the top of the next page.

- By what power does Jesus cast out demons?
- What sin cannot be forgiven?
- How should we regard the Holy Spirit in our lives?

EXAMINE YOURSELF: How Precious Is the Holy Spirit to You?

When do you speak or think about the Holy Spirit? When you do speak about the Holy Spirit, do you give Him the honor and respect that you give the Father and the Son? So dear and precious was the Holy Spirit to Jesus that rejecting Him meant rejecting Jesus.

Q: When you speak about or think about the Holy Spirit, how do you refer to Him?

Check those that apply to you:

- I speak lovingly to Him.
- I speak of Him as an *it*.
- I never talk about Him.
- I don't know how to refer to Him.
- It's hard for me to think about the Holy Spirit as a person.
- Other:

Inviting Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives is also inviting the Holy Spirit to indwell us. We cannot have Jesus without the accompanying Holy Spirit.

Q: Write down how you feel about the Holy Spirit.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Tell Him?

You may have told the Father and the Son about your love and devotion. But how often do you speak directly to the Holy Spirit about your love and devotion to Him? He is the person of the Trinity who abides continually with you. Do not ignore Him. Tell Him how you feel.

Q: Write a prayer expressing your love and devotion to the Holy Spirit. It may be as simple as praying,

Father, I love You. Jesus, I love You. Holy Spirit, I love You.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Remember to express your love to the Holy Spirit today.

- Describe all the ways in the past that you have spoken about the person of the Holy Spirit.
- Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to give you the words you need to talk about Him with others.
- List all the words that come to your mind to describe the person of the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- I can never blaspheme the Spirit by rejecting Him or Jesus.
- I can show my love and devotion to the Holy Spirit just as I do for the Father and the Son.
- Daily the Holy Spirit desires a loving, intimate relationship with me.

Day 11: STAYING REPENTANT BEFORE THE SPIRIT

The sin in us keeps us from praying righteously or effectively. Praying in the Spirit begins with asking the Holy Spirit to do His work of conviction in our lives. Paul wrote,

God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death. Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish the wrongdoer. You showed that you have done everything you could to make things right. **(2 COR. 7:10-11)**

You know areas in your life that may be strongholds right now **(2 Cor. 10)**. You need to repent of the areas, confessing the sinful habit in thought or action to Christ. Remember this promise and warning: “If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts” **(1 John 1:9-10)**.

SPEAK AND PRAY THE WORD : Praying Psalm 51

David’s prayer of repentance is the best place to start as you confess your sins before God. Take the steps noted at the top of the next page.

- Become quiet before God.
- Ask the Spirit to reveal to you any hidden sins that do not immediately come to mind.
- Pray this adapted prayer from Psalm 51, and insert your sins in the space provided.

LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT : Be Still and Listen

Be still before God for at least twenty minutes. Listen to the voice of the Spirit.

Write down whatever He reveals to you about how to stay pure and holy from the sins you have just confessed.

OBEY THE SPIRIT : No Excuses

Do not make excuses for your unwillingness to obey because of lack of time, busyness, or weakness. The Holy Spirit has empowered you to obey whatever He asks. Simply surrender.

Write down the thoughts you will think and the actions you will take to obey what the Holy Spirit has commanded you to do.

Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for a person with whom you can confess your sins according to James 5:16, “Confess your sins to each other.”

Day 12: THE SPIRIT INTERCEDING THROUGH US

How much doesn't happen because we are reluctant to pray? Jesus commanded us to pray God's will in heaven down to earth. Our lack of intercession hinders the kingdom of God on earth; it's that simple and tragic!

- Who isn't getting saved right now because we are not praying?
- Who isn't being healed right now because we fail to pray?
- Who isn't being set free right now because we are not allowing the Spirit to intercede through us?

Paul reminded us, "The Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning's that cannot be expressed in 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" (Rom. 8:26-27).

SPEAK AND PRAY THE WORD : Praying As Daniel Prayed

When praying for others, you might begin with Daniel's intercession for God's people from **Daniel 9**.

Pray the prayer adapted from Daniel 9:

O Lord, You are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill Your promises of unfailing love to those who love You and keep Your commands. But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against You and scorned Your commands and regulations.

We have refused to listen to Your servants the prophets, who spoke Your messages to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land. Lord, You are in the right; but our faces are covered with shame, just as You see us now . . . In view of all Your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn Your furious anger away from us. O our God, hear Your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For Your own sake, Lord, smile again on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, listen to me and hear my request. Open Your eyes and see our wretchedness . . . We do not ask because we deserve help, but because You are so merciful. O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, for Your people bear Your name.

Claim God's promise in intercession: "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT : For Whom and About What Are You to Intercede?

God said, "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none" (Ezek. 22:30 KJV). God's Spirit is looking for intercessors to stand in the gap for His people and the church. Are you willing to intercede?

Listen to the Spirit. For whom is He telling you to intercede? List their names.

What is He telling you to pray? Write down what the Spirit is speaking to you.

OBEY THE SPIRIT : When Will You Pray?

God's Word commands, "Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere" (**Eph. 6:18**). Make a commitment to pray in the Spirit daily for others. Make intercession part of your prayer discipline.

Write down when the Spirit desires for you to intercede daily.

Day 13: PROPHESED BY THE SPIRIT

God's word (the Hebrew *davar*) is both what He says and what He does. Everything God says, He does. And all that He does is His word to us. When the Spirit of God came upon a prophet in the Old Testament, that prophet (*nabi*) became a mouthpiece of God's word to His people. At times, the prophets foretold what God would do, but usually they forth-told God's words of warning, judgment, exhortation, and edification.

The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to speak God's word to others. People proclaim and preach God's word—boldly forth telling what God is saying to our day and generation. At times, a prophet may foretell what God will do if we obey His word or fail to obey His word.

EXPLORE THE WORD : How Did the Spirit Speak?

The prophets spoke God's word throughout history by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter wrote, "It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God" (2 Peter 1:21). God reveals Himself to us in many ways. Through dreams, visions, circumstances, creation, people, and the Scripture, God's Spirit speaks to us.

Q: Check the ways you have heard the Spirit's voice:

- God's Word
- Dreams and visions
- Still, small voice in me
- Circumstances
- Creation
- Other: _____

The Holy Spirit spoke through the Old Testament prophets to reveal God to us.

Q: Read each of the passages, and summarize how God's Spirit spoke.

1 Samuel 10:6–10: 1 Samuel 19:23: 1 Chronicles 12:18:
2 Chronicles 24:20: Ezekiel 2:2; 11:5: Micah 3:8: Zechariah 7:12:

God's Spirit still speaks prophetically to us today.

Q: Read 1 Corinthians 14, and list all the ways the Holy Spirit speaks today in the church.

God promised through the Old Testament prophet Joel that He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh so that they might prophesy. At Pentecost that prophecy was fulfilled.

Q: Read Joel 2:28 and Acts 1:1–8. Summarize how the Holy Spirit will be poured out in the last days.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : What Has the Spirit Spoken to You?

Hearing the voice of God's Spirit requires that every other voice within us be silenced. In 1 Kings, we read that God's voice is gentle and quiet: "After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" (1 Kings 19:12–13).

Hearing the Spirit's voice speak to us and through us requires the disciplines of both obedience and silence. We must silence every other voice within and around us that vies for our attention. God's Spirit refuses to compete with any other voice or distraction in our lives. He demands our full attention. Does He have yours? What voices keep you from hearing the Spirit's voice?

Q: Check all the voices that need to be silenced within you so that you might hear the Spirit speak to you as He spoke to prophets of old or to the early church believers:

- Worldly voices
- The voices of others who are doubters and skeptics
- My voice
- Satan's voice
- Other:

Are you willing to silence all other voices including your own so that you might hear the Spirit speak prophetically into your life?

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Be Still and Know Him?

If you are to know God's Spirit, you must wait and listen for Him. Does your daily schedule permit you to spend time in the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Q: Read Psalms 37:7 and 46:10.

Consider your daily schedule. When do you have time to be still and silent? When will you listen to the Holy Spirit speak into your life prophetically—foretelling and forth telling God's word?

Experiencing the Holy Spirit requires abandonment of worldly concerns and detachment from every distraction. Get alone with the Spirit. Immerse yourself in God's Word. Pray intently and intensely. Listen. Wait to hear His voice.

ASSIGNMENT:

Begin your review of today's study by saying aloud this week's memory passage, and then sitting in silence for at least fifteen minutes.

Set aside every thought but the thought of Christ and His love for you. Listen quietly for the voice of His Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit has prophetically spoken to me, saying:
- In the future, the time I will spend daily listening to His Spirit will be
- What distracts me most from hearing the Spirit's voice is
- Write a prayer thanking God for all the ways the Spirit has spoken to you in the past.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- God's Spirit speaks to me.
- When the Holy Spirit speaks, I must silence all other voices in order to hear His.
- To listen to His voice, I must be still in His presence.

Day 14: ANOINTED BY THE SPIRIT

Read Isaiah 61:1-3.

The Holy Spirit anointed people for ministry in the Old Testament. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus, in particular, to be the Anointed One, who would deliver us from sin and death. When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He announced that He is the Messiah (Anointed One) by reading Isaiah 61 in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4). The Greek word for “Anointed One” is *Christ (Christos)*. Jesus is the Anointed One, the Christ, who pours out on us the Holy Spirit so that we become Christians.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Who Is Anointed with the Spirit?

In the Old Testament, special people were anointed with oil to symbolize their office and to symbolize the Spirit’s presence in their lives. Prophets, kings, and priests were anointed. Jesus fulfilled all these offices in Himself as the King, Priest, and Prophet of our lives. Jesus pours out the anointing of the Spirit upon us so that as believers, we might be a royal priesthood and a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).

Q: Read each of the following passages, and write down how it describes the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 30:31-33:

Exodus 29:4-7;

Numbers 3:3:

1 Samuel 16:13:

Numbers 11:25:

The potential exists in your Christian life for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to make you a king, priest, and prophet in the kingdom of God. Are you ready?

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Anointed?

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is His presence poured out in your life by Christ. The Spirit’s anointing transforms you into His image so that your life will mirror the life of Jesus.

Q: Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Rewrite it in your own words, and describe how God’s Spirit is working in your life to transform you from glory to glory.

The writers of the Old Testament expectantly awaited the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus lived out what an anointed life looks like. He was the Word made flesh (John 1). As a human being, Jesus the Anointed One gave us the example of what an anointed life says, does, thinks, feels, and lives abundantly. His life’s purpose was summarized by the anointing of the Spirit described in Isaiah 11:2 and 61:1-3.

Q: Complete the checklist of anointing at the top of the next page. Here is a list of some of the qualities of anointing that were on the Messiah’s life and that also mark the life of anyone following Jesus the Christ and being transformed by the Spirit. Check off the qualities of anointing that you have experienced in your life.

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Might
- Knowledge
- Fear of the Lord
- Taking good news to the poor
- Comforting the brokenhearted
- Announcing release to the captives
- Setting the prisoners free

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Pray for the Anointing of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit desires to anoint you for ministry and service. You can live the Christ like, Spirit-filled life, which is anointed for His glory. Jesus promised,

I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. (LUKE 11:9–13)

Not acknowledging the Holy Spirit in your life is like having a special and important guest staying in your home but never inviting him out of the guest room. Yes, he is living in your house, but you never invite him to talk with you, dine with you, or share with you in the other rooms of your home. You may have been a Christian for years but never invited the Holy Spirit to enter all the rooms of your heart. Yes, He lives within the secret place, the Holy of Holies, within your life, but the rest of your life remains shut up to His anointing.

You can ask the Holy Spirit to pour out Himself into every area of your life. Will you pray for His anointing?

Q: Write a brief prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to enter into and anoint these areas of your life.

Family:

Work:

Study:

Relationships:

Feelings:

Thoughts:

Actions:

Know that the Holy Spirit will enter in, transform, and make holy every area of your life. And He will continue to convict you about sin in the areas you don't invite Him into, and He will expose these areas to His light.

The Holy Spirit stands knocking at every locked door in your life. What is hidden, He brings to light. What is sin, He brings to repentance. What is lost, He finds. What is unknown, He teaches.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned about and experienced in the Holy Spirit today.

Complete these sentences:

- The area of my life most anointed by the Spirit is
- The area of my life that has been closed off to the Spirit is
- What I am asking of the Spirit is
- Write a brief diary of how the Holy Spirit has been at work *in* your life this week.
- Write a prayer thanking God for all the ways you are experiencing the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus as the Anointed One—King, Priest, and Prophet.
- The Holy Spirit is transforming me into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- I can experience the anointing of the Holy Spirit in my life by asking the Spirit into every area of my life and relationships.

Day 15: THE SPIRIT'S LEADING

Have you ever been directed someplace you didn't want to go? We may have been directed to a gym to get in shape and lose weight. We may have been directed to a surgeon when our family doctor determined that we need a surgery. We may have been directed to a dental surgeon when our wisdom teeth needed to come out. All of that direction led to short-term pain for a long-term gain. Needless to say, we were not excited about going in any of those directions, but we know that each leading was in our best interests.

The Holy Spirit leads us where God wants us to go for our eternal benefit. At times, the immediate impact on us may be trying, testing, difficult, or even painful.

Q: Read Romans 5:3-5.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into a time of trial and testing called the wilderness. There Christ was strengthened as the Holy Spirit filled Him with the Father's love and power to resist Satan.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Has the Spirit Ever Led You into the Wilderness?

If you are to experience the Holy Spirit, you must go where He leads you. You will never desperately thirst for the living water of the Spirit (John 7:39) until you follow Him into the desert of spiritual dryness. At times the Spirit leads you through a wilderness so that you might learn to depend solely on Him. Many have not experienced the Holy Spirit simply because they refuse to admit their spiritual desperation and poverty.

How desperate are you for the Spirit? How hungry are you for His will? The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Matthew wrote, "Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil" (Matt. 4:1). However, Mark described the situation this way: "Immediately the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness" (Mark 1:12).

Q: Read Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; and Luke 4:1-13. Answer the following questions:

- What important spiritual tests and revelations did Jesus encounter in the wilderness?
- How was Jesus strengthened in being led by the Spirit into the wilderness?

Q: Read the following verses and describe how Jesus was led by the Spirit.

Luke 4:14-44: Led by the Spirit, Jesus did the following things (list all that He was led and empowered by the Spirit to do):

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Do You Respond When the Spirit Leads?

The Holy Spirit led Jesus to sick and hurting people, dying people, angry and demon-possessed people. The Spirit led Jesus to villages and crowded places, lonely and desolate places, and the most painful of places—the wilderness, Gethsemane, and Calvary.

Q: How do you respond? When the Holy Spirit leads you into such places and to such people, what will your response be?

(Check the word or phrase that describes how you usually respond to trials, testings, problems, and difficult situations.)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complain | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoice | <input type="checkbox"/> Express Gratitude |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feel Depressed | <input type="checkbox"/> Become Discouraged | <input type="checkbox"/> Feel Hopeful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feel Hopeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Feel Encouraged | <input type="checkbox"/> Become Anxious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Will your usual response be your probable response? If you used to respond negatively to trials but now you don't, how is the Holy Spirit shaping your character and changing you? If you still respond negatively, when will you let the Spirit change you?

Q: Check the words that describe where you are right now in your spiritual walk (Rom. 5:3–5).

I am experiencing . . .

- Pain and Suffering
- Trial
- Endurance
- Strength of Character
- Confident Expectation (Hope)
- Heart Filled with Love

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Desperate Enough to Ask?

Jesus asked to be baptized. In response to His asking, the Holy Spirit both baptized and descended upon Him. It was a defining moment in Jesus' life. The Spirit defined Him as God's Son and led Him into testing. Through repentance and baptism, you have been defined as a "child of God" (John 1:12–13). Will you be desperate enough for God's leading that you will follow wherever the Spirit leads—even into the wilderness?

Q: Describe how desperate you are, how thirsty you are, how hungry you are for the Holy Spirit.

To be led by the Spirit means you must be desperate enough to follow Christ anywhere!

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit. Describe how spiritually real your life is right now.

- In the future, how will you respond—by the Spirit's power—to trials and tests, wildernesses and deserts in your life?
- How has being led by the Spirit into trials and tests strengthened your character and filled you with hope and the Spirit's love?
- Write a prayer committing to God that you will go wherever the Spirit leads.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit led Jesus and will lead me into trials and tests in the wilderness.
- When I become dry and thirsty enough to ask for Him, Jesus will fill me with the Spirit.
- I can be led by the Spirit, just as Jesus was, to do mighty things for God's glory.

Day 16: THE SPIRIT FILLS WITH POWER AND JOY

When we can't do all that we know God required of us, we feel burdened and overwhelmed in our spiritual walk. Have you ever been there? We have Christian responsibilities to fulfill as a student, husband, father, worker, and Christian leader. Too much to do and not enough time was our feeling from our troubled spirit. Powerless Christian living leads a sour, doleful existence. Are you bubbling over with joy or just a pain to be around?

What was the source of Jesus' power? Where did He get the power to do all of His mighty miracles, healings, and deliverances? Luke explained, "Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power" (Luke 4:14). Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit to do all that He did.

Where do you get your power and strength? Is your Christian life Spirit led or burden filled? Despite all the suffering Jesus saw and the persecution He faced, Jesus was "filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 10:21).

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Joyfully Walking in the Spirit's Power?

Your spiritual walk can be one of power and joy! Empowered by the Spirit, you can do and say things that are supernatural. Jesus promised, "The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father" (**John 14:12-13**).

Let's explore Jesus' ministry and see how the Spirit empowered Him to do God's will. Everything He did and said came from the Father. Jesus said, "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me" (**John 14:10**).

Q: Read these scriptures, and describe what Jesus did and promised to us through the power and joy of the Spirit.

Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11:

Mark 1:8:

Luke 24:49:

John 14:17:

Matthew 2:18:

Luke 4:18:

John 6:63:

John 16:15:

Matthew 12:28:

Luke 10:21:

John 7:39:

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus with power and joy to do the will of His Father. The Holy Spirit also fills you with the same power and joy to do God's will.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Living in the Spirit's Power?

You have just read Jesus' promise that out of the Spirit living within us would flow fountains of living water (**John 7:39**). So are the joy and power of His Spirit bubbling like a fountain out of you? Or do you feel burdened, helpless, and oppressed in your spiritual walk?

Q: Read aloud Romans 8:1-2, inserting your name in verse 2.

The greatest destroyer of power and joy in your spiritual walk is condemnation. Condemnation comes from the accuser—Satan (Rev. 12:10-12). The Spirit will convict you of sin and lead you to repentance, but He will never condemn you.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Walk in the Power, Joy, and Liberty of the Holy Spirit?

Walking in the power of the Spirit means that the power of sin is broken in your life. Condemnation has no place in your thoughts. Like Jesus, you can say and do what the Father tells you to say and do.

Q: Describe what the Father is telling you to say and do now in your life.

When you feel powerless due to condemnation in your life, take these steps in the Spirit:

- Examine your heart, confessing any sinful habit, attitude, thought, or action in your life.
- Spend time in God's Word, especially reading Psalms 51 and 103.
- Refuse to believe the lie of the accuser that you are guilty.
- The truth is that you are forgiven (1 John 1:9).
- Ask God to fill you with the power and joy of the Holy Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit today.

Describe how you are walking in the power of the Spirit.

- In what will you rejoice today?
- What steps do you need to take to rebuke condemnation and walk in the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit?
- Write a prayer confessing any sin that hinders you and thanking God for forgiving you and freeing you from condemnation.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- I can walk in the power and joy of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus did.
- I can do what my Father asks me to do in the Spirit's power.
- I am free from condemnation and free to experience the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 17: THE SPIRIT LEADS IN ALL TRUTH

Jesus promised, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (**John 8:32**). So how do we know the truth?

At times, even when we have right motives and the best intentions, we deceive ourselves and others. We believe we know the truth even when we don't. Then the Holy Spirit takes us to God's Word and showed us all the things that please God. We live to please Him because we love Him, not to earn what He freely gives us.

Although our friends could not convince us of the truth during the Bible study, the Holy Spirit could and does teach us the truth. He leads us in all truth!

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Listening to His Teaching?

The Holy Spirit desires to continually teach you all truth. He helps you discern between truth and myth. Often religious myths will control your life and keep you from experiencing the fullness of the Spirit. Only truth can set you free to walk fully in the Spirit.

Q: Write your own definitions of *myth* and *truth*.

- A myth is
- Truth is

Let me suggest to you that a myth is something that is experienced as truth by some people, some of the time, in some situations. As a result, that experiential, situational “truth” is elevated to the level of absolute truth. But truth is never situational or conditional.

God's truth is unconditional. His absolute truth is true for all people, all of the time, in all situations: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures” (**James 1:17–18 NKJV**).

The Holy Spirit takes the truth of God's Word and teaches it to us in every place, for every person, every situation, and every time.

Q: Read the following verses and summarize what Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit.

John 14:17:

John 15:26:

John 16:13:

The Spirit of truth teaches you all truth. He dwells in you, giving you a hunger for God's Word, which is always true.

Q: Read Psalm 19:7–11. List all the ways that God's words, laws, precepts, and commands are true and perfect.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You an Eager Student of the Spirit?

The delight of every teacher is a zealous, eager-to-learn student. The same holds true for the Holy Spirit. He delights in your zeal for God's Word. The Holy Spirit has much to teach you. He wants to hide and seal God's Word in your heart so that you will not sin.

How does the Spirit teach you?

- He gives you a hunger and thirst for God's Word by leading you into all truth—God's Word (John 14:17).
- As the Spirit teaches you truth, the Word is being hidden in your heart so that you will not sin against God (Ps. 119:11).
- How can you know that sin lurks in your heart (Ps. 19:12–14)? Out of your heart your mouth will speak (Matt. 12:34). If God's Word has been taught and hidden in your heart by the Spirit, then you will not sin. Rather, you will speak His Word. But if you have deposited in your heart what is not of the Spirit, then you will speak hurtful and sinful things.

Do you long to please God with both the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart? If so, let the Holy Spirit create in you a zeal, hunger, and thirst for God's Word. Then drink in all the truth and feed on the bread from heaven because all Scripture is inspired by the Spirit to teach you (**2 Tim. 3:16**).

Q: Pray this prayer aloud and often today and in the coming days:

*May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Amen. (Ps. 19:14)*

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : When Will You Enter the Spirit's Classroom?

To learn, you must be taught. Paul gave us this insight: "Yet faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ" (**Rom. 10:17**). Are you listening to the Spirit? Are you allowing Him to teach you?

Q: Check the ways you are in the Spirit's classroom being taught the truth of His Word:

- Daily reading, studying, and meditating on His Word.
- Regularly studying His Word with other believers with a teacher in a small group or a class.
- Hearing God's Word preached and proclaimed in worship.
- Listening to God's Word taught on radio, TV, and tapes, through seminars, retreats, and so forth.
- Listening to and singing God's words in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. You may be listening to and singing in a live setting or with tapes and CD's.
- Memorizing God's Word.
- Reading books that teach the truths from God's Word.
- Other: _____

The more you hunger and thirst for His Word, the more you will experience the presence and teaching of the Holy Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit today.

- Describe how the Holy Spirit is teaching you the truth of God's Word today.
- What truths have you most recently learned?
- What will increase your zeal and hunger for the Spirit's teaching?
- Write a prayer asking God to fill you with the Spirit's hunger and thirst for truth.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit teaches me and leads me in all truth.
- The Spirit of truth will fill me with hunger and thirst for God's Word.
- When I seek out the Spirit's classroom, I will experience the Spirit's teaching.

Day 18: POWER TO SAVE

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are People Around You Getting Saved?

When the Holy Spirit baptized those early believers, thousands around them were saved. The baptism of the Spirit brought powerful boldness to their witness. They were not afraid to tell everyone that God had raised Jesus from the dead—not even the Jewish leaders who had crucified Jesus. They didn't fear persecution, imprisonment, or even death. The Holy Spirit had transformed a group of frightened, hiding followers of Jesus into dynamic witnesses of faith who turned the world upside down (**Acts 17:6**).

Read each scripture, and then summarize what the Holy Spirit did through the newly emboldened believers.

Acts 2:41–42:

Acts 2:47:

Acts 4:4:

Acts 4:32–35:

Acts 5:12–16:

Acts 6:7:

The Holy Spirit empower us to witness boldly to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Does Anything Keep You from Being a Bold Witness?

The Holy Spirit's power is available to you to give you the words to say even when others are skeptical or critical of Jesus. Jesus promised that the Spirit would give you the words you need to be a bold witness.

Read Mark 13:11 and Luke 12:11–12. Complete the sentences at the top of the next page.

- The most difficult setting for me to share Christ is
- The one thing that keeps me from sharing Jesus is

These basic issues keep us from sharing Jesus:

- Fear of being ridiculed, rejected, or persecuted
- Ignorance about what to say
- Shame about how we have lived our lives

The Holy Spirit conquers our spirit of fear with power (2 Tim. 1:7). He puts the words in our mouths that we need to share (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11–12), and He takes away all shame due to condemnation (Rom. 8:1–2).

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Boldly Witness?

Peter and the other early church leaders and believers were persecuted on every side. Yet they boldly witnessed. The Holy Spirit empowered them to suffer every kind of emotional and physical abuse so that the gospel would be spread throughout the world. Peter preached, "We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32). We read that those early believers "preached God's message with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

As Christians, we have (1) nothing to fear, (2) nothing to lose, and (3) nothing to hide.

Complete these sentences:

The one thing I fear the most is _____

The one natural thing I could never lose is _____

The one thing I must hide is _____

More than three hundred times in Scripture, God says to us in one form or another, "Fear not." One preacher commented that God tells us not to fear more than 365 times in Scripture because we need to hear His encouragement daily. When we think of our fears, we fear most losing any of our family members to hell. We would be overwhelmingly grieved to lose in death any of our dear loved ones. And at times, we feel we must hide our mistakes and failures. What about you? Our great fears have been defeated—Jesus conquered

sin and death. Jesus promised that whatever we lose for His sake will be abundantly returned to us. And He promised to bring whatever is hidden in the dark into the light.

Those early Christians literally stared fear in the face, lost everything material, and often sacrificed their lives. They hid nothing but exposed everything for the sake of the gospel.

Read Hebrews 11:33–40.

The Holy Spirit will empower you to face anything, even death itself, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you desire to experience the Holy Spirit? Share the gospel daily with all you meet. Every word you share, if you let Him, will be given to you by the Spirit. Every moment you share will be an encounter with the power and presence of the Spirit of God!

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Holy Spirit today.

- What I need to overcome through the Spirit's power daily in order to witness boldly is
- One person I know I need to witness boldly to is _____
- Write a prayer surrendering to Christ whatever you fear, whatever you possess, and whatever is hidden in your life.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit will give me the boldness I need to proclaim the gospel.
- In the power of the Spirit, I have nothing to fear, lose, or hide.
- When I ask Him, the Holy Spirit will give me just the right words about Jesus to say to the lost.

Day 19: POWER FOR SIGNS AND WONDERS

EXPLORE THE WORD : What Signs and Wonders Did the Holy Spirit Demonstrate?

The power of the Holy Spirit flowed freely through the early church. Believers and skeptics alike were awestruck with the fear of God by the working of His mighty power. The sick were healed, the dead were raised, the lost were saved, and the oppressed were delivered.

Read each scripture listed, and write a brief description of the signs and wonders noted there.

Acts 2:22:	Acts 2:43:
Acts 4:29–30:	Acts 5:12:
Acts 6:8:	Acts 8:6:
Acts 8:13:	Acts 14:3:
Acts 15:12:	

The Holy Spirit acted with signs and wonders to lead the lost to Christ and to confirm the truth of the gospel.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : What Signs and Wonders Are You Witnessing?

Those who never expect God's Spirit to move miraculously rarely see miracles. Faith in God's power to act in our midst opens our eyes to a multitude of signs and wonders. Without faith, we cannot see. Jesus said,

"For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them." But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. (MATT. 13:15–16)

Because of the lack of faith among the people, very few miracles were wrought at the hands of Jesus in Nazareth (**Matt. 13:58**).

Are few miracles worked by the Spirit around you because of a lack of faith? Or is your life overflowing with signs and wonders because you allow the Spirit to do as He pleases with and through you?

List the greatest hindrances in your life to signs and wonders.

People getting saved is the most awesome miracle. Next to that, describe a sign or wonder you have witnessed in your life.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Have You Asked Lately?

One reason we fail to see the Holy Spirit perform signs and wonders in our lives is that we fail to ask. James observed, "And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it" (**James 4:2**). Do you want signs and wonders to follow you (**Mark 16:17**)? Then pray for God to send His Spirit in power, as the early believers prayed.

Pray this prayer adapted from Acts 4:29–30:

By faith in Jesus, you will see the Holy Spirit move around you with signs and wonders.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit.

- I experience a lack of signs and wonders in my life because
- The greatest signs and wonders at the hand of the Spirit that I witness are
- I am believing God for a miracle
- Write a prayer asking God to send His Spirit in power in your life and your church so that mighty signs and wonders to His glory will happen.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Signs and wonders will follow me as I trust the power of the Spirit to work in and around me.
- Signs and wonders happen in the Spirit's power when the **name of Jesus is lifted up** and God receives glory.
- I have the privilege to pray for people to be saved and signs and wonders to be manifested for His name's sake.

Day 20: POWER FOR PRAYER

When you are at a loss for what to pray—ask the Holy Spirit!

When you don't know for whom to pray—ask the Holy Spirit!

When words fail you—ask the Holy Spirit to intercede through you!

When you are hopeless, helpless, and harried—ask the Holy Spirit!

When you are lost and need to be found—ask the Holy Spirit!

EXPLORE THE WORD : When Do You Pray?

When should we pray? The simple answer is: *all the time*. Paul urged, “Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit” (**Eph. 6:18**). When the persecution became intense, the early believers prayed. The way they prayed can model for us the way to pray in the power of the Spirit.

Read the prayer at the top of the next page. Underline all the phrases that you can pray right now for the situations you face.

O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor King David, your servant, saying, “Why did the nations rage?

*Why did the people waste their time with futile plans?
The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah.”*

*That is what has happened here in this city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan. And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give your servants great boldness in their preaching. Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (**ACTS 4:24–30**)*

Now read Acts 4:31–37. Describe all the ways the early believers lived out their faith and walked by the power of the Spirit.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Is Your Power Prayer Life?

You may pray in your own language (**1 Cor. 14:13–17**) or with groans and tears. You may pray eloquently or simply, loudly or silently. You may pray sitting, standing, walking, bowing, kneeling, or lying prostrate. You may pray with hands lifted up or hands folded reverently. The key to power prayer is not your language, position, or sounds. Power prayer is always in the Spirit: “You, dear friends, must continue to build your lives on the foundation of your holy faith. And continue to pray as you are directed by the Holy Spirit” (**Jude 20**).

Take time to pray. Take five minutes or more, and read **Romans 8:26–27**.

Now invite the Holy Spirit when you pray. He will give you the words you need. He will bring to mind the people and situations you need to pray for. He will guide your prayers.

When we pray, God's will in heaven is prayed on earth, and spiritual power is released to bring His kingdom on earth as Jesus taught us to pray: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (**Matt. 6:10 KJV**).

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Ask for Power to Pray

The Holy Spirit will empower you to pray. But you have to ask Him. You cannot develop your prayer life through listening to others pray or reading the prayers of others. However, you can invite the Holy Spirit to give you prayer power.

I invite you to pray something like this:

Holy Spirit, at times I feel powerless when I pray. But I know that all the power I need to pray resides in You. I ask You to empower me to pray for the right things in Your perfect time and will so that what You desire to be accomplished in me might happen right now. By Your power transform me into a mighty prayer warrior in God's kingdom. Amen.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit.

- My prayers are most effective when
- My prayers are least effective when
- List the ways the Spirit prays through you.
- Write a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to pray through you without ceasing.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit empowers me to pray.
- The Holy Spirit will help me pray even when I don't know how or what to pray.
- When I pray in the Spirit, God's kingdom and will come on earth.

Day 21: POWER FOR HEALING

Throughout the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit acted to heal. God is the One who heals. He healed throughout the Old Testament and the ministry of Jesus. And His healing power flowed through the early church. Healing has a particular purpose—to give glory to God. Healing is not about the one being healed. It's about the Healer! Healing flows from the Father, through the Son, and is effected by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' ministry was characterized by preaching the kingdom of God, saving the lost, healing the sick, and delivering people from demonic oppression. The Holy Spirit continues that ministry through His body today, the church. The Holy Spirit gifts believers to heal.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:6–9.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Does God Heal?

The healing power of God can be witnessed through Scripture. God the Healer (*Jehovah Ropha*) performs miracles of healing by His Spirit throughout history. Asking someone, “Do you believe in healing?” is a moot question. Whether or not we believe that God heals doesn't alter the truth—God heals.

Read each passage at the top of the next page, and write down what you learn about how God heals.

Genesis 20:17:

2 Chronicles 7:14:

Jeremiah 17:14:

Mark 6:56:

Acts 3:1–9:

Exodus 15:26:

Psalms 30:2; 103:3; 107:20:

Matthew 4:23:

Luke 5:17:

Deuteronomy 32:39

Isaiah 53:5:

Matthew 14:14:

John 5:1–15:

That God heals is not a matter of speculation. It is truth.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Do You Believe That God Heals You?

God can and will heal, whether or not you believe it. The point here is simple: Do you believe that God heals you? Jesus said to the woman with an issue of blood, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. You have been healed” (**Mark 5:34**).

Read Acts 3:1–11 and answer these questions:

- How would you have responded to the beggar's request?
- When someone today asks you to pray for his healing, how do you respond?

Read James 5:14–16.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Pray for the Sick?

The early church prayed, “Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (**Acts 4:30**). You will not experience the Spirit's power to heal without faith and prayer.

List those who are sick for whom you will pray.

Write a prayer asking God to send His healing power for the people on your list.

Pray specifically. Pray in faith. Pray in the Spirit. Pray for people who are sick to be healed and also saved and delivered from any oppression.

Have you ever wondered how many remain sick because we as believers fail to pray?

ASSIGNMENT:

Review what you have learned and experienced in the Spirit.

- When I pray for the sick, I
- The most awesome physical healing miracle I have witnessed is
- I need the Spirit to teach me in praying for the sick how to
- Write a prayer asking the Lord to remove all hindrances to your praying in faith and power for the sick to be healed.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- God heals.
- The Holy Spirit can empower me to pray for the sick to be healed.
- I need to pray for the Healer to save, heal, and deliver others.

Day 22: THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS AND FRUIT

When Jesus gave us the Spirit, He baptized us with the power to serve others in His name and to be like Him. Paul wrote, "All who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him" (**Gal. 3:27**). In Galatians **5:22–23** the fruit of the Spirit are listed:

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit are the nature and character dwelling within us so that we might be like Jesus. Have you ever tried even for a day to be like Jesus in your own strength? Jeremiah knew: "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve" (**Jer. 17:9–10**).

The fruit of the Spirit equal the nature of Christ. As we matured in our spiritual walk, we discover that Christ lives in and through us by the Spirit was the only way we could reflect His nature. The deposit of the Spirit in the soil of our heart bears the fruit of the Spirit:

- Love—having unconditional love of the Father that seeks to love even the unlovely.
- Joy—feeling joy from within that is not affected by external situations and circumstances.
- Peace—ceasing of enmity with God and others.
- Patience—waiting on God's will, in God's way, within God's timing and for God's glory.
- Kindness—seeking God's best to be demonstrated through me for others.
- Goodness—having both pure motives and actions.
- Faithfulness—always trusting God and being trustworthy.
- Gentleness—preferring others to myself.
- Self-control—taking responsibility for my thoughts, actions, feelings, and attitudes; completely surrendering myself to the Lord.

Paul indicated that as Spirit-filled believers, we have this assurance: "For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory" (**Col. 1:27**). His nature abides in us by the power of the Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit equal the ministry of Christ. How does the nature of Jesus work in and through us to touch the lives of others? By the Spirit's empowering us through His gifts to do the ministry of Jesus in the world.

Read 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Answer the following questions:

- How are you experiencing the nature of Christ at work in your life today?
- What ministry is Christ doing through you today?

Today discover how the nature and ministry of Christ live in you and work through you by the Holy Spirit's power. For you to experience the Spirit's empowering fruit and gifts in your life, you must live a yielded life, completely abandoned to His lordship. Paul declared, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit" (**Rom. 8:16 NKJV**).

Be ready for God to reveal the witness of His Spirit through the nature and ministry of Christ in your life? Then prepare to surrender all so that His gifts and nature might flow through you as you experience the Holy Spirit.

Day 23: THE SPIRITUAL FRUIT OF LOVE, JOY, PEACE, AND PATIENCE

Each one of these fruit could fill days, weeks, and months of our study. Our focus will be on how these fruit are reflected in our lives. Fruit begins with a seed. Unless something is sowed, there is no harvest. Even when a seed is sowed, care and attention have to be given to that seed for it to bear good fruit.

The Holy Spirit uses only one kind of seed for producing the nature of Christ in our lives. That seed is the Word of God. Jesus teaches that the seed in our lives is the Word of God.

Read Mark 4:1–20. Describe the kind of soil in your heart.

- What are you doing to care for the seed in your heart?
- What keeps the seed from growing in your life?

Once God's Word has been sown into the soil of our hearts, the Holy Spirit cultivates that seed. He uses that seed to convict, guide, correct, comfort, and teach us. As we respond to His work in us (called sanctification), we grow spiritually and begin to bear fruit in our lives. That fruit serves, ministers to, and blesses the lives of others so that they will begin to hunger after His Word and desire spiritual fruit in their lives.

EXPLORE THE WORD : What Are the Fruit in You?

Each of the fruit of the Spirit is listed here. You can know what each fruit looks like by reading Scripture and, in particular, by examining the life of Jesus. His life manifested each fruit of the Spirit.

Read the passages about each of the fruit, and write down how that passage describes or defines that fruit.

Love

1 Corinthians 13:

John 13:34–35:

1 John 4:7–13:

Luke 10:25–28:

Joy

Nehemiah 8:10:

Psalms 28:6–7:

Isaiah 61:3:

John 16:20–24:

Philippians 4:4–7:

Peace

Romans 5:1–2:

John 14:27; 16:33

Romans 14:17:

2 Corinthians 13:11:

Patience

Isaiah 40:31:

Romans 12:12:

Romans 5:3–5:

1 Corinthians 4:12–13:

Love always seeks God's best for the other person. Joy always springs from the rejoicing within us because we are redeemed. Peace always brings reconciliation between us and God and between us and others. Patience always waits and acts in God's perfect timing and will.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are His Fruit Growing in You?

How are these fruit growing in your life? Self-examination doesn't bring a greater determination to do better or try harder. Rather, growing in the Spirit's fruit requires greater surrender and abandonment on our parts. The negative and sinful attitudes and habits within us behave like weeds that choke out the Spirit's fruit.

Read Mark 7:14–23 and Galatians 5:16–21. List the weeds that need to be pulled from the soil of your life so that His fruit may grow unimpeded.

Put yourself on the line. Underline where you are right now in regard to each of the following fruit.

LOVING
JOYFUL
PEACEFUL
PATIENT

INDIFFERENT
PASSIVE
UNEASY
RESTLESS

HATEFUL
SAD
IN TURMOIL
IMPATIENT

What will the Holy Spirit need to do in you to help you move more toward the left in these continuums? What are the areas of your strongest resistance to the Spirit?

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Letting His Fruit Manifest?

If the gifts operate without the fruit, then ministry becomes manipulative, controlling, intimidating, and legalistic. Without the fruit of the Spirit, gifts are talents operating in human power and effort to use others. Zechariah warned, "It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty" (Zech. 4:6). Christ's nature in you must control the gifts flowing from you in service. Perhaps you have been looking for some goose-bumps experience of the Spirit. Yes, at times you may experience the Holy Spirit's tangible touch of power, warmth, and awe in your life. But a steadfast walk in the Spirit manifests His fruit in an ongoing, daily way.

Do you desire to experience the Spirit? Complete these sentences:

I will share God's love with _____ today by _____
I will share God's joy today with _____ by _____
I will make peace with _____ today by _____
I will be patient with _____ today by waiting on God to _____

Pray this prayer as you grow in His fruit:

Lord Jesus, cultivate the fruit of Your Spirit in my life so that I may be more like You. Teach me to love the unlovely, to rejoice even in trials and suffering, to be at peace with others, and to be patient as You use me in Your plan, according to Your will for Your glory. Amen.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Ask God's Spirit to use the Word to grow the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience in your life.

- The fruit of the Spirit that needs the most unrestricted release and growth in my life is:
 love peace joy patience
- Write a prayer asking the Lord to remove the hindrances and grow that fruit.
- The fruit of the Spirit that I am seeing the most progress in is
 love peace joy patience
- The area of my life that I am most reluctant to totally surrender is
- Surrender that area in prayer now. Write your prayer of surrender.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Spirit's fruit are grown in my heart's soil prepared by surrender and obedience.
- Abandonment is a key to my spiritual growth.
- Without the fruit of the Spirit, gifts are never more than talents used to manipulate and control others.

Day 24: THE SPIRIT'S FRUIT OF KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL

Kindness involves preferring others to ourselves. Paul wrote, "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing" (Phil. 2:3-4). The antidote to selfishness and pride is kindness and gentleness. Who has benefited today from a special act of kindness from you?

Goodness is impossible in our own strength. Jesus made it plain that no one is good except God (Matt. 19:17). The only good in us is the good imparted to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. As He makes us holy (sanctifies us), the goodness of Christ saturates us body and soul.

Faithfulness asks, Where do your loyalties lie? In other words, have you placed trust in God or man? Faithfulness also implies a steady stability to stay on course and stand firm in the midst of every attack. Paul asserted, "My dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless" (1 Cor. 15:58). Now that defines faithfulness.

Gentleness seeks God's best for the other person. Rudeness puts self ahead of another person's interests, but gentleness speaks truth in love and tries to minister God's kindness to others.

Self-control points us to being directed by the Holy Spirit instead of our own desires, wants, and lusts of the flesh. Are you in control of areas in your life? Now is the time to give it up. Surrender control to the Spirit.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Like Jesus?

Much has been written about defining moments in life. Your conversion and baptism were defining moments. How you handled certain major crises in your life defined your character and integrity. Getting married and having children are defining moments.

What about you? Describe two or three major defining moments in your life.

More important than our defining moments are the defining people in our lives. Write down the names of some of the people who were influential in leading you to Jesus Christ or in helping you grow spiritually as a young Christian. Then write a brief prayer of thanksgiving for them.

The key defining person in our lives is Jesus Christ. His character and nature define who we are, how we think and behave, and what we do. These five fruit of the Spirit help to define his character in us. Describe each fruit based on the passages next to it.

- Kindness (Ps. 116:5-9; Eph. 4:32; Col. 1:10):
- Goodness (Ps. 25:8-9; Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 9:10):
- Faithfulness (Josh. 23:7-8; Pss. 15; 57:2-3; 89:8; James 4:5-7):
- Gentleness (Ps. 18:35; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:11):
- Self-control (2 Tim. 1:7; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:13):

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Where Do You Manifest These Fruit?

These five fruit of the Spirit should be manifested in every area of our lives. However, we may hinder their growth in certain areas. When we take control, we stifle the fruit of the Spirit. When He is in control, His fruit grow abundantly in every area of life.

Complete these sentences:

- The area in my life where I lack kindness is
- The area in my life that needs more goodness is
- The area in my life where I'm less than faithful to the Lord is
- The area in my life where I tend not to be gentle is
- The area in my life that needs more self-control is

As you examine these fruit in your life, think of the results you see when these fruit manifest themselves.

Complete these thoughts:

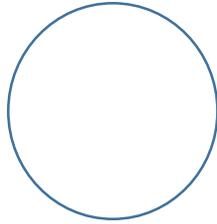
- I see the kindness of God toward me in
- When I am kind, I notice that
- I experience God’s goodness most in
- God’s faithfulness to me is
- I experience the gentleness of God most when
- When I am self-controlled, the benefit is

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : So Where Are You Growing?

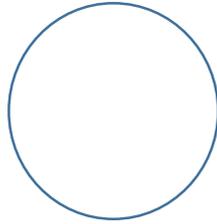
Growing in the Spirit means that you are dying to the old self and living anew in Christ. His Spirit is more evidenced in your life through your relationships, at home, work, church, and leisure. You rarely experience instant spiritual growth in any area of life. Experiencing the fruit of the Spirit in your life is never as much about what you do as what you release or allow the Spirit to do.

On each circle shade in the area of sanctification—the Spirit’s holiness and fruit—in that area.

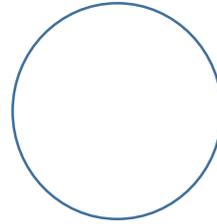
For example, if at least half of the time, your thoughts are sanctified by the Spirit, then shade the “thoughts” circle in 50 percent. Do this for each of the six areas.



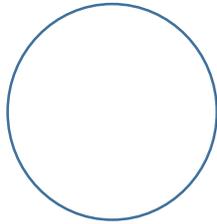
THOUGHTS



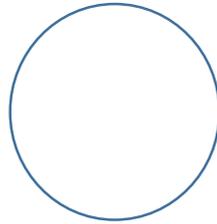
FEELINGS



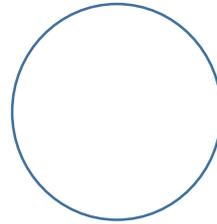
BEHAVIOURS



ATTITUDES



DESIRES



WORDS

For the unshaded areas, write a prayer repenting of the things in that area of your life that hinder the Spirit and asking the Holy Spirit to sanctify and take full control.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today’s study. Your life will demonstrate the nature of Christ as the Spirit’s gifts mature in you.

- What is the Holy Spirit convicting you about in regard to the gifts of kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?
- Name a person to whom you find it difficult to be kind, and write a prayer asking God’s Spirit to empower you with that fruit.
- Write a prayer asking God’s Spirit to help you develop more self-control in.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The fruit of the Spirit reflect the character of Christ in my life.
- As the Spirit sanctifies areas of my life, I will reflect more of Christ to others.
- Only the Spirit has the power to grow and mature fruit in my life. As I submit to Him, I become more like Christ.

Day 25: MINISTRY GIFTS FROM THE SPIRIT

The apostles Paul and Peter wrote about many more ministry gifts. Although Scripture lists some twenty-seven gifts from the Spirit, we might conclude that since the Spirit is infinite, so are His gifts. He continually gifts and empowers people for ministry.

You may not be able to find the name for the spiritual gift at work in you on a list, but you know that God is using you in ministry. Don't limit the Holy Spirit. Let Him work in you to stir up the gifts within so that others might receive ministry.

We are referring to them as ministry gifts given by the Spirit operating in the church. They are just as Spirit filled and empowered as the gifts we studied earlier.

EXPLORE THE WORD : What Gifts Are at Work in and Through You?

Paul compared the church to a body and affirmed that every member of the body is important and necessary to the whole. You have an important ministry in the body of Christ. It is no more or less important than other ministries. Every gifting is necessary for the whole body or church to function properly.

Read Romans 12:6–8. List the gifts mentioned in this passage.

Read 1 Peter 4:10–11. List the gifts mentioned in this passage.

Review the lists of gifts you have made. Underline all the gifts that are operating in your church. Circle the gifts that are in you or that have touched your life.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Is the Spirit Ministering Through You?

In Romans 12:7 Paul wrote, "If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well." In many ways, all the gifts point to this truth: we are to serve one another. The purpose of the gifts is to serve, not to be proud about them or to point attention at an individual. Jesus commands us to be servants.

Gifts used by servants build up the lives of others. Christ's hands, feet, touch, and voice are yours. His ministry to the body flows through believers.

What ministry is the Holy Spirit gifting you to do right now? Describe how He is speaking to you to use your gifts in the body.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Praising God for the Gifts in Others?

A mutuality exists among believers in ministering to and serving one another. Listen to Paul: "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it" (**1 Cor. 12:26–27**). So if you need ministry, someone has been gifted in the body to minister to your need. And someone is waiting for the spiritual gifts in you to minister to him.

Never envy the gifts in others. They are there to bless you and others in the body. Never become proud of your gifts. You don't own or possess them. The Holy Spirit has given you those gifts not for others to praise you but for you to serve them.

Write a prayer praising and thanking God for the gifts that have ministered to you and your church.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the gifts operating through you for ministry.

- Think over the last year and describe the gifts the Lord has used through you for ministry.
- Think of some of the people active in ministry in your church. Write down their names and the gifts in them for ministry. Then pray over the list, thanking God for using them.
- Look over the lists of gifts you have made today. Are any of them not operating in your church? If so, write them down, and then pray for the Spirit to stir up those gifts in your church for ministry.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit has gifted me with gifts to serve others in the church.
- When I am ministered to through gifts, I need to praise God.
- I seek spiritual gifts to serve others, not to receive praise for myself.

Day 26: ASK FOR THE SPIRIT

We have always thought that the command “Ask and you shall receive” referred to our wants and needs in life. The Holy Spirit is much more than an invisible Santa Claus. He doesn’t indwell us to be my sugar daddy! When we got over our spiritual infancy and childlike fantasies, the reality of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God hit us.

We are needed *of* Him, not *from* Him. As much as a parent showers a child with gifts, no gift means as much as the presence of the parent with the child. As much as the Father is the Giver of every good gift (James 1:17), He desires more of our relationship than supplying our needs. And we need more than just His gifts. We need *the* Gift—We need *Him*.

When we ask for and receive the Spirit in our moment or circumstance, we receive *all* we need. Everything we could possibly want, think, feel, need, or say is *in Him*. When we ask for and receive the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have everything for life.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Are You Asking for the Spirit?

How should we pray? Scripture commands us to pray in the Spirit. To pray in the Spirit, we must first ask for His Spirit to pray in us. The indwelling Spirit prays in and through us (Rom. 8:26). So how must we ask?

Read Luke 11:1–13. Describe how you should pray asking for the Holy Spirit.

Why settle for less in your prayers? Less is asking for needs and wants before asking for the One who has it all—the Holy Spirit. The Spirit knows everything that you need.

Read 1 Corinthians 2. Describe how the Spirit of God intimately knows you.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : When Will You Ask?

We spend far too much time thinking about and studying prayer instead of actually *doing it!* Of course, it’s beneficial to go to prayer seminars and study about prayer. But actually praying for and receiving the Spirit’s presence is needed continuously.

We need His presence to make every decision. In church, ask Him how to worship and what to sing. In your family, ask Him what to say to your spouse or children or parents. Consult with the Holy Spirit on every decision. He is the Counselor. Ask Him how to pray.

Take time right now to write a prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : What Does He Say?

After you ask for the Holy Spirit, be still. Listen for His voice as you still every other voice in your life. Let Him speak to you when every distraction has been silenced.

Listen. Hear His voice. Be still and know Him. Write down what the Holy Spirit is saying and praying through you.

Asking for the Spirit apart from listening for His voice brings nothing but silence. But asking for the Spirit while listening to His voice brings all that you need.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today’s study. Are you asking for the Spirit?

- Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you about every thought, feeling, action, and word in your life today.
- List anything that has kept you from asking for the Spirit. Then repent of the things on your list.
- Take time to sing and praise the Spirit for all that He has spoken to you.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- I can and must ask Jesus for the Holy Spirit.
- When I ask *of* Him instead of *from* Him, the Spirit ministers to my every need.
- I must quickly repent of whatever hinders my asking and ask for the Spirit to fill, refresh, and renew me.

Day 27: WALK IN THE SPIRIT

The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit means that we can walk in the Spirit every moment of life. Walking in the Spirit means that He is in control and leading us. Picture yourself having a partner guiding you around while you are blindfolded. Paul stated, "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7 NKJV).

As you are being led blindfolded by your sighted partner, you must depend on his eyes, not your own; his judgment of where to go and what to avoid, not your own. His strength and knowledge keep you from stumbling and falling. His voice gives direction and guidance to your walk.

EXPLORE THE WORD : What's It Like?

Walking in the Spirit is not a mystical experience where one sees continual visions, dreams dreams, talks in tongues, and performs miracle after miracle. Although signs and wonders follow believers (Mark 16:17), your walk in the Spirit will permeate every aspect of your life, especially the mundane and commonplace.

Read Romans 8 and answer these questions:

- What power do sin and the past have over you?
- How does the Spirit control you?
- Describe your adoption as a child of God. How are you to act?
- What is your inheritance?
- How is the Spirit praying through you?
- What can separate you from His love?

EXAMINE YOURSELF : How Is Your Walk Progressing?

Walking in the Spirit means being a victor, not a victim; a conqueror, not a battle-weary, discarded warrior. Are you walking in victory or defeat? Is your talk about the battle or about the King fighting the battle for you? The indwelling Holy Spirit is greater than anything or anyone you will face in life's trials.

Read 2 Corinthians 10; Ephesians 6:10–20; and 1 John 4:4. Now list the battles you face in the world and what the Spirit has given you to win the battles.

The Battles I Face

The Weapons of the Spirit

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Are You Ready?

The indwelling Spirit gives you the power to face anything in life. No trial will be too hard and no temptation too great. Are you ready? Clothed with the armor of God, you have all you need to stand firm in Christ and to go forward in the Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Are you walking wounded or victorious?

- Confess any area of your walk in which you feel defeat, and ask the Holy Spirit to bring victory in that area.
- Describe the one area in your spiritual walk in which you need to develop a deeper level of trust in the Holy Spirit.
- Write a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to walk with you through every decision, conversation, and action you take today.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- My walk in the Spirit is victorious because Jesus has already won the battles.
- I can trust the Holy Spirit to control every aspect of my walk of faith.
- I must remember to walk in the Spirit in every detail of the commonplace happenings of life.

Day 28: THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING GIVES LIFE

The Spirit gives us both abundant life and *everlasting life*. It's impossible for the Spirit to die. Your body may die, but the Spirit in you preserves you so that you are absent from the body and present with the Lord. You are kept until that day when the last trumpet sounds and Jesus returns. Upon His return, the dead in Christ will be raised, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal body, and you will be raised from the dead!

EXPLORE THE WORD : By the Spirit, You Will Live Forever!

The indwelling Holy Spirit guarantees everlasting life for you. He also empowers you to live a life pleasing to Him. Paul warned, "Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time" (Gal. 6:8-9).

Underline the part of the passage in Galatians that fills you with hope and assurance.

When you become discouraged in your walk, don't focus on what discourages you. Instead, look ahead to the harvest of blessing that Jesus has set before you.

Read Galatians 6:7. Describe the good seed your life is sowing as a result of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : What Are You Sowing?

If you are sowing to the desires of the flesh, then you will reap a harvest of destruction. As you sow in the Spirit, you will reap eternal rewards. The eternal rewards are treasures laid up in heaven. At least three things last forever:

1. **Souls that are saved (Dan. 12:1-4).** List the people the Holy Spirit is helping you tell about Jesus.
2. **Prayers that will burn as sweet incense before the throne of God (Rev. 5:8).** Are you praying in the Spirit without ceasing? Write a prayer inspired in you by the Spirit.
3. **Good works done for His glory to serve "the least of these" (Matt. 25:31-46).** What are you doing to serve others in His name?

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Will You Let the Indwelling Spirit Control You?

A Spirit-led life surrenders all control over mind, feelings, attitudes, and actions to the Holy Spirit. You cannot experience the Spirit until *you* get out of the way. At times, you may be the greatest barrier to someone's acceptance of Jesus. At times, you may be blocking the prayers the Spirit desires to pray through you. At times, you may not be doing the good works He has commanded.

Pray this prayer:

Spirit of God, show me what's in me that keeps You from living through me.

The Spirit's life in you must flow out of you if others are to ever move from mere existence to real life. Begin today to open up every area of your life to the Spirit's control. God will give you the strength to live a Spirit-led and -controlled life.

Paul wrote to you (put your name in the blank): "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give _____ mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit" (Eph. 3:16).

ASSIGNMENT:

Review today's study. Ask God to fill you with His indwelling Holy Spirit.

- Write a prayer thanking God for the harvest of eternal life given to you through the power of His Spirit.

- Write down anything that discourages you. Then go back over your list and give each discouragement to the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Holy Spirit in a prayer to reveal anything in you that keeps Him from flowing out of you in witnessing, prayer, and good works.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Through His power, I can live my life to please the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit is sowing in and through my life the harvest of everlasting life.
- I need to surrender to His complete control whatever in me blocks the Spirit.

Day 29: FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT'S LEADING IN EVERYTHING

If we are to walk in holiness, then the Spirit must lead us in every part of our lives. Paul wrote, "If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives" (Gal. 5:25). We Christians may be tempted to segment or compartmentalize our lives. Church is separated from home, and home from work, and leisure from church, and so forth.

Have you compartmentalized the Holy Spirit into the spiritual compartments of your life and refused to let Him lead you in other areas? He insists on holiness in every area of life, not just your religious and spiritual compartments.

The world often accuses us of being hypocrites. We act one way at church and another way in business or at home. Such duplicity betrays the fact that the Holy Spirit is not being allowed to lead us in every part of life.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Is the Spirit Leading in Everything?

Holiness doesn't pertain only to church or spiritual matters. If holiness doesn't permeate the way that we treat our families or our colleagues at work, then there is no point in claiming to follow Jesus.

Read Galatians 5:25, and then paraphrase it in your own words.

We may believe that the Spirit is leading us in our prayer lives but not in our financial giving. Or we may let the Spirit control our sexual morality but not our tongues, and so we gossip. Gossips may believe they are morally superior to fornicators, but they are also sinning against the Spirit. Let's look at a biblical example. Ananias and Sapphira thought they could appear to worship God and be generous givers in the church while hiding some of their financial arrangements from both God and other believers. They thought wrong!

Read Acts 5:1–11. Answer the following questions:

- What parts of their lives did Ananias and Sapphira try to control without the leading of the Holy Spirit?
- What happened to them as a result of lying to the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think that hypocrisy is the equivalent of lying to the Holy Spirit?

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Are You Deceiving Yourself?

Believing that we are led by the Spirit while still keeping control of certain parts of our lives is self-deception. We may be in the process of surrendering control of some parts of our lives. That's different from lying to ourselves and to the Spirit. We lie when we claim to be completely led by the Spirit while still holding fast to an area of control.

Put an X on the line to indicate where you are in these parts of your life.

FINANCES	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED
WORK	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED
FREE TIME	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED
SEXUAL IMORALITY	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED
PRAYER/BIBLE STUDY	-----	
	SELF-LED	SPIRIT-LED

We have often found ourselves preaching about a command of God that we failed to keep. We needed to be the first one to the altar to repent.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Surrendering the Lead

In dancing, the man usually leads, and the woman follows. In life, the Spirit always leads, and we always follow. Dancing in the Spirit can happen only when we surrender our natural (and sinful) inclination to lead, and then let the Holy Spirit lead.

Day 30: TRUE WORSHIP

His presence in worship, all that we sing, say, and do is lifeless ritual. Have you ever felt as if you were simply going through the motions in worship? The songs were empty melodies. The prayers were vain repetitions. The words were empty phrases. And the place where you found yourself was cold, empty, and lonely, even in a crowd of people.

Often we blame the preacher, the choir, or the church as a whole for our emptiness in worship. But we must look first at our hearts. Are we worshiping in spirit and in truth? Is the living water of the Holy Spirit actually flowing into us, through us, and back to the Lord in praise and worship?

Worship is a key to your walk in the Spirit. Jesus emphasized, "You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him" (**Matt. 4:10**). Your intimacy with the Holy Spirit will be reflected in the depth and intensity of your worship.

EXPLORE THE WORD : Worship in Spirit and in Truth

A Samaritan woman met Jesus at a well. She came to draw water for physical thirst, but only God could meet her real thirst. Hurt and rejection dammed up any spiritual river in her life. Five men had divorced her, and the one she lived with wouldn't marry her. But the seventh man she met had living water to satisfy the deep yearnings of her soul.

Read John 4. Complete these sentences:

- What the woman really needed from Jesus :
- What Jesus promised was
- Jesus described living water as
- Jesus insisted that true, living worship is

Because we know the Source of living water, Jesus, we can ask Him for the living water of the Spirit to flow from His throne into our lives. Out of living water flows true worship. The Spirit reveals the Father's love to us. The Spirit lifts up the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The Spirit inspires our thanksgiving, praise, and worship of the triune God who loves and saves us.

EXAMINE YOURSELF : Is My Worship True?

Truth points to a transparency in your life so that the real you is exposed to His light. The Spirit uses truth to cut away all religion and expose your heart in worship. How true is your worship?

Read Romans 12:1-2. Summarize Paul's description of true worship.

- Are you willing to make the living sacrifice that true worship requires?

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT : Let the Spirit Flow in Your Worship

True worship flows out of your intimacy with the Holy Spirit. He will teach you how to praise God and adore Jesus. He will develop your appetite for more of the Bread of Life. The Spirit will intensify your longing for the Lord.

Take time alone with the Holy Spirit each day. Find a praise and fix your eyes on Jesus in worship. Sing with the music. Put away all distractions. Spend one-on-one time just with Him.

If your worship has become shallow and superficial, you may need to do the following (check all that apply):

- I need to involve myself with a more worshipful community of faith.
- I need to spend personal worship time daily with the Lord.
- I need to invite the Holy Spirit to flow through me as I worship.
- I need to ask the Holy Spirit to teach me how to worship.
- Other: _____

Write a prayer to follow through on the statements you have checked.

- Without the Holy Spirit, true worship is impossible. In the Spirit, worship becomes a living sacrifice.