

What In the World Is the Holy Spirit?



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What In the World Is The Holy Spirit?

When it comes to equipping us for ministry, God has given His best to each of us. You and I have the most essential ingredient for successful ministry imaginable. When we became born-again, you and I both received the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit into our very being. Imagine, God in His infinite wisdom created a way for each of us to be led by Himself. This personal guidance is given through the Holy Spirit. Jesus attested to this fact. In John 16: 7 Jesus said that He must leave so the Holy Spirit could come.

It is good for you that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

It is beyond the scope of this workbook to go into a long treatise on who the Holy Spirit is, but we cannot talk about ministry without mentioning this important part of the Trinity. Many of us have been Christians for a long time and yet know very little about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. This is unfortunate, for it limits both our experience in the Lord and the results of the ministry that God has for us.

Once I took over a department that was using bought a powerful software program for a ministry I was working with. At the time we only needed it for a few of its features so my staff only mastered what they absolutely had to. However, over time as we used the program more and more, I began to want to do more with the software. I was told that we could not do what I requested. I became disgusted that such a expensive software was so limited.

I remember complaining to someone from another agency that happened to have the same software. I shared with them my frustration on how limited I felt the software was. After I was through with my tirade, they looked at me in disbelief. "Are you kidding?" they said. They proceeded to tell me all that the software could do and how they went about doing it. I sat there astounded. All this time I was told by our people that we could not do these functions and now I found out that we could. All this time we had all this power at our fingertips and we did not take the time to learn how to use it.

I think that is how we are with the Holy Spirit. We get saved, understand that we have the Holy Spirit and then get busy with life. We know the essentials but never

take advantage of the relationship that we have with the Holy Spirit. We do not ask the Holy Spirit to comfort us, give us direction, give us peace, intercede for us or teach us. But this is not some company software. This is our spiritual life we are talking about! We cannot afford to be passive any longer. We were not meant to function without the aid of the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself longed for us to develop a relationship with this important part of the God head. Isn't it time that we begin to experience all the ways that the Holy Spirit wants to help us? I have written down some of the functions of the Holy Spirit for us to consider. Although brief, I trust that the next few pages would start us in the direction of a more enriched and satisfying ministry.

The Holy Spirit Indwells Or Lives Inside The Christian

1. Read John 14:16-18:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

According to this passage, who gives us the Holy Spirit? _____

2. According to Paul writes in I Corinthians 3:16:

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

According to this passage where does the Holy Spirit reside? _____

3. In I John 4:12-13 John verifies that God lives in us through the Spirit:

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

What do you think John meant by we live in Him and He in us? _____

4. Paul shares about the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in II Corinthians 13:14:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

What does he mean by “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit”? _____

The fact is that not only does the Holy Spirit live inside of us, He wants to a relationship that allows us to have companionship and camaraderie with Him.

5. In Romans 5:5 Paul has another way of saying that the Holy Spirit has indwelled us. He writes:

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

What does it feel like to have God pour His love into you by the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit Sets Us Apart For A Holy Purpose

When our relationship with God is established and the Holy Spirit enters our life, we are different than those that are without Christ. The indwelling Holy Spirit sets us apart. The Biblical word for this setting apart is sanctification. The actual meaning is to set something apart for a Holy purpose, to distinguish it from others, to give it a special place. When we were saved, we were sealed by the Spirit, indwelt by the Spirit and set apart for a Holy purpose by the Spirit.

6. Read I Corinthians 6:11:

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Here is how it reads in the new Living Translation:

But now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God has done for you.

According to this passage what three things has the Holy Spirit done for you?

7. Paul was a Jew. Jesus was a Jew. The Jews were God's chosen people. Now Paul was preaching to non-Jews telling them that God was choosing them to be His special people. This was revolutionary. The God of Israel was going to allow non-Jews to be "set apart" or chosen as an object of His love. In II Thessalonians 2:13 Paul writes:

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.

Peter says it yet another way in I Peter 1:2: (LBT)

²God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by his blood. May you have more and more of God's special favor and wonderful peace.

What was Peter saying the Holy Spirit has made us before God? _____

When you and I became Christians, part of the job of the Holy Spirit was to set you and I aside as a servant of God, Holy in His eyes. Now our purpose is to live out our mission and ministry for Him.

The Holy Spirit Is God's Promise Of Eternal Life

Eternal life is a major tenet of our faith. But how do we know? As much as I would love to say that I can intellectually convince you that there is an eternal life, the real proof is in the person of the Holy Spirit. It is the fact that God has taken residence in our life in the person of the Holy Spirit that points to eternal life. Many religions try to say that all of us have the essence of God in us, or that we were made in God's image. The New Testament says that God does live in us, not just His essences but the person of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes in Romans 8:10-11:

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

8. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:30:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

What are we not to do to the Holy Spirit? _____

Give an example of grieving the Holy Spirit.

9. Paul tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit who has sealed us for the day of redemption.

What does Paul mean when he said we were “sealed for the day of redemption?”

In Paul’s day a seal served three purposes. First, it made a parchment or document official. The signet ring was used to seal the document. Much like a notary puts their seal on the important document that they witnessed, God puts His seal on our life. This seal is the Holy Spirit.

Second, the seal identifies who the parchment is from. The signet ring was usually one of a kind and kept by the person sending the parchment. It acted much like a brand on a herd of cattle. It identified the owner of the parchment. What an analogy for us. God has saved us and has put His own personal signature on our life in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, the seal was for certification and guarantee. The seal was used for protection. For example, if it was the King’s seal, anybody breaking the seal would do so under the threat of severe punishment. The seal not only protected the document, it authenticated it. For example, if the document was a bank note, then the seal was a warranty that the King was backing the note and would guarantee payments to the amount on the note. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is our guarantee of eternal life. God has promised it to us and the Holy Spirit not only protects our eternal life, He is the guarantee that God will pay in full.

Paul explains that you and I were included in salvation and “sealed” by the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1:13-14:

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Again Paul makes sure that we know that our salvation is secure. In II Corinthians 1:22 he writes:

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

The Holy Spirit Reveals To Us That We Are His Children

The Holy Spirit communicates to our inner being revealing that we are the children of God. Paul shares this several times. In Romans 8:14-17 he writes:

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

10. God has joined our spirit with His Spirit so we can become more aware of our special relationship we have with the father. What is this special relationship?

Paul shares that we can come to the almighty God and call Him "Abba Father". This is equivalent to calling Him "Daddy." What a privilege. Why can we do this? Paul tells us why in Galatians 4:6:

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

God has called us His children. Can we even begin to comprehend that? Yes, we can because the Holy Spirit makes it known to us. Stop, pause for a moment. Listen to the Holy Spirit. He will testify to you right now and assure you of the fact that you are God's child. Hear Him say, "God is your father. He loves you. You are His child."

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Worship

The Holy Spirit helps us express our love for God. He does this through worship. Part of the equipping us for ministry is the worship experience that the Holy Spirit guides us in. Worship focuses our attention, it gives us joy and deep love for God, it energizes us and most of all it helps us remember. How many times did the children of God get into trouble because they forgot the love of God? I remember reading in the Morning and Evening Devotional by Charles Spurgeon, where he once wrote, "I do not know which to marvel at more ; God's faithfulness or man's forgetfulness!" When we worship, the Holy Spirit can lead us into adoration and joy and help us remember all the good that God has done.

Paul writes in Philippians 3:3:

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit Makes Us More Like Christ

Paul shares that our new life in Christ is in contrast to the relationship that the Jews had. When Moses came in contact with God, he had to wear a veil to cover his face or else he would die. In Christ and through the Holy Spirit we have freedom to come right into the Holy of Holies. This new relationship with God allows the Holy Spirit to transform us into the likeness of Christ.

11. Paul shares about a transformation in II Corinthians 3:15-18:

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 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.

As Christians what is the Holy Spirit transforming us into? _____

What a wonderful thought. We do not have to come to a Holy God with our faces covered in fear for our life. Instead, the Spirit has given us freedom to come into the very presence of the living God! And more than that, the longer we are in His presence the more we become like Him. Oh, that we would commune with the Holy Spirit and let Him bring us humbly into the presence of God where we can worship and praise Him and become transformed into His likeness.

The Holy Spirit Teaches Us And Reveals To Us The Truth

The Holy Spirit is sent to us to communicate truth to us and to teach us about Christ and our Christian walk. Nehemiah knew that it is the Spirit that teaches. He acknowledges this as he prays in Nehemiah 9:20:

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them.

12. Jesus said in John 14:16-17:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth.

What does this passage say the role of the Holy spirit is? _____

One of the great roles of the Holy Spirit in our life is a counselor. Some translations use the word comforter. The Holy Spirit is able to give us insight, wisdom and peace. These are powerful allies in the ministry. Discouragement, misunderstandings and temptations are part of all of our lives. We take these with us into the ministry. The beauty of the Holy Spirit is that He is able to commune with our inner being. He is able to speak truth to us. The Holy Spirit is the inward expression of God and is able to encourage, give peace, assurance and hope.

13. In John 14:26 Jesus says:

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

What role does John say the Holy Spirit plays in this passage? _____

Another role of the Holy Spirit is to be our teacher. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach us everything that Jesus taught.

14. In John 16:13-15 we read:

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. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it

known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

According to this passage what is another role of the Holy Spirit? _____

Jesus shares with us that the Holy Spirit will guide us and speak to us what Jesus Himself wants us to know.

Paul shares how the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God and wants to communicate them to us. We are taught by the Holy Spirit as Paul points out in I Corinthians 2:9-16:

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 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. 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. 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. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

In Ephesians Paul was telling the Church that he was praying that God would give wisdom and reveal the truth about who God is. God would do this through the Holy Spirit. Imagine, we can ask God to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us. He writes in Ephesians 1:17:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Finally, John shares that our anointing, which is another way to say the Holy Spirit, teaches us. In I John 2:27 he writes:

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

We Need To Live Under the Influence Of The Holy Spirit

In Romans 8 Paul shares how the Holy Spirit is our source for Christian living. He says that we need to live in accordance or under the control of the Spirit. Another way that Paul referred to a Spirit controlled life was to call it Spirit “filled”. It is interesting to note that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. Also, when He returned home, the first thing that the Holy Spirit did was to lead Him into the desert.

15. In Luke 4:1 it says:

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.

If Jesus needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit, should we? If so how does this happen?

16. In Jude 1:20 the author writes:

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

In his letter, Jude asks us to “pray in the Spirit”. What does this mean?

Praying in the Spirit means to pray in the presence of, under the influence of, or as you are led to pray by the Holy Spirit. When we commune with God, He is able to prompt us by His Spirit to pray and to “hear His still voice.” It seems so mystical, but no more than the very thoughts that we have “inside” us. Our thoughts come from our natural cognitive processes. Likewise, it is through a Holy Spirit led cognitive process that God is able to lead us to pray.

17 . Ephesians 5:15-18 says:

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

What does Paul mean to be filled with the Spirit? _____

The definitive verse on the Holy Spirit “filling” us or being in control in our life is found in Ephesians 5:15-18. Paul is saying that we need to be careful how we live. He says not to get drunk on wine but to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

What does this mean? The key is in the reference to being drunk on wine. There is only one way to get drunk. You get drunk by being “filled” with alcohol until the amount that you consume has you under its influence. This is not a casual drink that is in moderation. This is in excess to where you become drunk. So what is he saying about our life in the Spirit? Paul says that instead of getting drunk with wine, let us have the same insatiable appetite for the guidance and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. When we meditate, read, pray and commune with the Holy Spirit enough, which is more than a casual occurrence of reading a few verses of scriptures, we will begin to be “filled” or under the influence of the Holy Spirit’s leading in our daily living. It is interesting, the tense is not a “one time” filling, but actually means “be filled and keep on being filled.” You do not get drunk on wine once for the rest of your life. The effect of the wine soon dissipates. To continually be drunk you have to continually drink the wine. Although the Holy Spirit does not leave us, in order to stay “filled” or influenced by the Holy Spirit, we need to continually stay in communication and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

In Romans 8:5-9 Paul shares that we need to let our mind be controlled (the ultimate influence) by the Holy Spirit.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

18. One way that the Holy Spirit influences us is to convict us of sin and prompt us to repent and do good. In John 16:7-15, it says:

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

According to this passage what does the Holy Spirit convict Christians of?

The Holy Spirit does this by guiding us into what? _____

The Holy Spirit Helps Us With Our Weaknesses

19. In Romans 8:26-27 Paul shares:

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. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

How the Holy Spirit helps us with problems that we are having?

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Overcome Sin

The Holy Spirit helps us with overcoming sin. In Romans Paul shares that we need to be led by the Holy Spirit to help us die to sin. In Romans 8:13 Paul writes:

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Paul, in Galatians 5:16-17, encourages us to live by the Spirit or to be in subjection to the Spirit. He writes:

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.

According to this passage how can we overcome our sinful nature? _____

20. In Ezekiel 36:24-29 we see God telling the children of Israel a fantastic promise. He writes:

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness.

According to this passage God will cleanse us and give us what? _____

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Competent For Ministry

The purpose of this book is to help you with your mission in life. In particular in this section we are writing about the fact that every Christian is called to be a minister of Jesus Christ. How does God equip this vast volunteer corps of believers for service? How could we all get the training and ability to be competent for ministry?

21. Paul writes in II Corinthians 3:5-6:

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 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.

According to this passage where does our competence for ministry come from?

The Holy Spirit makes us competent for serving Christ. God chooses to be omnipresent through the person of the Holy Spirit and act in each of our lives to equip us for ministry.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Become A Bold Witness

The Holy Spirit equips us to speak on behalf of God. God wants to communicate His love and mercy and chooses to use you and I as His messengers.

22. Read Luke 12:11-12:

When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.

According to what Luke wrote what will the Holy Spirit do? _____

23. In Acts 1:8 it says:

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 Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

What does this passage say the Holy spirit will do with us? _____

In Acts we see the new church begin. It was not in their own efforts that they were so effective. Instead, it was the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus said in the previous verse, that gave them power and the ability to speak boldly for Christ. Acts 4:31 says:

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

In I Corinthians 2: 1-5 Paul shares that it is the Holy Spirit that gives us the ability to effectively share the word of God. He uses himself as an example.

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Paul continues in I Corinthians 2:10-13:

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 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. 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.

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us For Service

In the Old Testament there is an interesting passage in Zechariah. An angel came to Zechariah and shared with him about a vision. When the angel came to one part of the vision, the angel asked Zechariah if he knew what it meant. Zechariah said "no". The angel proceeded to tell him that the vision was a message to Zerubbabel who was going to lead the Jews in the rebuilding of the Temple.

23. In Zechariah 4:6 the author writes:

So he (the angel) said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

What does this passage mean? _____

This word from the angel is very insightful to our own ministry. When we step out for God and move into a ministry that we feel He has "called" us to, we need to

realize that ministry, even if it is washing dishes, is a Spiritual task. It is in God's domain. We need to understand and depend on the fact that it is not our own power, wisdom, talent or might that is going to achieve God's agenda. Our abilities and tasks may help, they certainly are the part that God wants us to contribute, but the ultimate result is because of God. He is the one behind any good that comes out of a ministry that we embark on. In Matthew 12:28 Jesus was sharing with those that accused Him of being of the Devil. He made it clear that He cast out demons in the power of the Holy Spirit, not any other power. He said:

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

In Luke 24 Jesus is getting ready to leave the disciples. Here He tells them that they will be witnesses through what God promised them, that is the Holy Spirit and that they were to stay in town until the Holy Spirit gives them power. It was in God's plans from the beginning that the Holy Spirit would be the agent of God's power to His servants.

I am going to send you what my Father has promised (the Holy Spirit); but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (of the Holy Spirit) from on high.

24. Acts 9:31 says:

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

What did the Holy Spirit do to the church? _____

In Acts we see that the Holy Spirit was active in strengthening and encouraging the church and helping it grow. Is this what we pray for our church? God, who is the "same yesterday, today and forever", is active today ready to strengthen and encourage us, too.

Paul talks about God ministering through him in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what we desire. We want to see God use us and work through us. In Romans 15:17-19 Paul writes:

Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to

speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit.

Again Paul prays in Ephesians 3:16 that God would empower the church in Ephesus. Might we pray this for our own ministry:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit In Our Life

In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul writes the church and tells them that God wants to work in their lives to produce fruit. Jesus once cursed an olive tree. The disciples had not eaten all day and there was an olive tree in the distance. It was not the season for fruit but by all appearances this tree was loaded with fruit. As they approached the tree, even though it appeared to be in season, it was barren. Jesus used this as an illustration of having the outward appearance of fruit, but no real substance. We can go to church, go to group Bible Studies, but if there is not the fruit of the Spirit in our life then we are like what James said “faith without works is dead.”

What is spiritual fruit? It is our outward evidence of the inward life of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:22 Paul writes:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We are emotional beings. Ministry is emotional. Dealing with people and Spiritual warfare can get intense. Not only does the Holy Spirit give us power and make us competent for ministry, He also helps us emotionally.

25. Look at Romans 15:13:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

What will the Holy Spirit fill us with? _____

Part of the job of the Holy Spirit is to work with our inner person to give us joy, hope, peace and love.

Paul shares that God’s Kingdom has a different value system than the world’s. The world says that happiness in life is going after physical gratification. It is giving in to lust, greed and selfishness. Instead, God’s kingdom is about true happiness and

satisfaction that comes from living with the Holy Spirit guiding our life. In Romans 14:17-18 Paul writes:

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

26. In this passage what three things does the Holy Spirit give us? _____

What about love? We always say that Jesus loves us, but did you know that Paul shares about the love of the Holy Spirit? In Romans 15:30 Paul writes:

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Have you ever thanked God for that love?

Is the Fruit of the Spirit Growing In Your Life?

When we consider God equipping us for ministry, what better way than His Spirit producing in our life, the qualities we need for effective ministry? The Holy Spirit works in our life to produce what Paul calls the Fruit of the Spirit. These are love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control. It is through the living out of these attributes that God ministers to those around us. We are vehicle of God's Holy Spirit. When we yield our lives to God He then produces in us a life that He can use as a witness of who He is. You can tell a tree by the fruit that it produces. Likewise people will know about Jesus by the way we live out the fruit of the Spirit.

Take a look at the Fruit of the Spirit Inventory on the next page.

Fruit of the Spirit Inventory

Look at the list of the fruit of the Spirit and indicate by a number 1-5, how you feel you are experiencing each particular fruit in you life right now. (1 = not experiencing this particular fruit of the Spirit in my life right now, 5 = I am really experiencing this particular fruit of the Spirit in my life right now.)

Love - Are you being led by the Spirit in reaching out to others in a loving manner? How do you treat your family and those around you? Are you self sacrificing, preferring others over yourself?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Joy - Is the Holy Spirit producing a real joy in your heart that spills into the life you live? Do you choose joy over worry? Do you rejoice in God's presence in your life?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Peace - Is your life full of peace in spite of your circumstances? Are you trusting God and not fearful about your circumstances? Do you experience the peace of God that passes all our understanding?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Patience - Do you accept interruptions and delays with grace and peace? Do you see God's larger plan at work in your circumstances? Do you surrender to God when things don't go your way?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Kindness - Is your first inclination to be kind to others? Do you seem to go out of your way to put others first? Are you sensitive to the needs of others?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Goodness - Is your behavior of a high moral standard? Are you living a pure life that is honoring to God?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Faithfulness - Are you a person of your word? Do you follow through on what you start? Can others count on you? Do you give your commitments 100%?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Gentleness - Are you quick to listen and slow to act and speak? Do you have of your anger? Are you healthily assertive yet non-aggressive in your relationships? Are you meek in your approach to others?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Self-control - Do you have mastery over your behavior? Do you exercise discipline in your life? Are you free from addictions and uncontrollable behavior?

Circle where you are 1 2 3 4 5

Spiritual Health Survey

In order to make Spiritual adjustments in our life it is good to stop and take an inventory of our current Spiritual experience. Please look at the five purposes we studies in the Purpose Driven Life and circle the letter of the answer that describes your current experience.

Fellowship

I am involved in a life group on regular basis

Regular (1 - 2 times a month) *Sometimes (5—10 times a year)*

Seldom (1 - 4 times a year) *Not at this time*

I have close circle of Christian friends where we pray, support and care for each other

Yes *Not currently*

I belong to a ministry in which I have close friends

Yes *Not currently*

Serving Christ

I am involved in a ministry

Yes, on a regular basis *Often* *Occasionally* *Seldom*

Not at this time

I volunteer when needed for extra duties at church

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *No*

I meet the needs of the needy when called upon

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *Not at this time*

Sharing Christ

I invite people to church activities

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I share literature and other witnessing tools with people outside the church

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I share my own testimony of God's active role in my life with others

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I share the gospel message with those that do not know it

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I have led someone to the Lord in the last two years

Yes *No*

Worship—Knowing Christ

I come prepared to meet God on Sunday mornings

Regular (2 - 4 times a month) *sometimes (5—10 times a year)* *seldom (1 - 4 times a year)* *Not at this time*

I listen to Godly music throughout the week

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I keep a joyful Spirit of praise

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I tell God how much I love Him

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

Growing in Christ

I have a devotional time

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I spend time in prayer for the needs of my family and myself

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I pray for this church and it's many activities

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I participate in a Bible study

Yes, regular basis *Often* *Sometimes* *Seldom* *No*

I listen to Christian preachers via radio, TV or tapes
 Yes, regular basis Often Sometimes Seldom No

I read Christian literature
 Yes, regular basis Often Sometimes Seldom No

I keep my conscious clear by confessing sin when needed
 Yes, regular basis Often Sometimes Seldom No

I have accepted Christ's full forgiveness and unconditional love
 Yes No

The Holy Spirit Gives Each Of Us At Least One Spiritual Gift

God has created you and I to serve Him through the use of what the Bible calls Spiritual Gifts. God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift. In I Corinthians 12:11 Paul writes:

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He (the Holy Spirit) gives them to each one, just as he determines.

The Spiritual Gifts play a large part in God equipping us for service. He does this through giving each of us at least one Spiritual Gift to use for serving Him. In the next chapter we will discover about the spiritual Gifts God has given us.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well and lives within each of us who claim the name of Christ. Go over this booklet again. Let God speak to your heart and help you make the presence of the Holy Spirit a conscious aspect of your everyday living,

For more on Spiritual Gifts go to www.layministry.com and download your free copy of [Understanding My Spiritual Gifts](#).

Pray For A Deeper Relationship With The Holy Spirit

Has this workbook peaked your curiosity? Have your eyes been opened to a deeper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit? If so we are glad. We are missing out of God's perfect plan for our life when we ignore the third part of the Triune God. If you desire to know more and to rely more upon the guidance and filling of the Holy Spirit then pray this prayer:

Dear Holy Spirit of God, I thank you that you took residence in my heart when I became a Christian. Please make me more aware of your power in my life. I surrender to your leading and guidance. I thank you for your help, nurturing, training and interceding on my behalf. I desire to know more about you and invite you to fill by very being. I desire to be under your complete control. Guide me into all truth and teach me to live the Christian life. Amen