

Life Principles Center
Course: The Holy Spirit
T2_CB_L1: Our Helper, Part 1 (RE145)

Introduction:

When Jesus left the earth to be with the Father, He certainly didn't leave us alone and unsure of how to grow as believers. In fact, He sent us a divine Helper to enter into our lives and live that Christian life for us. In this course, we will learn about the purpose and provision of the Holy Spirit. And we'll begin by seeing exactly how the Spirit works to help and to equip us to live the empowered lives that Jesus wants us to have.

Lesson 1, Section 1

Objectives

At the end of this section of Lesson 1, you should be able to:

- A. Understand promise of the Holy Spirit that Jesus makes in John 14:26.
- B. Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit and how He works in your life.

Scripture

Read John 14:15-19, 23-26

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also."

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Lesson 1

How many times in your life have you thrown up your hands and exclaimed, "God, I need help!"? Well, the wonderful thing about needing

help is that God has already provided it. Everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ has an intimate, personal, omnipotent, available, adequate, sufficient Helper with them every moment of their lives. This Helper is the Holy Spirit.

In John 14:16, Jesus promises His disciples that the Father would send them “another Helper” once He has left their company. The word “another” here does not refer to somebody of a different substance. Instead, the text reveals Jesus’ promise to send *another of equal substance*. Essentially, Jesus tells them, “I am going away, but the Father will send you another Helper who is *just like me*.”

Q1: Carefully read John 14:26. Then, choose the answer below that supports the role of the Holy Spirit.

- A. He reveals the Father's heart to us.*
- B. He gives us understanding of spiritual things.*
- C. He helps us remember the Word of God.*
- D. All of the above*

Jesus assures us that our Helper, the Holy Spirit of God, will be with us *forever*. That means that once we accept Jesus as Lord, there is never a time when we do not have the immediate, intimate presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

I’d like to take you a little further in understanding exactly what our “Helper” helps us to do. You see, God does not expect us to live out this Christian life on our own. In fact, as we have seen before, it is absolutely impossible for any of us to live out the Christian life in our own strength. So, God sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us, empower us, and live out the godly life in and through us.

Q2: Based on the previous paragraphs, I know that the Holy Spirit

- A. Will be with me forever.*
- B. Helps in different ways than Jesus helped.*
- C. Helps me live the Christian life on my own.*
- D. Is immediate to answer my cries for help.*
- E. All of the above*
- F. None of the above*
- G. Both A and D*
- H. A, C, and D*

One important job of the Holy Spirit is to help us see ourselves exactly as we are. John 16:8 explains, “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” It is the Spirit that opens our eyes to our desperate need for God. Through our worldly eyes, our good works may seem “enough” for a godly life. However, the Holy Spirit pierces through our misconceptions and reveals our sin and unrighteousness with crystal clarity.

J1: Have you ever served God in some capacity or helped someone in need only to later be convicted by the Holy Spirit that your motivation for this "good work" was impure? Write about the experience in your journal.

Objectives - Lesson 1, Section 2:

At the end of this section of Lesson 1, you should be able to:

- A. Understand the purpose behind the Holy Spirit's work in your life.
- B. Identify specific experiences that reflect God's faithfulness to reveal Himself to you through the Holy Spirit.
- C. Prepare a foundation for absorbing truth as it is revealed in the next lesson.

Once we see the need, the Spirit opens our eyes and hearts to the salvation available through Jesus Christ, but His work does not stop there. The continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten us, to help us see things through the eyes of God. That is how we grow.

That growth, however, does not come solely from our *knowledge* of what God desires, but also through our obedience to His will. Beyond revealing exactly who we are, the Holy Spirit shows us where God wants us to be, and gives us the ability to move toward that goal. Therefore, our deeds and actions are not for our credit, but rather the direct result of the Holy Spirit's enlightening and empowerment.

The apostle Paul surely considered this as he wrote, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). As the Holy Spirit renews our minds, our actions and attitudes begin to change. This is the very definition of the word *repentance: a change of mind that results in a change of action*. As the Spirit works to reveal our true selves, He will also continually mold us into the men and women God wants us to be.

The Spirit does much more than simply show us who we are. Another vital ministry of the Holy Spirit is to clearly reveal Jesus to us. In John 15:26, Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will testify to Him. Also,

John 16:13-15 clearly reveals that the Holy Spirit provides the perfect representation of Jesus: “He will glorify Me, for he will take of Mine and will disclose it to you” (v. 14).

As many sermons as I’ve preached, I thank God that it was never my responsibility to explain the fact that Jesus is the eternal Son of God. How could a mere human ever adequately explain such a thing? Rather, it is the Holy Spirit working through preaching and within the hearts of men and women, drawing them to Christ.

When someone receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, he does not automatically know all there is to know about Jesus. Instead, the Holy Spirit enters into his heart and gradually reveals the truth of Christ to him. However, those who are apart from Christ do not have this Helper within. This is why there are so many false ideas about Jesus from the world’s point of view. Without the Holy Spirit inside of them, teaching them who Jesus is, they simply cannot fathom the wonder of Jesus Christ.

Q3: True or False? The Holy Spirit convicts us out of God's heart of love, because He wants to show us who we really are as He also reveals to us who Jesus really is.

Believers, though, can trust the counsel of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would never give the Spirit some erroneous idea about who He is. Instead, the assurance of Jesus is that the Holy Spirit will “guide you in all truth” (John 16:13). Perfectly united with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. We can trust what He says, and we can believe in His power to make the will of God known to us.

In the next lesson of this course, we will examine the ministry of the Holy Spirit further, as He enables us to understand the Word of God, equips us to do what God calls us to do, and helps us to pray effectively.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for this amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. I recognize that I may not understand all there is to know about this third Person of the Trinity, but I ask for a deeper understanding, obedience, and love for the Spirit as He works within me to live the godly life You’ve called me to live. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Homework

Scripture Memory:

The Scripture memory assignment for this course is given below. Be sure to commit this passage to memory before moving on to the next lesson. Then, practice reciting it over and over throughout this course.

John 14:26

These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

J2: Before moving on to the next lesson, read the last paragraph of this lesson. Now, as you anticipate what you will learn in lesson two, answer the following questions in your journal:

- 1. Describe an experience when the Holy Spirit revealed a Scripture verse or passage to you in a new way, even though you had read it many times before.*
- 2. Write about a time when you were prompted to pray for someone unexpectedly. Did God later reveal to you why? If so, record that, too.*
- 3. Explain a situation in which you needed God's equipping to serve Him in some way and praise Him for His faithfulness to empower you.*

Life Principles Center
Course: The Holy Spirit
T2_CB_L2: Our Helper, Part 2 (RE145)

Introduction: This lesson is divided into two sections to help you complete the entire lesson at your convenience. In order to renew your mind with God's Word and give you an accurate view of Him, it's very important that you take time to complete each assignment before moving on to the next lesson.

Lesson 2, Section 1

Objectives

At the end of this section of Lesson 2, you should be able to:

- C. Understand the Holy Spirit's role in your daily living.
- D. Distinguish between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom.

Scripture

Read John 16:7-8, 12-15

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Lesson 2

In the previous lesson of this course, we began to take a serious look at the Holy Spirit's role as our "Helper," as well as the things He "helps" us do. We have already seen that the Spirit gives us a clear view of ourselves, as well as an intimate understanding of the Person of Jesus Christ. In this lesson, we will continue our study by examining the ways in which the Holy Spirit enables us to live effective Christian lives.

First, He helps us to do what God has called us to do. In Luke 24:49, Jesus instructs His disciples to wait—to hold off on their ministry

endeavors—until they received “power from on high.” That power is the Holy Spirit, and the message here is simple: the Spirit of God empowers us to do the work that God has called us to do.

This help and power should not only be restricted to what we might consider “ministry”—singing in the choir, serving in the church, or teaching a Bible class. Rather, Jesus promises that the Helper will help us in every area of life. Remember, He was sent by the Father to assist us, live inside us, and express through us the life of Christ. This Helper should certainly not be kept within the church walls, but should instead flow into every single part of our lives.

I have said over and over again throughout these *Faith Foundations* lessons that God knows we are not capable of living the Christian life on our own. As hard as we may try, we fail time and time again. Even the apostle Paul, one of the most dynamic, world-changing Christians of all time, admitted his weakness and inability to master his life. In Romans 7:19, he confesses, “For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.”

But Paul knew the answer; he knew that with the power of God inside him, he could accomplish anything. In Philippians 4:13 he declares, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Jesus Himself declared, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). On our own, we would fail miserably. A job poorly done by a Christian is a horrible witness and testimony. Clearly then, we must surrender our own vain attempts and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in what God has called us to do.

Second, the Holy Spirit helps us by making the Word of God clear in our understanding. There is no education that can replace the Holy Spirit’s role in revealing the meaning of Scripture and how we should apply it. That is why it is common to find sweet grandmothers in their 80’s and 90’s who possess a greater command of scriptural truth than even their pastors. They don’t have shelves of commentaries or seminary degrees, but they may have a lifetime of the Holy Spirit’s divine teaching.

Beyond mere education, the Holy Spirit takes us to the next step. God does not want us to merely *know* the Word intellectually; He desires us to take that truth to heart and apply it to our lives. Therefore, our Helper not only delivers truth to our minds, but also to our hearts. My friend, God does not give us truth for consideration; He gives us truth for obedience. Therefore, we must strive to make the truth of the Word of God active in our lives.

Q1: Choose the correct answer. The Holy Spirit helps us . . .

- D. Understand Scripture*
- E. Understand theological views*
- F. Understand how to apply Scripture*
- G. Do what God has called us to do*
- H. A, B, and C*
- I. All of the above*
- J. A, C, and D*
- K. None of the above*

J1: Compare John 16:13-15 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-13. What is the difference between what the Holy Spirit teaches and what worldly wisdom teaches?

J2: Carefully read John 16:15. How does your understanding of this verse impact the way you study God's Word?

Lesson 2, Section 2

Objective

At the end of this section of Lesson 2, you should be able to:

H. Understand the Holy Spirit's role in your daily living.

Third, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray effectively. Let me ask you a question: has there ever been a time in your life when you were overwhelmed with the need and desire to pray, and yet when you bowed your head you could not even find the words to express your prayer? Maybe in your pain and struggle you simply fell to your knees and groaned. Is your simple groaning a prayer?

Romans 8:26-27 holds the answer: "The Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

You see, even when we can't say a word, the Spirit of God helps us to pray by interceding for us. God knew that you and I would face situations and circumstances in which we simply do not know how to pray. So, what does He do? When we do not know how to pray, we do not need to throw our hands in the air in defeat. Instead, we simply need to thank God for His Holy Spirit and say, "Spirit of God, you do the praying right now. I just can't do it on my own."

Consider the following scenario. How would you handle it? Imagine that you've just received a phone call from a Christian friend. She has had a long battle with cancer, which has been emotionally taxing on her and her family—not to mention the financial burden that her disease has created. Now, she reveals that her doctors have given her a few options: She can receive no treatment and expect to live only two weeks, she can continue the treatment she's been getting, or she can undergo an experimental but risky new treatment. You promise your friend to pray for her, yet you hang up the phone with a heavy heart and an overwhelmed mind.

Q2: In the above scenario, what would most likely be your first response?

- E. Call a friend to share the grim news and ask for help in knowing how to pray.*
- F. Turn to your doctor, who can give an accurate assessment of what your friend should do.*
- G. Write down the prayer request and resolve to figure it out later.*
- H. Tell God that you are struggling and overwhelmed and need His help in prayer. Then, you wait and see if He brings anything to mind while sitting quietly—trusting that His Spirit is praying through you.*

Jesus Himself warned us a long time ago, “In this world you will have trouble” (John 16:33). Isn't it reassuring to know, though, that we do not have to face the pressures of the world in our own strength? We have a constant, uninterrupted, “always on” source of power from God to serve as our wonderful Helper. We will continue this study in the next lesson in this course, *The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer*.

Prayer

Father, we love You and praise You. And how grateful we are that we, we're not down here to do this all by ourselves. Or, to live this life by ourselves. But in Your wonderful, matchless, marvelous, indescribable, eternal grace, You know we would be children. Weak, frail, sin, struggle, strive, falter, fall. And You said, “I'm going to send you One who will help you every single time.”

And so we just want to tell You that we love You. And we thank You for loving us enough to give us one of the persons of the Trinity, to

stand by our side in every circumstance of life. For we ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

Homework

Scripture Memory

Be sure to review your Scripture memory assignment for this course!

John 14:26

These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Assignment: *Meditate on John 16:15. Reflect on how this verse impacts your prayer life. Is God calling you to make any adjustments in how your time with Him is spent or in how you react to real-life situations? Record your thoughts in your journal before moving on to the next lesson.*

Life Principles Center
Course: The Holy Spirit
T2_CB_L3: The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer (MK158)

Introduction: Second Timothy 2:15 says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." For that reason, we encourage you to complete each assignment before progressing to the next lesson. This lesson is structured with two separate sections to help you maximize your study time.

Lesson 3, Section 1

Objectives

At the end of this section of Lesson 3, you should be able to:

- E. Recognize the promise of Acts 2:39.
- F. Understand the Holy Spirit's empowerment in practical situations.

Scripture

Read Acts 2:38-39

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Lesson 3

So far in this course, we have seen some of the benefits of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Maybe you have even begun to see some results of living under the control of the Spirit, our Helper. Well, at this point, let me warn you to be careful! Oftentimes, we can learn biblical principles, start to utilize them and see their fruit in our lives, and then experience a great collapse in which life seems to fall apart. What happens? It may be that our successes through the Spirit begin to increase our *self-reliance*, rather than our *Spirit-reliance*. If we resort to living under our own strength, we will come crashing down rather quickly.

We must always remember to keep our focus on the source of our strength, the power of God through His Holy Spirit. God can work many miracles in our lives, but we must never come to see ourselves as the

author and creator of those miracles. These things are not of our own doing; they are the fruit and results of God's indwelling Spirit.

Now, having said that, let me warn you of another danger. Too many people believe that the power of the Holy Spirit is reserved for "special occasions" or "special people." I have heard several Christians say, "Well, of course I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, but that's really for preachers or missionaries. It really doesn't apply to me, does it?" My friend, God is just as concerned about the life of the plumber as He is the life of the preacher. He does not make distinctions based on social or professional placement. If you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life, then the full power of the Holy Spirit is available to you right now, where you are, in whatever situation you face.

Q1: Carefully read Acts 2:39.

True or False? The Holy Spirit is a promise for all people whom the Lord draws to Himself.

J1: Before you finish this section, take a moment to consider the life roles God has given you: your profession, ministry involvements, relationships with family and friends, etc. Looking back, can you think of any situations in which you know it was God's Holy Spirit working through you to do something at work, to help a friend or family member, or to serve in some type of organized ministry? Describe how He empowered you. If you know the results of that empowerment, record those, too.

Lesson 3, Section 2

Objectives

At the end of this section of Lesson 3, you should be able to:

- A. Examine the extent of your dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- B. Reflect on biblical examples of the Holy Spirit's empowerment.

What do we mean when we talk about the "power of the Holy Spirit"? Simply put, this is the divine authority and energy that God releases in the life of every single one of His children in order that we may live godly, fruitful lives. When Jesus tells the disciples to wait until they are "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49), He is referring to the power of His Holy Spirit. When the Spirit of God comes into a person's life, He energizes the body, enlightens the mind to understand the Truth, and enflames the spirit with a passion for and devotion to Almighty God.

Now, you may know some people who do not really know Jesus intimately and yet seem to be doing pretty well in life under their own strength. Maybe they have experienced great financial gains, or have the “perfect family,” or just seem to “have it all together.” You may even look at them and say, “Well, isn’t that enough?”

My friend, that is nowhere near enough. The reason is because apart from the Holy Spirit, none of us can come close to reaching the full potential that God has in store for every single person on earth. So, the question is not, “Isn’t that enough?” Instead, let me ask you, *do you think it is enough to live a half-pint life? Do you think it is enough to fall far short of what God hopes to accomplish in your life?*

J2: Examine your daily thought process: Is there a particular area of your life where you tend to compare yourself to another person? Ask God to reveal any standard of measure for which you've settled rather than relying on God's Spirit to test you and reveal His fruit. Write your reflections in your journal.

The indwelling Spirit of God changes our actions, our attitudes, and our work ethics. There is no such thing as a Spirit-filled Christian doing a sloppy job. There is no such thing as a Spirit-filled Christian who has become so callused toward others and careless in his work that he becomes indifferent toward other people or his own responsibility. Remember, the Holy Spirit revitalizes the mind, body, and spirit. If you wake up feeling defeated every morning; if you go to bed at night weak and weary; if you go about your job each day with the horrible burden of indifference, let me ask you: *in whose power are you working? Are you striving in your own strength or in the almighty power of God's Holy Spirit, active and alive in you?*

If you have realized that all of your striving, all of your efforts, and all of your work have been done in your own strength, be encouraged! The first step toward embracing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life is to realize that without Him, you simply cannot take hold of the fullness of the Christian life. I pray that as you begin to consider the amazing power of the Holy Spirit, perhaps now for the first time, you will see your own great need for His empowerment and guidance in every aspect of your life.

Q2: True or False? *One way to discern whether you're living a Spirit-filled life or relying on your own strength is to measure your physical, mental, and emotional stamina at the beginning and end of each day.*

In the next lesson of this course, we will conclude this course of study by answering the questions, “How do I become full of the Holy Spirit?” and “What can I expect when my life is under the complete control of the Holy Spirit?”

Prayer

Father God, I know that You did not design me to face all the challenges of life under my own strength. Forgive me when I ignore, overlook, or deny the divine power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. And give me the boldness and confidence to face every aspect of life with the assurance that my Helper is right there with me. Thank You for that amazing gift. In Jesus’ powerful name, Amen.

Homework

Scripture Memory

Be sure to review your Scripture memory assignment for this course!

John 14:26

These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Many people, even long-time faithful Christians, are unaware of the sheer impact that the Holy Spirit has on their daily lives. Scripture, however, is rich with passages that reveal the many works of our Helper. Before moving on to Lesson 4, spend some time in prayer and Bible study examining the following passages and their descriptions of the works of the Spirit.

Scripture Text

Luke 24:49

John 3:1-21

Work of the Spirit

Empowers us

Regenerates us

John 14:26

John 14:16

John 16:7-11

John 16:13-15

Romans 8:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Galatians 5:22-25

Ephesians 1:13-14

God

Comforts us

Teaches us about Christ

Convicts us of sin

Guides us in truth

Indwells us

Gives us spiritual gifts

Fills us with the Fruit of the Spirit

Seals us forever as children of

Life Principles Center

Course: The Holy Spirit

T2_CB_L 4: The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer

Part 2 (MK158)

Introduction: Second Timothy 2:15 says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." For that reason, we encourage you to complete each assignment before progressing to the next lesson. This lesson is structured with two separate sections to help you maximize your study time.

Lesson 4, Section 1

Objectives: At the end of this section of Lesson 4, you should be able to:

4. Distinguish between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit as expressed in the lives of believers.
5. Identify the prerequisites to experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power in your life.

Scripture

Read Romans 8:5, 9-11

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Lesson 4

Throughout this course, we have examined the Person of the Holy Spirit, and I pray that by now, you have grown to understand Him as a personal, always present, always active Helper. As we conclude this course of study, I want to focus on two questions that you might have.

First, *how do we become full of the Holy Spirit*; and second, *what can we expect when that happens?*

The question of *how* is a tricky one for many people. In truth, it is so simple, and yet many people put conditions or exclusions on the gift of the Spirit. To be honest, I myself have overcomplicated this issue many times in the past because I was raised in a tradition in which it appeared to be complex. Many Christians still struggle with this today, believing that they have to walk down an aisle, get on their knees, pray, beg, plead, cry, and eventually get struck with the Holy Spirit in order to be filled. I don't mean to be critical of these traditions; however, for me, it was a difficult way to experience the Spirit of God because I kept expecting something to happen. I kept thinking, *What's going to hit me? What am I going to have to do? What spiritual gift am I going to get?*

My friend, let me tell you what I've discovered. Do you want to be full of the Holy Spirit? It is this simple: having trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you must realize that you already have the Spirit of God living and moving within you. Remember, the Holy Spirit is God's promise to every believer. When you received Christ as Lord of your life, the Holy Spirit came in and took up residence in your life. Now, this does not mean that every Christian is living a life under the control of the Holy Spirit. So, we are not talking about how to *receive* the Spirit; instead, we need to examine how to experience the fullness of His indwelling power.

J1: Before you continue with the lesson, stop and consider the previous sentence. Do you understand the difference between our reception of the Holy Spirit and our surrender to the fullness of His power? Meditate on the last paragraph, and then, in your journal, summarize the difference between these two very important points.

Experiencing the Holy Spirit's complete power in our daily lives means we must arrive at specific points of awareness, desire, humility, submission, and belief. First, we need to recognize our need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If you do not, then you will keep on striving in your own strength, your own ideas, and your own power. No matter how talented, attractive, intelligent, or physically fit you are, you will never reach your full potential on your own. God has a specific plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11); how can you ever hope to achieve those goals if you don't even know what God's plan is? Only the Spirit of God, who knows the mind of God (John 16:13-15), can successfully lead you into the fullness of life God has planned for you.

Second, we must desire to be filled. If you do not have a desire to be full of the Holy Spirit, it is not going to happen. This desire, however, must give birth to action, as the third thing we must do is repent of the sin in our lives. Remember, we have seen in previous lessons that true repentance consists of both a change of attitude *and* a change of action. We must not only *recognize* the truth about our need to change, but we must also make changes in our lifestyles that correspond with God's revelation of our sin.

Fourth, we must surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit. Walking in the Spirit means that you have surrendered the control of your life to Him. Every step of life must begin with the question, *What do you want me to do, Father?* We must develop a Christlike mindset of humility in which we pray, "Father, I may not see your reasoning, but I will accept your control." (Mark 14:36)

Fifth, we must simply believe that God will do what He has promised. God has a great plan for your life, and the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth chapters of the Gospel of John give us the assurance of the Holy Spirit's role in leading us into that wonderful, Spirit-filled life.

Q1: True or False? Surrender to the Holy Spirit is a one-time act, when we submit our lives to Jesus at the point of salvation.

Lesson 4, Section 2

Objectives: At the end of this section of Lesson 4, you should be able to:

- A. Understand the impact of the Holy Spirit on our mortal bodies, seen in Romans 8:11.
- B. Recognize the results of Spirit-filled living, and how they relate to your own life.

J2: If you'll recall from the last lesson of this course, one measure of a Spirit-filled life is spiritual, emotional, and physical stamina. After carefully reading Romans 8:11, record in your journal what it says about the Holy Spirit's influence on our bodies.

Now, with an understanding of how we are filled with the Spirit, let us take a moment to examine some of the biblical expectations we can have regarding our Spirit-led lives. First, we can expect joy. Ephesians 5:18-19 makes this point clear, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in

psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.”

When you are full of the Spirit, you will have joy in your life. Does this mean that every problem area of your life will be straightened out? No, not necessarily. However, it does mean that you are going to be able to find peace in the midst of even your darkest worries.

Second, the Spirit-filled Christian can expect a vast crop of spiritual fruit. As the Spirit brings believers to maturity, the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—will become more and more evident in their lives. (Galatians 5:22) There is no such thing as a spiritual spectator; rather, the Spirit of God leads His children into some form of ministry, which then produces the fruit of faithful, surrendered stewards.

Third, as we walk in the Spirit and in submission to His guidance and direction, our faith will continually grow stronger. This does not mean that we will some day reach the peak of faith, knowing every single thing about God and His will. However, as we walk with Him day-by-day, submitting our lives to the will of the Spirit, we will be constantly amazed at the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Q2: Which of the following is NOT a result of a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit's control?

Strengthened faith that reaches a pinnacle of spiritual understanding

Spiritual profits such as joy and peace

Faithful service and stewardship

A continually-growing desire to submit to the will of the Spirit

None of the above

All of the above

I hope by now you have begun to look at this third Person of the Trinity in a different way. All ideas of the Holy Spirit as a simple “force” or even as a mere *expression* of God should be done away with. The Holy Spirit is an active, vibrant, living Person; He is completely unified with God and is no less divine than the Father or the Son. Through the Holy Spirit, the full power of God is available to every one of us, every day, at any time. How wonderful to know that, even during an occasional time of spiritual dryness, God is never far from us; in fact, He is there with us in every moment, by our side in the Holy Spirit, our Helper.

Prayer

And Father, how grateful we are that You are so good to us. That in Your patience and love for us You just wait years for us to finally realize what it's all about. But it's my prayer today that You cut that time short for everybody who listens to this message. Sink it deep in our hearts. Let it roll over in our minds. Let it be inescapable in its effect. Let it make an impact over and over and over again. It is my prayer that those who are listening to this message would accept the challenge and stand back and watch what an awesome work You can do in their life which is what You desire to do for every single one of us. And we thank You for it in Jesus' name, amen.

Homework

Scripture Memory Review

Fill in the blanks to complete this course's memory verse.

These things I have _____ to _____ while _____ with you. But the _____, the _____, whom the _____ will send in My _____, He will _____ you _____, and bring to your _____ all that I _____ to you.

_____ 14:26

Assignment: As you reflect on this course about the role that the Holy Spirit plays in the life of every believer, go back and watch the video in this lesson. Then, ask the Lord to help you re-evaluate your old views of His Holy Spirit's influence on your life. What revelations has God brought to mind in the last few weeks? Record them in your journal. Then, note how you have already responded and are in the process of responding.

Conclusion

The lessons you've just taken contain some of the most powerful, life-changing truths of Scripture. Once you recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, and when you give yourself completely over to Him, you will begin to see miracle after miracle in your Christian walk. I pray that these truths sink deep into your heart as you move forward, trusting God's Holy Spirit to renew, restore, and reenergize your life today.

Transcript of Audio/Video Teaching Clip “Being Filled with the Spirit”

When I think about the apostle Peter’s bold sermon at Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts, I am moved by the Holy Spirit as God’s “promise” to every believer. Speaking of the Holy Spirit, he says in verse 39, “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” When Peter delivered this message, I’m sure he was thinking about the assurances Jesus had made about the Spirit's indwelling.

I remember personally the moment when it first struck me completely that the full power of the Holy Spirit was a promise that God had made to me personally. I suppose I had partially known it for some time, but I remember one specific Friday afternoon, sometime around four o’clock, when the fullness of that promise just hit me. I was reading the Bible and came across an amazing passage in First John chapter 5. Verses 14 and 15. This is what it says: “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

I read that passage and fell on my knees before God with an awesome sense of conviction and assurance that God was filling me with the Holy Spirit. Now, being filled with the Holy Spirit is certainly God’s will for my life, so I know that He heard me. Do you realize that according to the Word of God, He heard that prayer and granted it? For years I had struggled with what it meant to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how I would know when it happened. I struggled many times about many passages of Scripture, but on that Friday afternoon, I finally realized that He wanted *me* to be filled with His Spirit and to receive Him by simply asking Him by faith. There isn’t anything so simple or as powerful as asking God to show us His will, and then trusting Him to faithfully fulfill His promise.