



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

a Life Transformation course

Del Wells

INCLUDES STUDY GUIDE
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Introduction: The Holy Spirit is in You

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit in you enables you to live for God.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

Welcome to the second core *Life Transformation* course. One of the lessons in *First Steps* introduced you to the Holy Spirit. We discussed that the Holy Spirit is God and that he is a person who comes to live in you the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. We mentioned that the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to teach you how to live as a believer and, as your Advocate, is with you to face each of life's circumstances with his assurance and help. In *Life in the Spirit*, we take a closer look at the Holy Spirit and how he enables you to live a life that is pleasing to God.

1. What does your body become when you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

In the Old Testament, the temple was the place that the people of God built for the Lord to dwell where they could come to meet with him. In essence, God limited his presence to one place at one time where people could worship him in a prescribed manner.

In the New Testament, Jesus provided for a new kind of temple through his death and resurrection. As a result, God no longer limits his presence to one place for mankind to worship him. God now resides in the lives of all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. How did you become a temple of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

As Christ followers, we have been bought by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. The price to set us free as slaves to sin, Satan, and self has been fully paid. Because we could not buy our freedom ourselves, God made the payment for us. We are no longer our own but have willingly given up ownership of everything we have and are to God. As God's temple by the presence of the Spirit, we must be careful to treat our bodies as holy to God. While this can seem overwhelming, we do not try to live God's way on our own. The Holy Spirit in us is more than able to teach us and enable us to live our new life to the full God's way. This course examines how that happens.

Welcome to *Life in the Spirit*.

Lesson 1: Governed by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit's supervision will bring you great blessings.

“...the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6b

We naturally want control over our lives whether we admit it or not. Supervising ourselves seems to work when things are going our way. But when we face challenges over which we have little control, we can quickly become fearful and overwhelmed.

Choosing to give God control over your life is the way to experience freedom from anxiety and worry about what to do. As a believer in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit has come to live inside you to assure you that you are saved and to teach you how to live your life God's way. You learn how to make decisions that are blessed by God as you surrender everything to the supervision of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings of the Spirit-governed life:

1. You experience freedom instead of condemnation – Romans 8:1-4

- a. What has your faith in Jesus Christ freed you from? (8:1-2)

- b. How did God provide this freedom for you? (8:3)

- c. What is required of you to receive this blessing? (8:4)

The judgment of God for your sins has been dealt with by the victory of Christ on the cross. Being 'in Christ Jesus' (v.1) by faith, you are no longer subjected to live under a law that condemns you to death. Rather, you now live under a new law, the law of the Spirit of life. However, you must learn to walk in this freedom. The good news is that you are not left to do this on your own but have the help, direction, and supervision of the Holy Spirit.

2. You have a mind of life and peace – Romans 8:5-6

Life conveys well-being, fullness of love and joy, and open fellowship and communion with God.

Peace describes contentment, security, rest, and assurance of sins forgiven.

- a. How can you tell if someone has surrendered control of their life to the supervision of the Holy Spirit (8:5)?

To “have their minds set on” is more than merely thinking casually about God’s ways. It is being intentionally focused on what the Holy Spirit desires for you. This requires having a growing consciousness of God’s holy presence in every situation and concentrating on what is vitally important to God through the instruction of the Holy Spirit.

- b. What does “the mind governed by the flesh” produce? (8:6a)

- c. What does “the mind governed by the Spirit” produce? (8:6b)

The Holy Spirit helps you to know God better by revealing to you the hope to which he has called you to (Ephesians 1:17-18). Knowing and living out God’s purpose for your life greatly contributes to your ability to enjoy soundness and peace of mind.

3. You are pleasing to God instead of hostile toward him – Romans 8:7-9

To be *hostile* means to be an adversary, enemy, opponent, or foe.

- a. What is hostile to God and why? (8:7)

- b. Why is this way of living self-defeating? (8:8)

You have been created by God to please him in the way you live. A sinful life is not capable of pleasing God and enjoy his pleasure. You are either for God or against him. You become hostile to God by not surrendering to the Holy Spirit’s supervision. You are treating God as your enemy showing evidence you do not belong to him.

- c. What is a major change in your life as a Christian believer? (8:9a)

When you live in the realm of the Holy Spirit you no longer treat God as your enemy. By submitting to the Spirit’s supervision, you show that you do belong to Christ. The Spirit-governed life is pleasing to God and experiences his favour.

4. Your spirit is alive with hope – Romans 8:10-11

People governed by the Holy Spirit experience tangible, eternal hope rooted in your belief in the reality of Jesus Christ being the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

- a. Even as a believer, what happens to your body because of sin? (8:10a)

- b. What are you given because of your right standing before God through faith in Christ? (8:10b)

- c. What blessing for your body do you receive through the Holy Spirit living in you? (8:11)

Spirit-governed people are hope-filled. The Holy Spirit in you is the guarantee that God is already working on your life, renewing you now and for eternity. Regardless of how hard life and ministry become, the Holy Spirit desires to fill you with all joy, peace, and hope by his power (Romans 15:13).

Turning supervision of your life over to the Holy Spirit is a daily business. You will be presented regularly with opportunities to handle on your own. You must train yourself to resist the temptations to control things yourself no matter how small or harmless they may seem at the time.

When your life is fully under the Holy Spirit's management, you position yourself to enjoy his ongoing blessings. The Spirit-governed life is one that surrenders to the claim of Christ upon it without resistance or conditions attached.

To enjoy hope-filled living, you must trust the Holy Spirit enough to give him supervision of every situation. You can trust him to show you the best choice to make every time so that you please God and experience his favour upon you.

Your Response

- ☞ Check the blessings of the Spirit-controlled life discussed above. Who would you say supervises your life—you or the Holy Spirit?
- ☞ Take a moment to pray and surrender your life again to the Holy Spirit's supervision. Ask him to help you always make the best choices.
- ☞ Begin each day acknowledging your surrender of all things to the Spirit to be sure to enjoy his ongoing blessings.

Lesson 2: Led by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit will always lead you the right way.

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” Romans 8:14

Every day you can encounter situations you have never faced before. Uncertainty of what is ahead can cause fear and anxiety to develop in you. You need to be led forward by someone you can trust with your life who knows what to do. The ideal person would know how to steer you the right way every time because they are knowledgeable about what is ahead.

The great news is that there is one who qualifies perfectly to be that leader for you. He is the Holy Spirit of God who already lives in you as a believer in Jesus Christ.

You, as a Christ follower, have learned to be governed by the Holy Spirit (Lesson 1). One of Spirit’s major roles is leading God’s spiritual children the right way. You must practice discovering, following, and trusting the directions that the Holy Spirit gives you.

1. As a believer, what is not your obligation and why is that? (8:12-13a)
2. What is your obligation as a Christian and how does it benefit you? (8:13b-14)

An *obligation* is something that is essential and necessary. It is a duty that you are bound to do. It is true that as a believer God has set you free from your spiritual bondage and has adopted you as his son or daughter. As such, you receive the rights and privileges of being a child of God. However, you also now have responsibilities and obligations to live God’s way.

This is why you need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is ready to serve as your leader, protector, corrector, influencer, guide, forerunner, and encourager every day. You must learn how to listen to the Spirit and do what he tells you to.

Benefits of following the Holy Spirit’s leading

1. He frees you from slavery to Fear – Romans 8:15a

Fear is a very strong emotion that can dominate your life. It is possible to be a slave to feelings of panic and worry about what might happen. This bondage does not come from God who gives you every reason not to be afraid. The Holy Spirit offers you freedom from fear because you are a child of God.

- a. How is surrender to the Spirit different from the bondage of worldly slavery?

- b. Do you see that many people live lives driven by fear? What are the results?
- c. What are things you no longer have to be afraid of with the Holy Spirit's help?

2. He Enables You to Cry "Abba, Father" – Romans 8:15b

Abba is a very personal word that a Hebrew child would use to speak to their own father. Jesus, God's Son, used this same word in addressing the Heavenly Father in the garden of Gethsemane just before His crucifixion (Mark 14:36). *Abba* is a word that reveals trust in someone else's care.

- a. Why is it important that the Holy Spirit helps you to grow in your relationship with Father God?
- b. At what times might you want to cry out "Abba, Father"?

3. He testifies with your spirit that you are God's child – Romans 8:16

To *testify* means to state something with conviction based on personal knowledge. You are familiar with someone giving testimony in a court of law which is considered evidence in the case. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit testifies to your spirit regarding what he knows about your relationship to God.

- a. What benefit is it that the Holy Spirit confirms in your spirit that God has fully adopted you as his own child?
- b. How does this Spirit testimony affect the way you approach God in prayer?

Being *led by the Spirit* means the Holy Spirit is helping you to make the best decisions. They are the choices that Jesus would make if he were in your place. When you ask him, the Holy Spirit will develop an appetite in you for doing what is right always. You want to involve God in all the details of your life.

How The Holy Spirit Leads You:

1. He reveals God's truth to you – John 16:13a

Why is it important to know what God considers truth?

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring understanding to you of the Word as you read, memorize, meditate on, and study it. The Spirit will equip you to know and use the Word effectively in any situation.

2. He confirms what is ahead – John 16:13b

Why is it advantageous to be directed by God?

The Holy Spirit is God and knows perfectly the past, present, and future. Ask the Spirit to fill your life with his presence continually and to let you know what is coming so that you will be well prepared. Tell the Holy Spirit you are counting on him to direct each step you take, and he will give you clarity about what to do with his ongoing enabling.

3. He glorifies Christ by teaching you – John 16:14

How does asking the Spirit to reveal Christ and his teaching to you benefit you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know Jesus more by revealing his character, love, and truth to you. Also pray that the Spirit will enable you to live in a way that brings glory to Christ by obeying his teaching.

The Holy Spirit lives in you to lead you each step. Because he is God he:

- ☞ knows all things, including what is ahead
- ☞ is fully trustworthy
- ☞ is willing to help you
- ☞ will not lead you where you should not go
- ☞ will prepare you for what you are about to face
- ☞ will confirm that you are on the right track
- ☞ will assure you that he has all things in control.

You do not need to be directionless or without hope or purpose. You can be led by the Holy Spirit and discover his plan for your life daily. Remember, this leading happens as you continuously surrender yourself to the Spirit's supervision.

Your Response

- ☞ Take a moment to acknowledge the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.
- ☞ Ask him to lead you the best way every day in each step you take.
- ☞ Review and thank the Holy Spirit for the benefits presented in this lesson you enjoy by following his leading.

Lesson 3: Helped by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit helps you pray according to God's will.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.”
Romans. 8:26-27

Perhaps you have been so overwhelmed with an issue or situation in your life that you were almost spinning in circles. You wondered what you should do next. Maybe you thought about praying for what you were facing but were confused and unsure of how or what to pray.

Be encouraged. There is support available in these difficult circumstances for those who put their trust in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit living in you is ready and willing to help you in your most trying and difficult situations. You prepare yourself to receive his supernatural assistance by making the conscious decision to live under the supervision of the Holy Spirit (Lesson 1) and by seeking the Spirit for his direction for what is ahead of you (Lesson 2). To help you understand the dynamics of the Spirit's provision for you, Romans 8:17-27 offers context by discussing the complex topic of suffering.

1. Read verses 20-21. What is happening to creation that is a cause of frustration?
2. What is all of creation actually waiting for? (8:19)

While the whole world groans under the weight of much suffering, the believer allows suffering to point them to something better. Always remember that the Holy Spirit lives in you as your guarantee that one day God is going to complete his plan for your life by bringing you into his presence to live with him forever. Knowing about and having this eternal hope helps you look forward to something so great that your present sufferings seem insignificant compared to it.

3. What does it mean to wait patiently for this marvelous hope? (8:25)

Remember that you hope for what you do not yet have. What you already have is not hope because you can see, touch, and experience it. True hope is unseen, founded on God's word and confirmed by his Holy Spirit in you. Therefore, during your suffering, you can have confidence in the goodness and unlimited abilities of God as you wait patiently for something better.

How the Holy Spirit Helps You

1. The Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness - 8:26a

- a. Why do you need the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness?

- b. Can you think of a time that you wanted to pray but did not know how or where to start? Describe it.

You need help with what to pray because you have incomplete knowledge and insight about any situation. This can frustrate and discourage you, not because you do not believe in God, but because you want to pray properly but are unsure how to. Also, because you are prone to lose heart over time, you need the Holy Spirit to help you persevere in prayer and not give up.

- c. How does the Holy Spirit's help encourage you in your prayer life?

2. The Holy Spirit intercedes for you – 8:26b

- a. How intensely does the Holy Spirit pray through you?

- b. What does this tell you about the Spirit's interest in you?

The Holy Spirit so identifies with you as a believer that he sighs and suffers within you even as he prays through you. We call this praying in the Spirit because you are simply a willing and needy vessel allowing the Holy Spirit to take over praying through you when you do not know how to pray. This is deep-level prayer under the Spirit's control.

3. The Holy Spirit prays through you in accordance with God's will – 8:27

- a. How does the Holy Spirit know what he should pray for on your behalf?

- b. Whose will to be done would you tend to pray for without the Holy Spirit's help?

- c. Why is it best to want God's will to be done in every situation?

The Holy Spirit is praying on your behalf with perfect knowledge of the mind of God and in perfect accordance with the will of God because the Holy Spirit is God. In essence, God the Holy Spirit is praying to God the Father. This is powerful prayer because it originates in the very heart of God. When you surrender to the Spirit's supervision and ask him for his help, you become a vessel for God to pray through to accomplish what he knows is best.

Your Response

- ☞ Take some time to be encouraged in prayer – begin with praise to God.
- ☞ The Holy Spirit will help you to pray—ask him to pray through you as you surrender to his leadership in your life.
- ☞ The Holy Spirit will give you hope as you pray—thank him for enabling you to experience real hope in God no matter what things look like.
- ☞ The Holy Spirit will give you confidence that God will always answer the Spirit's prayer—pray that God's will is ultimately done in every situation.

Lesson 4: In Step with the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit frees you from slavery to your sinful nature.

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

The Holy Spirit has a unique relationship with you as a believer in Jesus Christ. He lives in you and has every divine enablement that a Christ follower needs for successful living. However, the Holy Spirit’s role is not to live a godly life for you but to equip you by his power to please God in all you do. This becomes a reality as you submit to and act on the promptings and insights the Holy Spirit gives you.

In Galatians 5:13-26 you see the stark contrast between the ‘acts of the flesh’ and the ‘fruit of the Spirit’. It is important to recognize the influences at work within you and to what extent. You will either be destroyed by giving into the desires of your sinful nature or flourish by allowing the Spirit to develop his spiritual fruit in you. The Holy will show you how to keep in step with him and mature in Christlike character.

1. What has your new life in Christ called you to be? (5:13a)
2. What are you to use your freedom to do and not to do? (5:13b)

When you do not love God and others as you should, you will not live in freedom the way God has called you to. Healthy relationships require self-denial and selfless love at the core. The acts of the flesh are destroyers of your relationships while the fruit of the Spirit enhances them.

3. What is the conflict taking place within you at this moment? (5:17)

The cravings of your sinful nature and the desires of the Holy Spirit within you are completely opposed to each other. A believer must be careful to not give into sinful appetites which ultimately produce a spiritually defeated life.

4. List the acts of the flesh that are obvious and briefly define each one. (5:19-21)

5. What is the result for those who do these things? (5:21)

The acts of the flesh describe a pattern of living by someone who is not born again (John 3:3). However, it is also possible for a believer to give into sinful desires and commit sin. The difference is that a Christ follower will not willingly persist in sin as a lifestyle but will ask God's forgiveness and strength to give into temptations in the future.

6. The lifestyle of the Christian believer will be evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit. List them. (5:22-23)

No believer has completely mastered the fruit of the Spirit in their life. However, these qualities should be evident and growing daily within you. The acts of the flesh emphasize human behaviour—what you do on your own. The fruit of the Spirit emphasize God's grace—what the Holy Spirit develops in you as you surrender to and cooperate with him.

7. What is the amazing outcome for believers following the Spirit's directions? (5:16)

To "walk by the Spirit" means to obey the ways of God, act like Jesus, and follow the Holy Spirit's lead. When you allow the Spirit to guide you each step, you will not lose the conflict with your sinful nature (flesh) and give into its desires.

8. How do you decisively deal with your flesh and why do you? (v. 24)

9. What principle should guide your daily walk as a believer? (v. 25)

Never minimize the importance of depending upon the power of the Holy Spirit every minute of the day. Stay open to God's work in you and constantly seek what the Spirit desires for you. Do not try to resist the desires of the flesh in your own power but stay so full of God so that sin has no place to take hold in your life.

Your Response

- ☞ Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to keep developing his spiritual fruit in you so that your Christlike character becomes obvious to others.
- ☞ Make a fresh commitment to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and not give in to your sinful desires.
- ☞ Determine to use your freedom in Christ to serve others instead of yourself.

Lesson 5: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit will empower you to be Jesus' witness.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” Acts 1:8a

It is important to remember that the moment you confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of your life, the Holy Spirit lives in you. To this point in *Life in the Spirit*, we have considered many of the benefits that the Holy Spirit brings to you. At the same time, we have identified the choices that you as a Christian must make to keep in step with the agenda the Holy Spirit has for your life.

God's purpose for you is not simply to enjoy his blessings by yourself. Christ desires that all people would receive his gift of eternal life and live to the full. For this to happen, followers of Jesus must faithfully present the gospel to a world that is spiritually lost and dying. Through the Holy Spirit, God will enable every believer to carry out this undertaking with confidence and boldness.

1. a. What did Jesus tell his disciples they would receive? (Acts 1:8)

- b. When?

- c. For what purpose?

When Jesus speaks of power to be his witnesses, he means more than telling someone the good news of the gospel. Jesus is referring to the potential to be a walking testimony of the transforming power that has changed your life from the inside out. The word 'power' is from the Greek language where we get English words like dynamite, dynamic, or dynamo. In this usage, it refers to a supernatural gift of power enabling you to be a bold and faithful witness of Christ.

We call the experience of receiving this power from God being 'baptized in the Holy Spirit'. This event opens the door to an ongoing spiritual condition called being 'filled with the Holy Spirit' which we will examine in Lesson 6. Now we focus on some of the dynamics of the initial empowering of your life by the Spirit.

2. What is first required of you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38)

Only believers are candidates for this experience in God. The Biblical pattern first requires repentance from your sins through faith in Christ and baptism in water as an open act of obedience to Christ's commands. These first steps prepare you to receive supernatural, witnessing power.

3. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit called in this verse? (2:38)

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is a gift you receive from God by his grace. Like your salvation, this experience cannot be bought or earned.

4. How do you receive this gift from God? (Luke 11:11-13)

This Scripture is not referring to your salvation experience because the Holy Spirit is automatically given to you when you receive Christ as Lord as the evidence of your new birth. On the other hand, the baptism in the Holy Spirit requires you to desire that provision. However, just as salvation is a gift from God for all who will ask him, so the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift that God is ready to give to those who ask. Notice the Father in heaven is even more willing to give good gifts to you than parents are prepared to give to their own children whom they love.

5. Read Acts 2:1-4. After the sound of the blowing of a violent wind and the tongues of fire that rested on the disciples, what was the initial sign that Christ's followers had been baptized in the Holy Spirit? (v. 4)

It is interesting to notice that God chose to use our speech as the initial outward sign that we have received this empowering gift from the Holy Spirit. There are good reasons for this. We all know that our tongues can be destructive at times and need to constantly come under control. In this baptism experience, the Holy Spirit gives confirmation that we have turned our speech over to his control. Speaking in a language that you have never learned is completely a miracle of God. It is an external physical testimony of an inward spiritual change that has taken place.

Speaking in other languages is a universal sign because any believer in the world can be enabled by God to speak in a language they have not learned. This phenomenon can be described as being able "to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (2:4).

6. What did the onlookers who understood these languages being spoken say these newly baptized people were communicating? (2:11)

Your praise to God is not limited to the language that you normally speak but expands to a new dimension through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

7. Although speaking in tongues is not specifically identified in all the following accounts, read these references in the book of Acts, and write down why this initial physical sign is a good probability.
- a. Acts 2:1-4

 - b. Acts 4:23-31

 - c. Acts 8:9-19

 - d. Acts 9:17-19

 - e. Acts 10:44-48

 - f. Acts 19:1-7
8. While speaking in other tongues is the implied initial physical sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit in these accounts, what is the purpose of this baptism? (Acts 1:8)

The primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not for you to speak in tongues, but to receive power to always be an obedient witness of Christ.

9. What has Christ commanded you as a Christian believer to do? (Matthew 28:19-20)

Obedying the Great Commission must be an integral and ongoing part of your life as a disciple of Christ (*First Steps* Lesson 8). Notice that Jesus promised his disciples that with the baptism in the Holy Spirit they would be witnesses of him not only where they lived (Jerusalem) and to the outlying regions (Judea & Samaria), but to the very ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Continually acknowledge your need to God of his power to impact your community and world as an authentic and bold witness of Jesus Christ and his gospel.

Your Response

- ☞ God is ready and willing to give you this precious gift of power to enable you to obey the Great Commission. Are you ready and willing to receive it?
- ☞ Take time to ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with his power so that you can be a bold witness of Christ wherever you go.

Lesson 6: Filled with the Spirit

The Big Deal!

Spirit-filled living must be your daily experience.

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

In Lesson 5, you examined the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Its primary purpose is to give you supernatural power to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. You looked at the Acts accounts of this experience and were shown that this gift of the Holy Spirit is for you now as a believer in Jesus Christ.

In this lesson the focus is on staying filled with the Holy Spirit and what that looks like. ‘Be filled’ is a Biblical command that stresses the need of a continuous and repeated action. Read the book of Acts and you realize that the believers were careful to not do anything except with the power of the Holy Spirit working in them. They were constantly being filled with the Spirit to be and do what Christ had commanded. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the beginning of your empowered Christian life. You must continue to be full of the Spirit to be effective in your daily witness for Christ.

What a Spirit-filled believer looks like - Ephesians 5:1-21

1. Notice the characteristics of Spirit-filled living from the following verses:
 - a. Vs. 1-2 – Give an example of how you can show sacrificial love to someone.
 - b. Vs. 3-7 – What is idolatry and what is its consequence?
 - c. Vs. 8-9 – What do you exhibit by developing a godly character?
 - d. Vs. 10-17 – What priority should you give to doing God’s will and why?
 - e. Vs. 11-14 – Why is it important to stay awake spiritually?
 - f. Vs. 15-16 – How should you spend your time and why?
 - g. V. 18a – Why is getting drunk on wine dangerous?

h. V. 19a – Why is it important to talk to one another about God’s goodness?

i. Vs. 19b-20 – Where do your songs of thanksgiving to God come from?

j. V. 21 – What does mutual submission demonstrate?

2. How do these Spirit-filled characteristics inspire you today?

3. How will those that interact with you be affected by you being Spirit-filled?

Your life will show evidence of being Spirit-filled. After receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour, you offer yourself to God to be given the power of the Holy Spirit to work through you. Doing that will help solidify your faith in Christ, persevere in your obedience to Christ’s commands, and enable you to mature through the trials you face. Always remember your need to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit and power.

Spirit-filled living is a daily choice. It requires full surrender to God and his purposes for you. You must develop a hunger and thirst to experience all that God has for you and he will respond to you with abundance. Stay overwhelmed with your need to be filled with the Spirit to impact your world for Christ by your words and character.

Learn to regularly pray the simple prayer to God, “I empty myself of me, Lord. Fill me up with you.” Let God impact your life every day. Be filled with the Spirit.

Your Response

- ☞ Take some time to offer yourself to the Lord in prayer as an act of worship.
- ☞ Ask the Holy Spirit to give you His power continually to live an authentic Spirit-filled life.
- ☞ Develop a hunger and thirst for God by devouring the Word, staying connected with God through prayer, and asking the Holy Spirit to keep you filled with his holy presence and power to transform you.

Lesson 7: The Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 1

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has supernatural abilities to give you when needed.

“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unformed.” 1 Corinthians 12:1

By this time in your Christian experience, you realize that God is a gracious and extravagant giver. He gave you life and a free will to make your own choices. God gave his Son, Jesus Christ, as the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty for your sins. He gave you the ability to become part of his family by placing your trust in Christ as Lord, accepting his sacrificial gift for forgiveness. God gave you the Holy Spirit to live in you the moment you became a believer to help you live for him. God gave you power through the Holy Spirit to be a faithful witness and Christ and produces the fruit of the Spirit in you to exhibit the character of Christ. And God keeps on giving...

In this lesson, you learn about special gifts that God is ready to give to you to accomplish what he has called you to do in life and ministry.

1. What importance is placed on spiritual (manifestation) gifts? (12:1)

You are not to be unaware of, in the dark about, or unknowledgeable of spiritual gifts. They are indispensable provisions from God to accomplish his purposes.

2. While there is only one Holy Spirit, what do you learn about the spiritual gifts? (12:4)

3. Who benefits when the Holy Spirit manifests these gifts through believers? (12:7)

4. Who decides when and where these gifts will be given? Why? (12:11)

Spiritual gifts are supernatural manifestations that come directly from the Holy Spirit to operate through believers for the common good. They are gifts which means they are not earned or deserved. There are a variety of gifts available for every situation. Gifts are designed to show the grace, power, and love of God through his people, not only in times of public worship, but also in the everyday circumstances of life.

Spiritual gifts reside in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, a Spirit-filled believer has the potential of any one of these gifts being manifested through them on any occasion. The individual benefits as God works supernaturally through them in the situation and the whole church is blessed because of it. The Holy Spirit knows precisely what gifts are needed for maximum effect at all times.

5. What should your attitude be toward spiritual gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:31)

The Holy Spirit does not force his gifts on anyone. You must show an eager desire for these spiritual gifts to function in your life when needed. The term 'greater gifts' does not mean that one gift is more important than another. It means that certain gifts are vital for addressing particular situations and would be considered of greater need than other gifts at that time. Any gift can be a greater gift.

Cautions regarding the use of Spiritual Gifts

- ☞ Spiritual gifts are not the measure of spiritual maturity—the fruit of the Spirit is.
- ☞ The Holy Spirit operates his gifts through willing and cooperative people, not perfect ones.
- ☞ The potential for spiritual pride must be confronted by remembering that spiritual gifts are not earned but given by God.
- ☞ Unexercised spiritual gifts are wasted opportunities to see needs met supernaturally.
- ☞ The manifestation of spiritual gifts must be both encouraged and evaluated. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)

Your Response

In Lesson 8 you will look more closely at the nine spiritual gifts regarding their purpose and function. As preparation for that study, do the following exercises:

- ☞ List some situations that are beyond your ability to meet and require supernatural intervention from God.
- ☞ Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit, whether for the first time or as an ongoing experience. (Lessons 5 & 6)
- ☞ Pray for God to increase your understanding of spiritual gifts and acknowledge your desire for God to operate them through your life to meet specific needs in a supernatural way.

Lesson 8: The Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Part 2

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has the gifts needed for any situation.

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:11

In Lesson 7, you looked at the spiritual (also called manifestation) gifts of the Spirit in a general sense. In this lesson you will examine each of the nine gifts more closely that the Holy Spirit is ready to operate through Spirit-filled believers. They are divided into three groups – Revelation, Power, and Voice Gifts.

A. The Revelation Gifts

1. The message of Wisdom

- ☞ This is specific insight into the mind and purpose of God that can be related into ordinary problems and issues of life.

This manifestation can be a practical revelation of God’s word or the Holy Spirit’s specific wisdom to a situation of need at a particular time. The person giving the message of wisdom appears to speak with great skill and experience because God is the source. The one receiving the message of wisdom is encouraged and strengthened by receiving insight for the proper and effective use of knowledge.

2. The message of Knowledge

- ☞ This is God-given knowledge about people or circumstances that you did not know previously.

The information revealed is factual even though the person being used in this gift has no way to know it otherwise. The one hearing the message of knowledge is often amazed as attitudes and motives of people’s heart are revealed.

3. Distinguishing between Spirits

- ☞ This is the ability to test and discern spirits to determine if they are of God, Satan, or self (1 John 4:1).

It is the ability to judge the voice gifts of the Spirit to determine if they are from the Holy Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 14:29 / 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

It also includes the ability to discern demonic activity and possession of individuals (Acts 16:16-28).

As a human being, you cannot accurately see into people’s hearts to determine motives behind what they say and do. As a believer you are expected to be discerning, to test each spirit that you encounter. The ability to distinguish between spirits is the enabling of the Holy Spirit to determine the genuineness of the spiritual dynamics at work. Demonic forces and human spirits are exposed through this gift.

Believers benefit by holding on to what God reveals to be good and letting go of anything that is not.

B. The Power Gifts

1. Faith

- ☞ This is special faith that is imparted by the Holy Spirit to enable believers to ask God for things that are extraordinary and miraculous.

This is different from the faith that someone exercises to be saved (Ephesians 2:8). It is sometimes called mountain-moving faith (Matthew 17:20-21) and often works in concert with other manifestation gifts (e.g. healing – Acts 3:16). The gift of faith is received as needed before the physical evidence is seen. It is exercised as confidence in God despite circumstances that look to the contrary. The effect of the gift of faith is that special needs et that would not have been otherwise.

2. Gifts of Healing

- ☞ This is the restoring of health by supernatural means.

The healing can come instantly or over time. The gifts of healing work in concert with the gift of faith being released in prayer (James 5:14-15). While you do not need to be an elder to operate in gifts of healing, you do need the gift of faith. Healing is an accompanying sign for those who believe in the gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15-18) and an integral part of the message of the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2, 6 / 10:1, 8-9). Healings often occur inside a person (emotions, spirit, unseen body parts) as well as on the outside parts that can be seen. It is important not to only focus on the outward, physical manifestations of this gift to see its operation.

3. Miraculous Powers

- ☞ This is God supernaturally altering the normal course of nature.

These are extraordinary acts of God that transcend human ability and understanding. What is impossible for man is not impossible for God. God's power is completely dominant over Satan's kingdom of darkness (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). This gift of the Spirit also operates in concert with the gift of faith in prayer. Miraculous powers are given to confront and overcome Satan's kingdom and are signs that accompany the believing of the message of the gospel of the Kingdom. The intended effect of miraculous powers is that God is glorified in the miracle, not the one being used in the gift.

C. The Voice Gifts

God speaks through believers expressing the personality of the Holy Spirit.

1. Speaking in different kinds of tongues

- ☞ The speaking of a message in a language never learned by the speaker.

This is the expressing of one's spirit under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit. The language conveyed by the Spirit may be an earthly language (Acts 2:4-6) or a heavenly language unknown to man (1 Corinthians 13:1 - "tongues of angels"). The tongues spoken are unintelligible to the hearers (1 Corinthians 14:14, 16). When someone speaks out publicly in a gathering, the message in tongues must be interpreted for the listeners to be able to understand it (1 Corinthians 14:6, 13).

Speaking in different kinds of tongues with interpretation accomplishes a couple of things:

- ☞ It is a sign for unbelievers that they are separated from God and lack understanding of the ways of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 14:22).
- ☞ The whole church is edified (1 Corinthians 14:5, 26).

How speaking in tongues operates in public:

- ☞ It must not be forbidden (1 Corinthians 14:39)
- ☞ It must be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)
- ☞ It must be regulated (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)
- ☞ It must be fitting and orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40)

This lesson deals with speaking in tongues as a manifestation in a corporate setting. The two other uses of tongues are the initial sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and a personal prayer language for an individual's edification.

2. Interpretation of Tongues

- ☞ The special ability to interpret what has been spoken in tongues and to communicate the message to the congregation.

This is not a literal translation of the message in tongues but an interpretation of what the Holy Spirit has spoken in another language. This gift is exercised either by the one who has spoken the message in tongues or by someone else in the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:13, 27- 28). The combination of tongues and interpretation functions as a directive to worship in prayer to God. The message in tongues is validated by interpretation and the church is edified and strengthened (1 Corinthians 14:5, 26).

3. Prophecy

- ☞ A word, warning, exhortation, or revelation from God under the direction of the Holy Spirit given in the language that the hearers can understand.

This is the proclaiming of God's will by exhorting and encouraging the hearers to godliness as revealed in his Word (1 Corinthians 14:3). This gift is potentially available to every Spirit-filled Christian believer (Acts 2:17-18) as are the rest of the spiritual / manifestation gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7).

How prophecy operates in public:

- ☞ There must be one prophecy given at a time and no more than three in total (1 Corinthians 14:29-33).
- ☞ It must be given in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:39-40).
- ☞ It must be evaluated for its genuineness (1 John 4:1).
 - ⇒ Is it consistent with God's revealed Word?
 - ⇒ Is it self-serving or for the benefit of the church?
 - ⇒ Is the speaker sincerely living under Christ's lordship?
- ☞ It must be treated with respect and taken seriously (1 Thessalonians. 5:19-22).

The effects of the gift of prophecy are threefold:

- ☞ It is a sign for believers that God's grace is among them (1 Corinthians 14:22).
- ☞ The secrets of the heart of the unbeliever are laid bare causing them to worship God and acknowledge the Lord's presence (1 Corinthians 14:24-25).
- ☞ The church is strengthened through the exhortation (1 Corinthians 14:26).

In this lesson we looked specifically at the spiritual / manifestation gifts of the Spirit. The body ministry gifts (Romans 12) and the equipping gifts (Ephesians 4) are examined in the course Learning to Serve.

Your Response

- ☞ Take time to be knowledgeable of what the nine spiritual gifts of the Spirit are and how they function.
- ☞ Prepare yourself in prayer and surrender to the Holy Spirit to be used by God in whatever gifts may be required.
- ☞ Thank the Spirit for his ongoing work in you, providing everything you need to be effective and productive in life and ministry.

A Word of Encouragement to You

You have completed the *Life in the Spirit* course. You are now ready to take further steps in your spiritual growth that facilitate productive ministry and kingdom influence. Your next phase of learning builds upon the foundational principles you have established in your daily living thus far. The next course, *Learning to Serve*, will help you understand the importance of serving Christ in his mission of impacting people for eternity one at a time.

Commit yourself daily to being a person of the Spirit who invites him to fill you continually with his presence and power so that you will be ready to respond to his direction at a moment's notice and do what is needed in his supernatural enabling.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

STUDY GUIDE

Study Guide – Life in the Spirit

This Study Guide is included to help you take someone through the *Life in the Spirit* course. It also contains extra notes to further explain some key issues. As you review the lessons, you will find opportunities to share your personal experiences with those you are studying with. If you are leading this course in a group setting, there are extra questions to generate discussion.

Introduction – The Holy Spirit is in You

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit in you enables you to live for God.

Question 1: Recognize that as a believer your body is a holy place of worship because of God's presence in you (Romans 12:1). This has important implications for how you should respect and take care of your body.

Question 2: The Holy Spirit immediately resides in every person who accepts Christ's provision for forgiving their sins. Trusting Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour initiates the transaction of God's ownership of your life. The Holy Spirit in you is the seal that the purchase is complete.

Discussion Group Questions - Introduction

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What does the Holy Spirit living in you as a believer teach you about God?
3. What was a temple in Bible times and what was its role in the relationship between God and man?
4. Why would God rather live in people than in a building?
5. Describe the price paid to establish bodily temples of God.
6. What impact should God living in you have?

Lesson 1: Governed by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit's supervision will bring you great blessings.

1. You experience freedom instead of condemnation

Your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour frees you from being condemned to eternal death because of your sins. This gift of freedom was made available to you through the sacrifice of Christ as payment for your sins (Romans 6:23; John 3:16). To benefit from this freedom, you must learn to live according to the Holy Spirit's direction rather than your own sinful desires. You are like a prisoner who has been released from jail who must now learn to live like a free person. The Holy Spirit will teach you how to enjoy freedom from condemnation if you let him.

2. You have a mind of life and peace

To surrender control of your life to the Holy Spirit is to set your mind on what he desires and not on what your flesh (sinful nature) desires. You learn more about this process in Lesson 4. This is a moment-by-moment discipline that requires choosing what God wants in each decision as opposed to what you want. The unbeliever does not consider God in any matter and has no desire to do so. The result for them is having a mind opposed to God which leads them to spiritual death. On the other hand, the believer has a desire to build a relationship with God and to obey him. The evidence of your surrender to the Holy Spirit is a sound mind.

3. You are pleasing to God instead of hostile to God

The sinful mind does not submit to God's law and cannot even do so. The unbelieving mind naturally opposes God and his ways. This is a no-win situation for the unbeliever because the way to experience God's pleasure is the opposite direction they choose to go. Conversely, the believer, supervised by the Holy Spirit, does desire God's best and is able to grow in the knowledge and practice of pleasing God and experiencing his favour.

4. Your spirit is alive with hope

The believer must accept that their physical body is still going to die (Hebrews 9:27). However, faith in Christ contains the promise of receiving a new body one day to live for eternity with Jesus. Until that time, your present body will be subjected to the effects of the sinful nature even though your spirit is made alive.

The Holy Spirit brings hope to you as a believer by reviving your spirit now for this life and raising you up for eternity at the final resurrection. The Spirit in you is the down payment that God has given as his personal guarantee of your eternal future.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 1

1. "Every person wants to control his own life whether he admits it or not." Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. Why is it impossible to fully control your life?

3. Why do you need to confess Jesus as Lord to confront your control issue?
4. Is it possible to be a believer and yet try to control areas of your life?
5. What are some results of not surrendering yourself completely to the supervision of the Holy Spirit?
6. How would you tell someone to turn their lives over to the Spirit's governance?
7. What do people living under the Spirit's supervision look like?
8. How often will you need to surrender control of your life to the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 2: Led by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit will always lead you the right way.

Questions 1 & 2: In your unregenerate state you felt an obligation to do what your sinful nature wanted you to do. That lifestyle leads to spiritual and eternal death. However, your nature as a believer has a different disposition that is not inclined to giving into evil desires. This new way of living leads to spiritual and eternal life.

Benefit 1—He frees you from slavery to fear: Out of relationship with God through adoption into his spiritual family, the Holy Spirit leads you where you need to go. Because he knows where he is going, you no longer have to be afraid of what is ahead.

Benefit 2—He enables you to cry “Abba, Father”: The Holy Spirit helps you to develop a trust relationship with Father God. A believer learns to feel secure in being a child of God, enjoying the privilege of asking God for help at any time and receiving his provision when needed.

Benefit 3—He testifies with your spirit that you are God’s child: Through the Holy Spirit, the distance that you have felt with Father God is closed. You are now able to enter God’s presence with confidence because he has invited you to be there as his child.

How the Holy Spirit leads you

Give examples of how these Spirit leadings have happened to you:

- ☞ Understanding the Bible more clearly
- ☞ Sensing what was ahead for you
- ☞ Knowing Jesus more personally

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 2

1. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit and why is it important?
2. How does living under the Holy Spirit’s supervision (Lesson 1) relate to being led by the Spirit?
3. Why is there an obligation for a believer and what is it?
4. Why does the Holy Spirit make a great leader for your life?
5. What are some benefits you have experienced by following the Holy Spirit’s leading?
6. How far in advance does the Holy Spirit most often lead you?
7. How does the Holy Spirit lead you through God’s word (the Bible)?
8. How does the Holy Spirit confirm what is ahead for your life?
9. Why is the Holy Spirit so interested in helping you to know Jesus better?
10. What would be a great thing to remind yourself of at the start of each day in light of this lesson?

Lesson 3: Helped by the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit helps you pray according to God's will.

Questions 1 & 2: Humankind has generally disobeyed God's laws and treated his creation with contempt. The result is that a process of universal decay has been set in motion. Consequently, all of creation is groaning in frustration by not being able to reverse this degeneration. However, there is a day coming when the sons of God are going to be revealed to all creation; that is, all believers will be ushered to glory in completeness (1 John 3:1-2).

Question 3: The believer waits for their eternal hope patiently. Regardless of what they face in this life, it pales in comparison to the glory to be experienced in the life to come with Jesus.

How the Holy Spirit Helps You:

The Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness—There will be times when you know you should pray for a situation, but you do not know how to start. An example of this is praying for the healing of an unbelieving relative. Do you pray for their physical healing or for the salvation of their soul first? What about when you are presented with options of a major life choice? How do you begin to pray for confirmation of the right decision? During these times, the Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness, actively praying on your behalf.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for you—The Holy Spirit sighs and suffers within you with groans that words cannot express as he helps you pray. This shows the Holy Spirit is totally involved in your life. You gain confidence when you realize and accept that the prayer is originating in him.

The Holy Spirit prays for you in accordance with God's will—Because he is God, the Holy Spirit knows you better than you know yourself. His priority is not necessarily to make you comfortable and relieve your pain, but rather to bring the best for your life in accordance with God's purposes and plans. The Holy Spirit's prayer is perfect and has a one hundred per cent chance of being answered.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 3

1. Can you describe a situation where you were so overwhelmed that you were spinning in circles, unsure of what to do?
2. How did this confusion affect the way that you prayed?
3. Why is all of creation suffering and frustrated?
4. What is the hope for you as a believer in the midst of suffering?
5. How do you react when you pray but do not see the results that you were expecting?
6. What is the connection between being under the Holy Spirit's supervision, being led by the Spirit, and having the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness?
7. What would you tell someone going through a difficult situation to do to receive help from the Holy Spirit?

8. Why is the Holy Spirit essential for intercessory prayer?
9. How successful is the Holy Spirit in prayer?
10. How should this lesson affect your prayer life?

Lesson 4: In Step with the Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit frees you from slavery to your sinful nature.

Questions 1 & 2: The freedom that Christ has provided for you is not experienced by indulging in your sinful nature. Freedom is enjoyed as you learn to serve others in love. You no longer have to give in to selfish desires but learn to consider others before yourself. You do this not because you are forced to, but because you are free to do so with God's grace and help.

Question 3: There is a war taking place in every believer between two opponents. One side is the sinful nature (the flesh) and what it desires, and the other side is the Spirit and what he desires. Believers are still capable of giving into their sinful desires and as a result live defeated lives. The daily goal must be to give in to what the Spirit desires for you and live in freedom from the slavery to sinful acts.

Questions 4: The acts of the sinful nature are obvious. The list is broken down into four basic categories as sinful activities: illicit sex, false worship, immoral attitudes & responses, and unrestrained excesses. A closer look at these activities reveals the great potential for damage to the person sinning and those involved with them.

Question 5: The result of living according to the desires of the sinful nature is separation from God now and for eternity. Doing these acts is evidence that a person is not committed to or living for God and has no share in his kingdom.

Question 6: The fruit of the Spirit is also obvious. These qualities are not destructive in nature like the acts of the sinful nature but are beneficial for producing personal maturity and having positive impact on the lives of others. (See the LT course 'Produce' for an in-depth study on the fruit of the Spirit).

Question 7: A believer does not have to give in to the desires of the sinful nature. The focus for living in freedom must be pleasing God rather than pleasing self.

Questions 8 & 9: The Holy Spirit is willing and able to help you enjoy freedom over your sinful desires. He reminds you that by faith you have put to death your sinful nature (the flesh). Even though that nature still exists in you, you now choose to live as though it does not. You put to death the misdeeds of your body daily by keeping in step with the Spirit who enables you to walk in the freedom that Christ has provided for you by his death and resurrection.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 4

1. How can you tell when you are in step or out of step with the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is it important to keep yourself aligned with the Spirit?
3. What positive impact can the fruit of the Spirit have on your relationships?
4. How does the fruit of the Spirit grow in your life? What is your part and what is the Holy Spirit's part?
5. What advice would you offer someone who is giving into sinful desires? (v. 16)

6. How are you to treat your sinful nature? (v. 24)
7. What would be a great commitment for you to make at the start of each day in light of this lesson? (v. 25)
8. How is your ongoing freedom from the entrapment of your sinful desires a good way to measure your alignment with the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 5: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit will empower you to be Jesus' witness.

Question 1: Power would be given to the disciples when the Holy Spirit came on them so that they would be witnesses of Christ.

Question 2: Repentance is the act of turning around from going your own way to going God's way. Repentance will produce obvious evidence in your life. You see the shift of allegiance to yourself as master to confessing and serving Jesus as your Lord. A major opportunity for public profession of your faith decision is your water baptism. The Holy Spirit's power for witnessing is only available to genuine believers in Christ.

Questions 3 & 4: The baptism of the Holy Spirit is referred to as the gift of the Holy Spirit and is received from God by asking him for it.

Question 5 & 6: The sound of wind and tongues of fire are not mentioned again as evidence of people being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The initial physical sign of Spirit baptism that occurs again in Scripture and the centuries that have followed is the speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit enables. In Acts 2, speaking in other tongues is identified as praise declaring the wonders of God. Other Scriptures indicate that speaking in tongues is speaking to God rather than to man (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Question 7: There are obvious confirmations in these instances that the people received the gift of the Holy Spirit for empowerment to witness of Christ. A reasonable conclusion can be made that these subsequent recorded instances are consistent with the pattern of the initial confirming sign recorded in Acts 2:4.

Questions 8 & 9: Be careful keep in mind that the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not to speak in tongues, but to receive power to be a witness of Christ to the nations. The Great Commission from Jesus is a challenge for you as a believer that is possible to obey through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 5

1. What is a common fear about being a witness of Christ do believers have?
2. How does the Holy Spirit help you overcome the fear about witnessing?
3. What does it mean to be Jesus' witnesses (Acts 1:8)?
4. Where would your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth be today?
5. What is required for someone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?
6. What would the wind and fire symbolize to the believers at Pentecost? (Acts 2:2-3).
7. What is significant about the initial sign for the baptism in the Spirit being the speaking in other tongues? (Acts 2:4)
8. Is it possible to be a Christian and not be baptized in the Holy Spirit?
9. How should the baptism in the Holy Spirit affect your service to God?

Lesson 6: Filled with the Spirit

The Big Deal!

Spirit-filled living must be your daily experience.

Question 1—Characteristics of Spirit-filled living:

- a. The examples given should demonstrate some level of personal cost. Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice not for his sake, but for yours.
- b. Idolatry is worshipping something other than God. Idolatry is sin because it is spiritual adultery, having an intimate relationship with something or someone other than God himself. There are many things that you can make idols of worship.
- c. Your credibility as a witness for Christ depends on having a godly character. You represent Jesus to the world and must show it on all occasions. You should stay in God's light by his illuminated Word to help keep you on track.
- d. Seeking God's will should be your first priority always. God knows the beginning to the ending of all things and will reveal the best plan available for your life.
- e. If you do not stay awake spiritually you will become a lazy Christ follower. You would find yourself falling from the faith, growing cold in your relationship with God, and losing godly influence on those around you.
- f. You must learn to spend your time wisely according to God's agenda. Time is running out for humanity in these evil days, and you must seek to make all your moments count for Christ.
- g. Getting drunk leads to debauchery which is a lack of shame or decency caused by losing self-control. You need to stay full of the Holy Spirit to be clear minded in all situations.
- h. Talking to others about God's goodness encourages you and them to praise God. You need constant reminders to keep God in first place in your thoughts and actions.
- i. Those who are truly grateful to God for salvation and all his benefits have a disposition to give thanks to God. Never forget who God is and what he has done on your behalf.
- j. Mutual submission demonstrates respect and honour for Christ. As you love others in this way, you model the love that Christ has shown to you.

Question 2: It is important to keep growing in all these characteristics. The Holy Spirit is changing you on the inside and it will show on the outside. For maximum results, you must stay open to the Holy Spirit filling your life every day, not just occasionally.

Question 3: You will be an example of a transformed life to others. Those around you will be blessed through you as you allow the Holy Spirit to work in you.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 6

1. What are some things that people can fill themselves with other than God?
2. Why are you commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. Why is ongoing Spirit-filling important for you?
4. In your own words, describe what a Spirit-filled person is like.
5. What is necessary for you to want to stay full of the Holy Spirit daily?
6. How do the previous lessons in this course tie in with being filled with the Spirit? (i.e. Governed by, Led by, Helped by, In Step with, Baptism in the Spirit).
7. How will being Spirit-filled help you to be an effective witness of Christ?

Lesson 7: Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 1

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has supernatural abilities to give you when needed.

Question 1: You should not be uninformed about the spiritual gifts but aware and knowledgeable of what they are and what potential they have for you and others.

Question 2: The Holy Spirit manifests different kinds of spiritual gifts that are needed for each situation.

Question 3: The Holy Spirit operates these gifts for the common good. They are not to be used for personal gain or advantage but for the benefit of the whole church.

Question 4: The Holy Spirit gives these gifts to each person as he determines to be the best regarding time and place.

Question 5: You should eagerly desire the spiritual gifts to operate in your life as they are needed. Be an open channel for God to work through at any moment.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 7

1. 'God is a gracious and extravagant giver.' Why do you agree with this statement?
2. What situations do believers find difficult? What should that prompt believers to do?
3. Why or why not would God ever ask you to do something that you were convinced you were unable to do?
4. What do you know about spiritual gifts?
5. Why is 'manifestation gifts' also a good description of these Spirit activities?
6. If God gives spiritual gifts freely to accomplish his plans, why would a believer not ask for them?
7. Who benefits with the use of the spiritual gifts?
8. What do you want to learn further about spiritual gifts to participate in them?

Lesson 8: Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

The Big Deal!

The Holy Spirit has the gifts needed for any situation.

This lesson is set up in a basic teaching format, focusing on each spiritual gift individually. Here are some further thoughts as you work your way through the lesson and the discussion questions.

- We need the spiritual gifts because we are lacking answers and resources in many situations. God provides for this need in supernatural ways.
- We cannot see God, but he reveals himself working through his people in supernatural manifestations. God is to be glorified as the spiritual gifts accomplish their purposes.
- The spiritual gifts originate in God and operate through your life as you ask and receive them from God and put them to use.
- Operating in the gifts does not make you more spiritually mature than before but does indicate an openness to be used of God in whatever way he chooses.
- When the gifts of the Spirit are in operation, there is a great sense of God's presence among the people.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 8

1. Identify the gifts that would be useful in the following situations:
 - a. To give wise counsel to someone in a difficult situation.
 - b. To know something about a person or situation that you have no way of knowing that unlocks a door to freedom for that person.
 - c. To have the kind of confidence that looks at a mountain of overwhelming challenges and considers it a hill of kingdom opportunities.
 - d. To be able to lay your hands on a sick person, pray for them, and see them completely healed.
 - e. To expect God to intervene in a seemingly hopeless and impossible situation and see the natural course of events altered accordingly.
 - f. To speak the word of God so powerfully that unbelievers cry out in repentance and believers are strengthened in their faith.
 - g. To discern if someone is speaking for God or not and to tell whether they have been sent by God or not.
 - h. To speak in a language you have never learned so that when the message is interpreted, unbelievers know that God is real and present.
 - i. To interpret messages in languages spoken you have never learned so that the sign of God's presence is recognized by the unbelievers present.

2. What reservations do you have about the manifestation gifts and how they work?
3. Why is it important for the spiritual / manifestation gifts to be evaluated when used?
4. What would be the condition of a church where spiritual gifts are not in use?
5. What would a church be like that taught and encouraged the use of spiritual gifts?
6. What key things have you learned by studying *Life in the Spirit*?
7. What are you now inspired to do to keep yourself in step with the Holy Spirit?



Life transformation is a lifestyle—daily living to the full potential of Christ in you. A renewed mind is the key to a transformed life. I want to provide you with resources dedicated to helping you reach this goal.

It is always a joy to see lost people find Jesus as Lord and Saviour. However, that is but the beginning of learning to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus has provided the means for us to be completely changed from living our way, which is limited, to living God's way, which is unlimited. Life transformation requires learning to obey Christ's teachings in order to help others discover daily life transformation for themselves.

I have developed the Life Transformations resources for both new Christians and those who have been following Jesus for some time. Newer Christians will benefit from learning the essentials of how to live for Christ. Older Christians will be better equipped to lead others to faith in Jesus and help them to grow in maturity and ministry.

My prayer is that you will flourish as Jesus' disciple in your everyday world and will prosper in everything you do to honour God.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind daily – that's life at its best!

- *Del Wells*

About the Author

Del Wells is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and pastored in the local church for 37 years.

God has given Del a vision to see people in every community live to their full potential in Christ. He has developed resources to aid in the equipping of followers of Jesus to experience daily transformation in life and ministry and to be able to impact others in their everyday world to do the same.

For an overview of the Life Transformation courses available, please visit www.freedomkw.com/next.