

# Life in the Spirit

In this session, we are going to consider how Christ lives through us on a daily basis.

To do this, we will explore:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- What is the "Fruit of the Spirit?"

Later we will address a related LIFE IN THE SPIRIT topic:

- What are "Spiritual Gifts?" and how do I discover mine?

## A. BEGINNING OUR INVESTIGATION

### 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

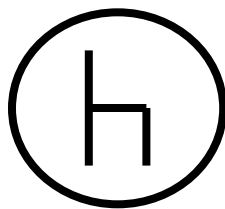
But people who aren't Christians can't understand these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them because only those who have the Spirit can understand what the Spirit means. We who have the Spirit understand these things, but others can't understand us at all. How could they? For,

"Who can know what the Lord is thinking?  
Who can give him counsel?"

But we can understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

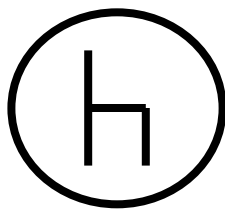
Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to mature Christians. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk and not with solid food, because you couldn't handle anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your own desires? You are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord.

The Bible tells us that there are three kinds of people:



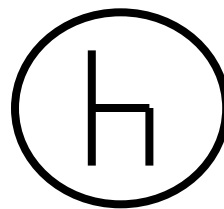
NATURAL

Or: SELF-DIRECTED



WORLDLY

Or: CARNAL



SPIRITUAL

Or: CHRIST-DIRECTED

Living a spiritual life is:

Not difficult... it's SPIRITUAL!

Not natural... it's SPIRITUAL!

So how do we live as spiritual men and women?

1. **Jesus Christ promised that the HOLY SPIRIT would be our source of power for living the Christian life.**

## **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT ?**

When we become Christians most of us have no problem understanding who God is, who Jesus is and the relationship between the two. The relationship between father and son is an easy concept. However, when we add the Holy Spirit to the discussion, it's easy to become confused.

**Let's look at the Scriptures:**

Acts 5:3-4

Then Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God."

1 Corinthians 2:11-12

No one can know what anyone else is really thinking except that person alone, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

**The Bible teaches that there is ONE God who has revealed Himself in THREE persons.**

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!"

1 Timothy 2:5

"For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus"

**The New Testament makes it clear in showing the Holy Spirit is GOD.**

**The Holy Spirit is equated with the Father and the Son**

Matt. 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

## **Jesus speaks of the Spirit as his other self**

John 14:16-18

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you., whose presence within the disciples will be of greater advantage than his own presence in the flesh.

When we speak of one God in three persons, we commonly use the word: TRINITY

All three parts of the Trinity are equal in importance.

All three parts of the Trinity are equally God.

They together make up the Godhead, each functioning in a different, yet blending role.

***God the Father:*** (Galatians 1:1) SOURCE OF LIFE AND ALL THAT IS GOOD & HOLY

"Orchestrator" (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

"Fatherly care" (Romans 8:15-17)

***God the Son:*** (John 5:18) GOD IN THE FLESH, OUR SAVIOR, PROVIDER OF SALVATION

"Reconciler" (Colossians 1:19-20)

"Brotherly sympathy" (Hebrews 4:15-16)

***God the Holy Spirit:*** (Ephesians 5:18) REGENERATES, GIVES NEW LIFE, EMPOWERS

"Empowerer" (Acts 1:8)

"Motherlike comfort" (John 14)

Two images which help us understand the different functions of "three persons in one God"...

1. ARCHITECT ~ Creates the plans (God the Father)  
BUILDER ~ Takes the plans and makes it happen (God the Son)  
CONTRACTOR ~ Creates the finished product (God the Holy Spirit)
2. The chemical configuration H<sub>2</sub>O exists in three different forms: ice, water, and steam. Each looks different and has a different function, but all are completely H<sub>2</sub>O.

The New Testament is equally clear in showing the Holy Spirit is a PERSON not merely an "entity." He has the following attributes of a personality:

- An intellect (mind) ~ Romans 8:27
- Thoughts, knowledge, words ~ 1 Corinthians 2:10-13
- Emotions ~ Romans 15:30
- A will ~ 1 Corinthians 12:11

It is essential to grasp what the Spirit is like and the fact that the Spirit is a person, so we understand we are in a relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is the one enabling that relationship by being present, active, and responsive in the life of the believer.

#### John 14:16-17

**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**

According to John 14:16-17, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would be .

#### John 16:5-14

**"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

**"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.**

According to John 16:5-14, the Holy Spirit will

1. CONVICT the world;
2. GUIDE you in all truth;
3. GLORIFY Christ.

#### The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament...

We find the ministry of the Holy Spirit has been here from the beginning and the Spirit had a part in creation. In *Genesis 1:2* we read "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." *Genesis 1:26* refers to human being being made in "our" image, indicating the presence of the Trinity. Throughout the O.T. we read of the involvement of the Spirit in the lives of individuals (ex: *Job 33:4*; *1 Samuel 16:13*; *Judges 14:5-6*). In the O.T. the Holy Spirit was given to key individuals to empower them in carrying out God's plan. This anointing was given only to certain individuals and often was temporary.



#### IS THERE MORE ?

In the life of individual believers, the role of the Holy Spirit...

1. Gives us new life ( *John 3:6*)
2. Actually lives within the believer to be helper, comforter, counselor, advocate.

- (John 14:16; Acts 14:17; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19)
3. Teaches / Reminds (John 14:25-26)
  4. Bears witness of Jesus (John 15:26)
  5. Convicts the world of sin (John 16:8-11)
  6. Gives assurance of our relationship with Christ (Romans 8:16)
  7. Empowers us for life and ministry (Acts 1:3-8)
  8. Guides believers in all truth (John 16:13)
  9. Shows us things to come (John 16:13)
  10. Gives us spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:7,11)

### The Holy Spirit in the New Testament...

In Jesus' ministry alone, we can see example after example of the Holy Spirit at work. Turn to Matthew 1:18-20 and as we read we find that Mary "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." He was evident at Jesus' baptism (John 1:32), when Jesus performed miracles (Matt. 12:28), and of course at His resurrection (Romans 8:11 and 1 Peter 3:18). Jesus voluntarily set his power as God aside and made Himself dependent on the Spirit during his time on earth (Phil. 2:5-8) in order to experience life as He calls us to do. In Jesus' last words on earth, He promised the Holy Spirit would be given to believers. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samara, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

In Acts 2:1-4 Luke describes the giving of the Holy Spirit to empower believers. This is what we refer to as Pentecost and was the beginning of a new phase of the revelation of God. At Pentecost the era of the Spirit began. Since that time the Holy Spirit has been available to all who walk in Christ, not just a few.

Though all Christians are INDWELT by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are FILLED With the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN, TO BE "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?"**



All Christians **have** the Holy Spirit living within them  
Romans 8:9

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.

The **filling** of the Spirit is accomplished, however, only to the degree by which we give up control over our own lives and allow the Holy Spirit to control & empower us.

Filling is basically a matter of YIELDING or OBEDIENCE.

Let's use some examples from Scripture of people who were filled with the Spirit and see what the results were.

### **Acts 4:8-13**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Leaders and elders of our nation, are we being questioned because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Let me clearly state to you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed in the name and power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, the man you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

'The stone that you builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men who had had no special training. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

- The Holy Spirit was overflowing through Peter.
- He was used mightily even without a formal education or training.

### **Acts 4:31-35**

After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they preached God's message with boldness.

All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. And the apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great favor was upon them all. There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need.

- The people were transformed: lives and priorities were totally changed.
- Power to speak boldly about Jesus.

### **John 15:1-8**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned for greater fruitfulness by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who parts from me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.

- To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with Christ and abiding in Him, resulting in bearing of fruit (our lives showing the characteristics of Christ, i.e. the fruit of the Spirit, and bringing others to Christ).

Gal. 5:16-18

So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law.

- He lives the impossible life through us.

Gal. 5:22-23

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.

- The Fruit of the Spirit will be more evident, producing Christ-like character in the life of the believer.

## How can I be consistently filled with the Holy Spirit?

### 1. **Yearn for Righteousness**

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

### 2. **Confess Sins**

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### 3. **Surrender Control**

Romans 12:1 "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?"

Gal.2:20 "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Prov.3:5,6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths."

This is a DAY to DAY process!

4. Submit to the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are."

What are the evidences of someone who is being controlled by the Spirit?

1. Galatians 5:22-23 (see previous page) LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL
2. Acts 1:8 POWER FOR LIVING AS A WITNESS OF CHRIST

**PRAYER is a good way of expressing your desire and faith:**

"Holy Spirit, I want to live fully for Jesus. Please show me quickly, whenever I am being disobedient to You. I want you to shine through me, and for fruit to be brought forth in my life and character. I love you, and pray in the name of Jesus." AMEN

### WHAT IS THE "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?"



The word "fruit" is a word used in several places throughout the New Testament and describes an important concept in Scripture (see Luke 6:43-45; John 15:1-8; and Gal. 5:22). As you can see, there is an expectation that "fruit" will be produced in the life of a Christian.

Two kinds of fruit are referred to in these verses. Two different things are produced in our lives as a result of being in relationship with Jesus. Both are important, and are expected to happen:

1. **We will produce fruit by impacting people in such a way that they also enter a relationship with Jesus.**
2. **The fruit of the spirit will be developed in our lives so we take on the character qualities of Christ, and our lives will reflect Jesus to those around us.**

These two kinds of fruit are interrelated. People will be attracted to a Christlike lifestyle. Lifestyle is an important issue in Christianity because of the far-reaching impact our lives have on others. Gandhi was quoted as saying he was extremely attracted to the person of Jesus. What prevented his conversion to Christianity was Christians themselves, whom he perceived to be so unlike their Christ. So, the fruit of the Spirit in our lives impacts our ability to influence others for Jesus.

The fruit of the Spirit described in Gal. 5:22 is not something we receive, but is what is progressively produced in us through a life of constant yieldedness to the control of the Holy Spirit.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, not something we produce ourselves. As we yield to the Spirit, people no longer see us. Instead they see the Spirit and all the qualities of Christ in us.

Fruit bearing is a growing and maturing process in which the fruit takes on the qualities of our heavenly parent and people will see more and more of God and less of us.

The fruit of the Spirit is not the same as the gifts of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are special empowerments for ministry. They are given to equip and build up the Body of Christ, and are related to what we do. The fruit of the Spirit are character qualities to be seen in the life of the individual Christian. The fruit is related to what we are. No Christian is given all the spiritual **gifts**, yet all of the nine **fruit** listed in Galatians are to be evident in our lives. The entire cluster is interrelated and all are equally necessary.



## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES...

The following are suggested definitions for the Fruit of the Spirit. Though not meant to be absolute, they have emerged from parallel Scripture references (NIV) and word studies of different authors.

1. **LOVE (agape)**. An unconditional giving of self to others regardless of their condition or circumstances, as Christ loved us. and because God first loved us.

Luke 6:35; 1 John 4:10; John 3:16

*This is not love "if" or "because of" but love, period. It is action: acts toward another that have no strings attached, that are not necessarily motivated by positive feelings toward the other, that may be costly to me but have no expectation of repayment. The motivation is my experience of God's love and my willingness to pass that on. This love is impossible for human beings, but it is accomplished by allowing God to love through us.*

2. **JOY (chara)**. The presence of God manifested in a consistent gladness of heart, and from awareness that serving others has met or may meet needs.

John 15:10-11; Hebrews 12:2; Nehemiah 8:10

*We have a misconception of the meaning of joy. It is not just happiness or feeling good about everything, for those both depend on circumstances and the condition of what is going on around us (externals). Joy is what is produced within us, a by-product of obedience to Christ and living for and serving others. Hebrews 12:2 shares Jesus' example with us in terms of the joy He experienced in laying down His life for us. Jesus demonstrated that we can have joy in the midst of suffering as well as in pleasant circumstances. He certainly didn't have happy feelings on the cross, but the joy came from knowing He was accomplishing God's will. Biblical joy is that which is produced in us by focusing on God and the end result He is producing, not on the process He is allowing us to experience to get us there.*

3. **PEACE (eirene)**. A quietness and confidence from God by being right with Him (righteousness), an antidote to fear, resentment, distress, guilt and interpersonal differences. John 14:27; Romans 5:1, 12:18; Philippians 4:7

*Peace results from knowing we are forgiven and accepted. Jesus had dropped all charges against us in order to give us a fresh start. Peace is not the absence of a rebellious nature, of conflict or distress. It is a sense of tranquility and order, that no matter our circumstances God has everything in place and as it ought to be. Peace, also, is not a result of circumstances. It is the internal assurance that no matter how the waves of life rock my boat, Jesus is in the boat with me.*

**4. PATIENCE (makrothumia). A calm endurance or perseverance not easily provoked by suffering or questionable conduct by others.**

Ephesians 4:2; 2 Cor. 6:4-6; Col.3:12,13; 1 Thes. 5:14; 2 Tim. 4:2

*Patience, the, looks like the opposite of "Type A" behavior. It is the ability to walk long term with people. Realizing God has a timetable for each process of our lives. Patience accepts consequences, endures the wrong of others, bears injuries and suffering for good, refuses to retaliate. Patience is hard! It is not a quality that comes naturally or easily for us. It is part of God's character and can only become our character through His power and His Spirit working in us.*

**5. KINDNESS (chrestotes). Relating in a supportive, tender, and caring manner to others in need of ministry.**

Ephesians 2:7, 4:2; 2 Peter 1:7; Col. 3:12; Titus 3:4

*We can be extremely gifted in skills and ministry yet our style, tone and volume of voice be lacking. Kindness deals not with our abilities, but our attitudes. It is the Christlike way in which we treat others, such as compassion, forgiveness, mercy, and listening.*

**6. GOODNESS (agathosume). Becoming in character like God, a Christlike character from which may come exposure or rebuke of sin or evil to please God.**

Mark 10:18; Romans 15:14; Gal.5:22; Eph. 5:9-11; 2 Thess. 1:11

*Loving confrontation can come from this character quality. Goodness results from the Spirit developing within us the same sense of right and wrong that God has. Goodness may be expressed as taking a stand against wrong in others or in society. It works hand in hand with kindness. Both are committed to doing the right things. Goodness is more bold. Calling people to accountability. Of course, established relationships with others, in which our Christlike character is known, are important. This is the basis for the other person to really listen to our loving (kind) confrontation.*

**7. FAITHFULNESS (pistis). As God, being trustworthy, dependable. Or reliable in daily life with others and the Lord.**

Matthew 25:21; Luke 12:42; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 2:13

*Commitment level is determined by this character quality. Faithfulness means that when we promise something we will follow through and fulfill that promise. God is a God of covenant, or unbreakable promises. He is willing to stick it out with us, to work it out regardless of the circumstances. To not walk away (Heb.13:3). Because it is God living in us, we are enabled to be this way, too, in all of our relationships and commitments.*

**8. GENTLENESS (praotes). As Christ, a strength willingly under control or authority of God and others, expressed in a humble, open, and teachable spirit.**

Luke 2:51,52; 2 Cor. 10:1; Eph. 4:2,3; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 3:15,16

*A gentle person is not a weak one, but one who has put his or her strength under the taming hand of God. Like a tamed horse, that strength is now useful when gentled. A gentle person may also act in anger or in tough decisiveness, yet is under control. Gentleness is revealed in a spirit that shows itself in cooperation, humility, and accountability.*

**9. SELF-CONTROL (egkratia). Discipline toward moderation in matters of bodily or physical pleasure, attainment, or abuse, as well as interpersonal relationships.**

1 Cor.6:12, 7:4, 9:27; Tit. 1:8; 2 Pet.1:6; Gal.5:19-23

*Self control is a way of living that is pleasing to God with His "hands on the reins" and His presence and power to help us prevent or overcome excesses. It is the key to the ability to obey God. As we study scripture and pray, we learn and understand God's principles and teachings. We also come to know His limitations on such things as the use of the tongue, sex, excessive eating and drinking, etc. We see examples of people who were able to avoid committing what is expressly forbidden in scripture (Daniel, Joseph, etc...) We also see the power given and released in lives when the Spirit is given control.*

Now that we have defined all the fruit of the Spirit, we turn our eyes to Jesus to see what the fruit look like. This is how Jesus operated and is what we are called to be because we are in His image.

The Fruit of the Spirit come in our lives as a unit - a package deal. Together they make up a complete personality. So, our goal is to be open and available to the Spirit to develop these qualities in our lives. He will do so over our lifetime.