

Week 3

An Empowered Journey: The Holy Spirit

You're not left to follow Jesus in your own strength. The Spirit lives in you, gifts you, and empowers a life you couldn't produce alone.

Day 1 — Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Optional Reading: Genesis 1 • John 14 • 2 Corinthians 3 • John 16 • Acts 1 • 2 Tim 1 • Romans 8 • Eph 6

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit — the Father will send him in my name — will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” (John 14:26)

The Spirit isn't a force or a feeling — he's a person, the third member of the Trinity, sent to be present with you in a way Jesus, in a physical body, no longer could be after His resurrection.

Understanding the Spirit as a constantly present person dwelling within you, not an impersonal power, changes how you relate to him: you can grieve him, listen to him, and walk with him.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 1:2. What was “hovering over the waters” in the beginning?

2. Read John 14:16. What title does Jesus use for the Spirit in this verse? *(Think about that in context of Gen 1:2.)*

3. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17. What does this verse say is present wherever the Spirit of the Lord is?

4. Read John 16:13. What title is given to the Spirit at the start of this verse?

5. Read Acts 1:8. What will the disciples receive, and what will they be, according to this verse?

6. Read 2 Tim 1:7. According to this verse, what has God given us? What has he not given us?

7. Read Romans 8:26. According to this verse, what does the Spirit do for you specifically when you don't know how to pray? What does that imply of the Spirit's knowledge, understanding, and intimacy with you?

8. Read Eph 6:10-18. What is the offensive weapon God provided for our spiritual battles? How are we to use it? Should we wait for attacks to utilize this weapon?

Reflect: *Have you thought of the Holy Spirit more as a person to relate to, or a force to access? Why?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 2 — Filled, Not Just Indwelt

Optional Reading: Luke 4 • Acts 4 • Acts 13 • Galatians 5 • Ephesians 5 • 1 Corinthians 6 • 1 Kings 8 • John 2

“And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

Every believer has the Spirit; not every believer is walking in step with him day to day. The command to “be filled” is present tense — ongoing, repeated, not a one-time event you can check off.

Being filled looks like continually yielding control rather than continually asking for more of what you already have.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Luke 4:1. What is said about Jesus in relation to the Spirit at the start of this verse?

2. Read Luke 4:14. How did Jesus return to Galilee? What happened prior to his return? Re-read 4:1.

3. Read Acts 4:31. What led to the events that occurred? What events occurred?

4. Read Acts 13:2-5. What does the Holy Spirit direct us toward?

5. Read Galatians 5:22. According to this verse, what are fruits of the Spirit?

6. Read Ephesians 5:1-21. What are the characteristics of those walking in light?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19. What does this verse call your body?

8. Read 1 Kings 8:10-11 and John 2:19-21. What do you learn about God and His temple in these verses?
(additional reading if desired: Isa 56:7, Isa 1:11-17, Jer 7-11, John 2:13-17)

Reflect: *What would it look like this week to actively yield control to the Spirit rather than just assume his presence?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 3 — Discovering Your Gifts

Optional Reading: Exodus 31 • Romans 12 • 1 Corinthians 12 • Ephesians 4 • 1 Peter 4

“A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Spiritual gifts aren't given for personal status — they're given so the whole church benefits. Discovering yours usually happens less through a quiz and more through serving, realizing where you are impactful, and alive. Furthermore, our gifts aren't often perfected when we start realizing where we are gifted — but God will continue to grow you into your gift through service.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Exodus 31:1-6. What did God fill Bezalel with? What was “it” to be used for?

2. Read Romans 12:6–8. List the gifts named in these verses.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4. What does this verse say about everyone having the same gifts?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. What is the stated purpose of the Spirit's manifestation in each person? What does this mean?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12. What comparison is made between the body and Christ in this verse?

6. Read Ephesians 4:12. List the purposes given for these gifts in this verse.

7. Read 1 Peter 4:10. What are believers called, as they use their gifts to serve others?

8. Read 1 Peter 4:11. Whose strength does this verse say to serve with?

Reflect: *Where have others told you that you're helpful, encouraging, or effective? That's often a clue to a gift. If you are not serving now, ask where can you apply these gifts.*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 4 — Fruit vs. Gifts

Optional Reading: Matthew 7 • John 15 • 1 Corinthians 13 • Galatians 5 • James 3 • 2 Peter 1

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22–23)

Gifts are abilities given to some believers for specific roles. Fruit is character meant to grow in every believer, regardless of gifting. It's possible to have an impressive gift and very little fruit — Scripture takes that mismatch seriously.

Character always matters more than capability. Growth in fruit is never optional, even if a specific gift isn't yours.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Matthew 7:16. According to this verse, how will you recognize people?

2. Read John 15:2. What does this verse say the gardener does to a branch that bears no fruit, and to one that does? What is the purpose of pruning?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:2-3. What does Paul say he is, even with his gifts, if he does not have love? What does this mean when comparing gifts and fruit?

4. Read Galatians 5:19–21. List at least five “acts of the flesh” named in these verses.

5. Read Galatians 5:22–23. List all nine fruits of the Spirit named in these verses.

6. Read James 3:17. List the qualities of wisdom “from heaven” named in this verse.

7. Read 2 Peter 1:5–7. List, in order, the qualities Peter says to add to your faith.

8. Read 2 Peter 1:8. What will the qualities in verse 5-7 keep you from? What is the measure of qualities – what does that mean?

Reflect: Which fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, and so on — do you most need to grow in right now?

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 5 — Walking in Step with the Spirit

Optional Reading: Psalm 143 • Isaiah 30 • Acts 10 • Romans 8 • 1 Corinthians 2 • Acts 16

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

We tend to imagine obedience as something that shows up in the big moments – the job change, the calling, the crisis. But the Spirit rarely announces Himself that way. He shows up in the small nudge mid-conversation, the quiet check in on your conscience, the decision no one will ever know you made. Ignore those enough times and they go silent. Follow them enough times, and you become someone who can be trusted in the times of increasing significance.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 143:10. What does the psalmist ask God to teach him. Where does he ask the Spirit to lead?

2. Read Isaiah 30:21. What words does this verse say you will hear behind you?

3. Read Acts 10:19–20. What does the Spirit tell Peter to do in these verses? How is Peter to act?

4. Read Romans 8:14. According to this verse, who are the children of God?

5. Read Romans 8:16. What does this verse say the Spirit testifies with our spirit?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 2:13. If we want to understand what God has given us, what must we do?

7. Read Acts 16:6-10. How many times does Paul try to go somewhere and is redirected?

8. Read Acts 16:10. What do the verses tell us about giving up when we know we are called to do something, but we are met with challenges? How does this align with “walking in the Spirit?”

Reflect: *Has the Spirit nudged you toward something recently that you haven't acted on yet?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Memorization: What verse this week impacted you in a way that you should commit it to memory?
