

Name: _____

Date: _____

Christian Leadership

How to influence the ideas, opinions and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 6: Part One

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day One) Knowing the Holy Spirit

A friend has invited you over for dinner. You arrive at your friend's home and ring the doorbell. No answer. The front door is ajar so you walk into a dark and quiet house. You flip on the light switch and walk into the kitchen. There you find a note on the fridge that reads, "I was invited to a party that sounds like fun so go ahead and make yourself some dinner. Please wash the dishes when you are finished. As long as you are here, go ahead and clean the rest of the house. I would like everything neat and clean when I come home." How would you feel?

Most likely you would feel used, unappreciated, unloved and basically unwanted. These are the feelings that usually cause us to act out in anger toward ourselves and others. We want to be loved; it is a basic need in our lives.

God wants to be loved also (Matthew 22:36-40). When you invite Him to live in your heart and in your life, you are inviting a Holy Guest into your body, the temple. We don't just leave the door to our hearts ajar for the Spirit to entertain himself and then clean up our mess while we are mentally engaged elsewhere. We must be there to welcome our Guest with all of our mind, all of our soul and all of our heart.

Just as we try to learn about our earthly guests to serve them properly with food and entertainment, we need to know our Divine Guest to serve Him properly. The best way to know God is to study and read the Scriptures. What does God's Word tell us about His Spirit?

God the Spirit is revealed throughout the Old and New Testaments. He is not a force, figurative expression or divine vapor. Like God the Father, He is spirit (John 4:24). The Spirit is a supernatural Being without the limits of time, space or matter.

The Holy Spirit is a distinct "Person" of the Trinity to know, love and obey. Recall we learned in Lesson One that God is three Persons and He is one God. Complete understanding of God is not possible with our finite minds and the Trinity may remain a mystery to us until we meet Him face to face. Nevertheless, each Person is fully God. This means that the Holy Spirit shares the same characteristics with the Father and Jesus. For example, the Holy Spirit does not change; He is immutable (Malachi 3:6). We can rest in His presence and counsel.

Pray: "Help us to know, love and submit to You O Spirit of God!" Amen.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2

Hover means to stay in one place in the air. The Hebrew word (רָחַף) rachaph which is translated hovering in the NIV translation also means to move gently, cherish and brood.¹ The English verb brood is used to describe a bird sitting on her eggs to hatch them.

1. What is the first book of the Bible? _____ How soon are we introduced to the Spirit?

2. Read Genesis 1:2 and describe what you learn about the Holy Spirit?

From the very beginning God the Spirit reveals His massive power and enormous tenderness. In cooperation with God the Father and God the Son, He took great pleasure in creating our world. The Spirit seems to give a peaceful, even serene picture of a colossal event in time.

Many scientists, desiring to leave God out of science, explain earth's beginnings by the *big bang* theory.² Perhaps God spoke and bang, the universe was created. We aren't given all the scientific data as to what actually happened each time God spoke in the Genesis account. We do know that the Bible is true and it is not in conflict with true scientific facts.

Now God does act through supernatural events and may change the way things were designed to work (Joshua 10:13-14). However the Bible is careful to make this divine intervention obvious to the reader. There is always a distinction between the way the world scientifically works and when God decides to override His natural, created order. In other words, miracles are evident.

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

3. Read Job 33:4. Who made you? _____

4. What is another name for the Spirit of God? _____

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

5. Read John 6:63. Who gives you life? _____

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them...Nehemiah 9:20

¹ The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew & English Lexicon, F. Brown, S. Driver, C. Briggs, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 1999.

² According to the *big bang* theory, the universe was originally smaller than a dime and almost infinitely dense. A massive explosion, which kicked off the expansion, was the origin of all known space, matter, energy, and time. www.thefreedictionary.com

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6. Read Nehemiah 9:20. What adjective describes the Spirit? _____

7. What is one reason that God gave us His good Spirit? _____

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
Psalm 143:10

8. Read Psalm 143:10. How else does the Spirit help you? _____

The Spirit is good. Your Holy Companion who resides within you is perfectly good; you can rely on Him to **instruct and lead** you in God's ways. You do not have to worry about doing the right thing when you listen and trust the good Spirit. He wants you to succeed in being a leader and doing good works. He will empower you to do so. In fact **He is so good, He will even convict and admonish you to get you on the right path of following Jesus** (John 16:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, Nehemiah 9:30).

Note that Jesus glorified God the Father (John 17:1-5). Therefore as we follow after Him, we must also glorify God. The Greek verb doxazo (δοξάζω) means to render or to give praise and honor. It means to glorify and to exalt.³ To glorify God means that we elevate and recognize Him as the most significant and important "Person" in the universe. As always remember that we serve and therefore glorify a Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.NIV John 16:13-14

Read John 16:13-14 and answer questions 9-12:

9. Why do you think it is important to know the Holy Spirit? _____

10. Who brings glory to Jesus? _____

11. How does the Spirit bring glory to Jesus? _____

Jesus is the truth. The Spirit takes or receives the truth of salvation, the truth of being born into God's family and His Kingdom and makes it known to believers. Everything that believers need to know and do in order to glorify God is made known to us by the Spirit. This includes all power and authority to trample dominions of darkness and bring others into the Kingdom as true worshippers in spirit and truth.

12. How do you think self preservation and glorifying God are diametrically opposed?

³ BibleWorks 6.

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Personal Application: Read and meditate on Ephesians 4:20-24

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.^{NIV} Ephesians 4:20-24

How does Paul express the truth that is in Jesus? _____

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Two) Ignorance of the Spirit

In 1647, on the heels of the protestant reformation, Scottish and English leaders wrote a doctrinal statement in the format of questions and answers for church members. It is called the “Westminster Shorter Catechism” and was used extensively by various protestant denominations. The first question and answer is:

Question: *What is the chief end of man?*

Answer: *Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.⁴*

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for man to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth. We cannot know God except through Christ (John 14:6) and we cannot know the truth of Christ apart from the Holy Spirit. He convicts the world of sin (John 16:8) and the truth of God’s plan for salvation.

Our purity and power come from the Holy Spirit of God actively working in our life. A Christian leader who attempts to serve God in ignorance of His Spirit will become easily frustrated, overwhelmed and entirely ineffective. The Spirit keeps us on the right track. That track is bringing God glory and honor. The wrong track is seeking after the Spirit for our own glory or worldly ambitions.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Acts 8:18-21

Read Acts 8:18-21 and answer questions 1-4:

1. What did Simon offer the apostles for the gift of the Spirit? _____

⁴ Wikipedia website.

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2. How did Peter reply to Simon? _____

3. Why do you think Peter replied to Simon that way? _____

4. Do you think Simon wanted to help others glorify God? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Explain your answer: _____

Simon did not have the right heart toward God and certainly was not interested in glorifying Him. The fact that he offered money is a clue to his motivation. Perhaps he thought he could make money or just cause a sensation wherever he traveled. From Peter's response to Simon it appears that Simon was ignorant of the Spirit and had no real interest in knowing Him. Simon wanted to use the Spirit's power for his own benefit.

All of God's gifts are free. We don't pay for our salvation nor do we pay for His Spirit. Jesus tells us in Luke 11:13, *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*"

Read Luke 11:13 and answer questions 5-7:

5. According to Jesus how do you receive the Holy Spirit? _____

6. Do you have to beg and plead with God for the Holy Spirit? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
(Consider the principle in James 4:2-3 regarding asking and receiving)

7. What adjective does Jesus use to describe gifts in Luke 11:13? _____

The Holy Spirit is good and He is a good gift. The Holy Spirit cannot be used (exploited) in any way, especially for bad or evil. We know only God is good (Mark 10:18) and His Spirit inhabits human hearts for God's good and perfect will (Acts 2:4, John 14:26). No created being controls the Spirit; we follow. The Spirit is God and acts according to His good pleasure and purposes.

God's purposes are for our good also. However we can thwart (prevent) the good God has planned for us by disobedience. If we deliberately keep on sinning, we insult the Spirit of Grace and there is nothing left but judgment (Hebrews 10:25-39). This was true under the Old Covenant (promises to God's people under Moses) and it is true under the New Covenant (promises fulfilled in Christ – Matthew 5:17, Hebrews 9:15).

Saul lived and reigned about 1,000 B.C. He was the first anointed king of Israel and although he started out on the right track, he soon lost his focus. Saul was anointed to serve God and lead Israel according to God's plans and not his own. It was not his place to make decisions and rules but to obey the LORD.

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A simple definition of anoint means to apply or rub oil on a person or thing (Exodus 40:9). In the Bible the anointing is used for consecration (setting apart), healing (James 5:14) and burial (John 19:39-40). God gave Moses a special formula for the oil that was to be used only to anoint the priests. The first priest Aaron (Exodus 30:30) and subsequent priests were anointed with this special oil. Saul and subsequent kings were also anointed with oil. This oil seems to have been a different mixture from what was used for the priests. Most likely it was a spiced or plain olive oil.⁵

The anointing ceremony revealed to others the anointed one's right to office and that God's power and favor rested upon him. God was with him through His Holy Spirit and would enable him to fulfill his duties. **The Holy Spirit rested upon an individual for God's greater purposes of helping His people know and serve Him.**

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance?" 1 Samuel 10:1

(Note: Kiss: sign of allegiance here and remains a sign of respect in Near Eastern cultures; Inheritance is Israel)

The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 1 Samuel 10:6-7

(A sign is that which points to something else; an object, occurrence, or person through which one recognizes, remembers, or validates something. In the Old Testament signs may be classed according to seven somewhat overlapping functions: to impart knowledge, to protect, to motivate faith, to recall significant events, to witness to the covenant, to confirm and to illustrate by means of prophetic action.)⁶

God is a God of order and intention. From creation to redemption, there is a plan in effect. God's ways are never haphazard or happenstance. As with all God does, He gives signs for a purpose.

8. When you are discouraged, how does it comfort you to know that God is a God of purpose?

Answer questions 9-11 from 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-7 listed above:

9. Who gave Samuel the authority to anoint Saul king? _____

10. Who ultimately anointed Saul leader of Israel? _____

⁵ Butler, Trent, Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1991, Dictionary, pg. 59.

⁶ Ibid., pg. 1277-78.

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11. Name three of the signs that God used in Saul's life to confirm his appointment as leader:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Saul was changed in three ways (1 Samuel 10:8-13). The Spirit of God came upon him, he prophesied and he became different person. Before Samuel anointed him by God's command, Saul did not have the Spirit's power, he did not prophesy and he was small minded, especially in the ways of God (1 Samuel 9:21).

Notice in 1 Samuel 10:7 that Samuel describes these events in Saul's life as signs. God was using these events to declare to Israel that Saul was His choice of king and that He was with him. God was providing proof to the people that here is the genuine article, the earthly king that they had desired.

Saul became a different person with a different purpose in life. He was changed by God in an instant. One minute, little responsibility of consequence and in the next, much responsibility of great significance. Now don't be discouraged if God works in your life differently. Remember Joseph (Genesis 37-50) went through long-term trials and tribulations before God brought Him into the responsibility that would save God's people from starvation.

God would be with Saul as long as he was obedient to His commands. When Samuel told Saul to *do whatever your hand finds to do*, he was not saying you are free to do whatever you wish. He was giving this order in the context of Saul's position and authority as king and representative of God's command on earth. Saul was to use godly wisdom and good judgment to do whatever he thought best to keep God's people holy and save them from their enemies.

Note: An important aspect in studying the Bible is to make sure you understand the context of the passage. What is the particular book of the Bible about? What was written before and after a particular verse? What is the point the author is trying to make? What was the cultural situation at the time? How does this verse line up with the rest of the Bible?

Personal Application:

Reflect on your own desire to know the Spirit:

1. Do you desire the Spirit for God's purposes or to impress others with His power?
2. Confess any ignorance, wrong thoughts or attitudes that you have regarding the Holy Spirit. Ask forgiveness and pray for a pure knowledge and understanding of the Spirit.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Three) Grieving the Spirit

Saul started out with God’s Spirit and favor. He was promoted to king of his country and had the opportunity to be a great man of and for God. But sadly, Saul went astray. He sinned against the very One who had created him and made him king.

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." 1 Samuel 15:23

1. In 1 Samuel 15:23, what is rebellion compared to? _____

2. What is arrogance compared to? _____

Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:14. Who left Saul? _____

Rebellion is refusing or resisting authority. Simply, it is being disobedient to the one in charge. An arrogant person is a prideful person who thinks that he or she is superior to others. God hates these sins in His people so much that they are compared to covenant violations (Leviticus 19:26, Exodus 20:1-4). The covenant was the basis of God’s relationship with His people and violations were serious and had extreme consequences.

4. Whose authority did Saul resist? _____

5. Why do you think arrogance is like the evil of idolatry? _____

6. Have you ever been guilty of rebellion or arrogance? Y N (Circle one) If yes, how have you overcome? _____

Personal Application: Sincerely pray the following prayer:

Merciful LORD,

 Patient and longsuffering, I bow in humble submission to Your authority and rule in my life. You are good and all that You do is right and just. Please forgive me for all the times that I have been rebellious and arrogant. These times in particular I remember (confess your own sins). Thank You for continually forgiving me and changing me into an obedient and humble servant to You. Thank You for giving me the grace to lead Your people in Your way.

 Holy Spirit, guide and counsel me in right thinking so that I may never be rebellious or arrogant again. Convict me at once of my wrong doing so that I may always be set apart and in immediate readiness for my LORD’s call. I live, love and pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." 1 Samuel 13:13-15

Read 1 Samuel 13:13-15 and answer questions 7-9.

7. According to Samuel, how did Saul act? _____

A foolish person acts unwisely displaying a lack of good sense and judgment. A foolish person is the opposite of a wise person. The book of Proverbs has much to say about fools. *The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.*^{NIV} Proverbs 10:8

8. What did Saul fail to do? _____

9. What was the consequence of Saul's failure to keep the LORD's command? _____

A leader does not have tenure or a life time claim on God's Spirit, His favor or blessing; no one does. A leader is not appointed for a lifetime with no consequences for being disobedient. This was true in Saul's time and it is true in our time also. Christians can be forgiven in the blood of Christ, but there are still consequences to our wrong actions. Thinking on these things should give us a holy fear of the office to which God has called us so that we continually seek His face, grace and mercy.

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13

Read 1 Samuel 16:13 and answer questions 10-11.

10. What was the result of Saul's disobedience? _____

11. Who came upon David in power? _____

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do. Acts 13:22

Read Acts 13:22 and answer questions 12-13.

12. Why was David called a man after God's own heart? _____

13. What is one word that summarizes "he will do everything I want him to do" in Acts 13:22?

_____. Do you want to be a man\woman after God's own heart? _____

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And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ^{NIV} Ephesians 4:30-32

Read Ephesians 4:30-32 and answer questions 14-16:

14. Write a simple definition of the word grieve? _____

15. What are behaviors that grieve the Spirit? _____

16. What kind of behaviors would you like the Holy Spirit to change in your own life?

Grieving another means that we have caused that person pain, hurt, sorrow, or distress. King Saul had grieved the Holy Spirit of God with rebellion and disobedience. About 1,000 years later another Saul, perhaps named after this king, was also in rebellion and persecuting Jesus (Acts 9:4). But this Saul didn't follow in the footsteps of his namesake. After he met Jesus on the road to Damascus he became completely obedient to God. This New Testament saint is also known to us by his Hellenistic or Greek name Paul.

Paul was so sensitive to the Spirit that he was able to teach against other kinds of sins that grieve or hurt the Spirit. This gives us hope to change no matter what we have done or whatever label someone tries to pin on us. It doesn't matter who you were named after, who your parents were or what you have done in the past. God is calling *you* now.

17. How will you cooperate and change your actions to bring joy to the Holy Spirit of God?

In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.¹⁰ Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. ^{NIV} Isaiah 63:9-10

18. Read Isaiah 63:9-10. God is loving and He is righteous. How does this verse bring together both of these attributes in the Holy Spirit? _____

Throughout the Bible God reveals His great love and compassion in creating and providing for us. He deserves and expects loyalty, allegiance and fidelity as Creator and Ruler of the universe. When He does not receive our allegiance, He is right to punish and cast us out, just like He did in

Adam and Eve's rebellion. The Spirit guides us with patience and kindness for God's honor and our good. Still loving, the Spirit will not tolerate wrong actions toward God.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Four) The Spirit's Sanctifying Work

All three Persons of the Trinity are involved in a believer's salvation (Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:9, John 1:11-13, John 3:8). The **Holy Spirit convicts**⁷ sinners so that we may recognize our wrongdoing and desperate need for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit prepares our hearts so that we may exercise our faith in Christ.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

1. God chose Christians to be saved through belief in Jesus and the _____ work of the Spirit.

The verb the NIV translates as sanctify in the Greek New Testament is (ἁγιάζω), *hagiasmo*. Sanctify means to set apart for sacred use. Other meanings of the Greek word include consecration, dedication, holiness and the state of purity.⁸

The Spirit helps us to be holy as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16). We don't know exactly how the Spirit accomplishes this feat but we know that it begins with our salvation, our union with Christ (Romans 6) and continues throughout our lives. Sanctification is not an option of the Christian life; it is an essential and necessary part of your salvation experience.

Sanctification is progressive. That means that you are continually making progress, moving forward and becoming more and more like Christ each day. Sometimes you may become discouraged and think that you really haven't changed at all. However, if you will review your life since becoming a Christian, you should notice that there has been steady progress. There are many sinful things that you no longer take part in and there are many good things that you have done in His name. If you see absolutely no change in your life, pray sincerely and ask God for His perception (view) of your life in Christ.

In the Old Testament when priests were set apart (sanctified) for God they were anointed with oil. The priests and the Levites worked for God in and around the sanctuary. This was a place set apart as holy. It was sacred and revered not only by the priests but by the Israelites as well. The Temple as well as the Tabernacle were sanctuaries.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

⁷ Greek word ἁγιάζω means to show (someone his) fault or error, convince (someone) of (his) fault or error; show (something) up for what it is; prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove. BibleWorks 6.

⁸ Ibid.

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2. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, where is the sanctuary today? _____

3. You are set apart as holy. You are set apart as a place of worship. You are living out your dedication and consecration to God in clear view of the world. However, you are not alone (1 Thessalonians 4:8). Who lives in you? _____

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

4. Read Philippians 3:12-14. Why do you think it is important for a Christian leader to understand sanctification? (Other references: Hebrews 10:26-31, 12:14-15)

Understanding sanctification brings a leader's life into balance with a proper perspective. First, we understand that we are not perfect but that we are being perfected each day by the Spirit's work in our lives. We are able to forget the imperfections and sins of the past and press on for the purpose for which God has called us. Each day is new and glorious.

Second, if we do not allow the Spirit to sanctify us by working in our lives and deliberately keep on sinning, judgment awaits us. Without holiness no one will even see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). The Spirit keeps us holy and assures us that we will rejoice to see our God!

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.^{NIV} John 17:17

Read John 17:17 and answer questions 5-6:

5. What is an important way that we are sanctified by the truth? _____

6. How can you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in growing in faith and godliness?

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 2:12

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12 and answer questions 7-8:

7. How are you able to recognize and determine the truth of Scripture? _____

8. Can someone without the Holy Spirit understand the wisdom of the Bible? Yes No (Circle)

People without the Spirit may understand *some* of what the Bible is saying but they don't understand the wisdom of following its commands. The Spirit brings God's Word and the truth of it alive for the believer. The Spirit helps us to know, love and serve God through the truth of the Word. Of course the Spirit also uses God's Word to motivate sinners to seek Christ.

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ^{NIV} 2 Corinthians 3:6

9. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. How might this verse be used as a warning against reading and studying Scripture without the Spirit's guidance? _____

Recall the Pharisees knew the Law and the Prophets better than anyone else yet Jesus said they were like whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones (Matthew 23:27). Jesus had explained earlier (Matthew 22:36-40) that all the Law and the Prophets depend on loving God and your neighbor. The Spirit takes God's Word with its laws and commands and leads us in following what it says for the right reasons.

In 2 Corinthians 3:6 Paul is making the point that the Law, as an external standard, brought condemnation and death. The Law convicts and cannot forgive. The new covenant of grace in Christ brings forgiveness and life.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Five) The Spirit, our Shepherd

The good Spirit shepherds God's flock with the same love and care as the Father and the Son. He assists us in many and varied ways so that in following God we may be good shepherds of His people. Good shepherds always lead others to God through Christ.

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 with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

1. Read Romans 8:26. The Spirit _____ us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to _____ for, but the _____ himself _____ for us with _____ that _____ cannot express.

Intercede means to mediate or to intervene. The Spirit pleads your case, your situation before God. Jesus also intercedes for you (Hebrews 7:25). They deeply and earnestly talk to God the Father about you. God the Spirit and God the Son do not want you asking for things that are not good for you. They want you to pray and care about the things that God cares about; things with eternal significance. Thank Jesus and the Spirit every day for interceding for you in God's will.

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2. How do you feel when you consider the good Spirit is interceding for you? _____

3. Are you struggling with anything? Write how our CLI "letter minister" may pray for you.

Ask the good Spirit to help you in your weakness and to give you the strength and fortitude (staying power, guts) to overcome in the name of Jesus. Jesus walked this earth in human flesh and can sympathize with your situation. Remember the Spirit takes from Jesus and makes it known to you. The Spirit can take the truth from Jesus' staying power and give it to you.

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."^{NIV} Luke 10:21

Read Luke 10:21 and answer question 4-5.

4. Jesus was full of joy through _____ and praised _____

5. What will the Spirit, our Shepherd fill you with? _____ Why? _____

Following God and seeing His will manifested brings joy. The Spirit guides and leads us out of our own plans and into God's purposes. Jesus was full of joy through the Holy Spirit.

Personal Application: Meditate and Memorize 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.^{NIV} 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

What do these verses mean to you personally? _____

Next – Part Two of Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

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