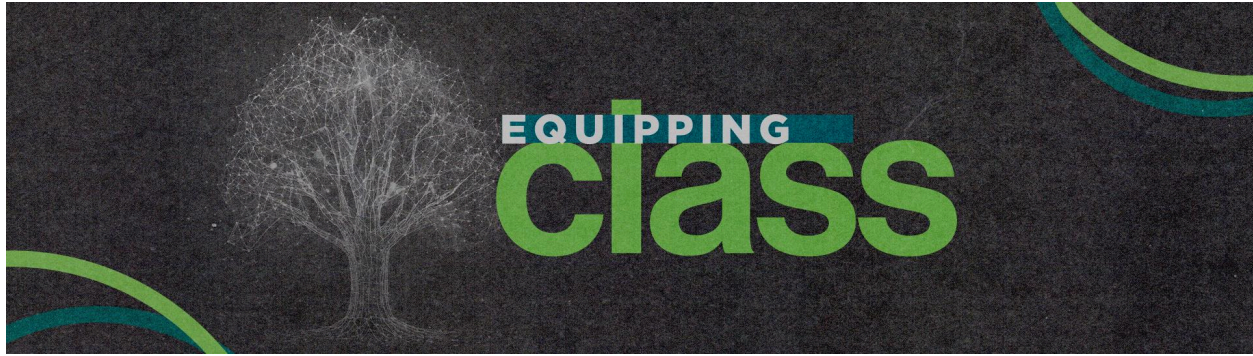




The Holy Spirit: Staying in the Flow

Jack Hawkins | September 20, 2026

Your idea of Christianity comes down to two words: Try harder.

Where are you most tempted to live your Christian life by trying harder rather than depending on God?

Matthew 5:21-22

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:27-28

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:38-41

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

Matthew 5:43-44

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Acts 1:8-9

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."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Romans 8:5-6

Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

2 Corinthians 3:17

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

John 14:26

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.

Romans 5:5

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

"When you flourish, you become more you. You become more that person God had in mind when he thought you up. You don't just become holier. You become you-ier."

*John Ortberg, *The Me I Want to Be**

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Ephesians 5:18-19

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Filled- *plēróō*: to make replete, that is, (literally) to cram (a net)

1. We are leaky

Galatians 5:19-25

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4, 7-10 NIV

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.”

Fruit = *karpós*: that which originates or comes from something, an effect, result

Gift= *Charisma*: a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own

“When life bumps into you, what tends to spill out?” John Ortberg
What would you like to spill out instead?

2. There are people in our life that need to be leaked on

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.

Overflow — *perisseuein* — means to “overflow” or “abound” with life.

What is one practical thing you could do this week to stay more closely connected to God? Not something you need to “try harder” to accomplish—but something that helps you stay connected to the Source.

Announcements:

- Sunday 9/27 - No class next week
- Sunday 10/4 at 9:00 am. **Overcoming Life-Controlling Strongholds** presented by our Care Ministry team.
- **Tuesday 10/6-10/20** evening Equipping class begins with Joe Infranco. **The Rise and Fall of Nations: How Faith Shapes Cultures** meets at 6:30 - 8:00pm in Student Building Room A.
- **Saturday 10/10** Faith at Work Breakfast series. **Customer Service in the Age of AI: Pros and Cons** meets from 8:00-9:30am. Full breakfast served. Registration required.
- Sunday 10/11 - Viewpoint with Joe Infranco and Ed Lutz - **Faith Informed Voting**. 9:00am **only** in Student Building Room B
- Beginning **November 1**, the Equipping classes on Sunday mornings will move to **9:30am** in Student Building Room B