



Discipleship By Design

WorkBook 1
The Holy Spirit Filled Life

CORE Discipleship is a faith-based, Christian organization. Our mission is to help you make disciples of Jesus. We provide a simple and reproducible discipleship process based on Jesus' "inner circle" or "core" comprised of Peter, James, and John. We also provide discipleship training and free discipleship resources as free downloadable eBooks.

Just like you, Father God is using the many events and circumstances of life's journey to mold and shape me into the person He desires. Occasionally, I've cooperated completely. It's in those rare moments when something extraordinary takes place - Heaven touches earth, mountains are moved, a part of me is transformed.

Through His infinite patience and unfathomable love I am learning to become the man He created me to be. As I daily surrender my life to Him through His precious Holy Spirit, I see more clearly life eternal.

My hope and prayer for you are that you too will discover God's purpose and become exactly what He has planned for you all along - His son or daughter.

May God grant that we become His disciples by His grace,

Doug Morrell

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Doug is a seasoned discipler and small group leader. Since graduating from Texas Tech University in 1984, he's worked in a dual capacity -- working within for-profit businesses around the country while also serving the church in various pastoral roles. Additionally, he and his wife Suzie are the founders/directors of CORE Discipleship, a ministry dedicated to making disciples who make disciples. Doug and Suzie have three children: Katheryn, Hannah, and Nathaniel.

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Holy Spirit Filled Living

It is through the infilling, empowering and guidance of the Holy Spirit that we discover the keys to growing spiritually and learn to serve others as we share that which has been entrusted to us.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14)

“But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?” (Romans 10:14, The Message)

HOLY SPIRIT FILLED DISCIPLESHIP:

At the outset, it is important that we understand some key concepts regarding the process of preserving and transmitting the gospel.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

- Holy Spirit Filled And Empowered Discipleship: the process of living as a disciple as we choose to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment.
- Discipling: the Holy Spirit empowered process of helping another believer become a worker in the harvest fields of the world; then continuing in that commitment and reproducing it in the life of another until Christ is fully formed in them.
- Disciple: a committed follower of Jesus Christ, one possessed by the Holy Spirit and who is willing to be a lifelong learner of the Lord.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is a process that will liberate you from all man-made dogmas, from every burden and oppression, from every anxiety and torture that afflicts your conscience. If you follow Jesus by His Holy Spirit, you will escape from the hard yoke of your own laws, and submit to the kindly yoke of Jesus Christ.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

What does the call of Holy Spirit empowered discipleship mean today to the retail store clerk, the truck driver, the business executive, or the single parent of three children? What happens if we answer the call to this radical process of discipleship? Where will this lead us? What will it cost? Only Christ knows, for it is Him who first must bid come.

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*“Have nothing to do with
godless myths and old
wives’ tales; rather, train
yourself to be godly.”*

1 Timothy 4:7

We must remember that on two separate occasions the apostle Peter received the call from Jesus to, “Follow me.” It was the first and last statement Jesus spoke to this disciple (Mark 1:17; John 21:22). The first occasion was by the lake of Gennesareth, when Peter left his nets and his trade and followed Jesus at His Word. The second occasion is when the Risen Lord finds him back again at his old work. Once again it is by the lake of Gennesareth, and a whole life of discipleship in the following of Christ. Halfway between them comes Peter’s confession, when he acknowledged Jesus as the Christ of God. Three times Peter hears the same proclamation that Christ is his Lord and God - at the beginning, at the end, and at Caesarea Philippi.

Likewise, for those who are in Christ Jesus, we are continuously being formed, conformed and transformed into the image of Jesus. We are being molded into the very likeness, taking on the character of Jesus Himself, as we accept by faith through grace His purpose for us. The goal of Holy Spirit filled discipleship is that: “Christ be formed in you,” (Galatians 4:19). As well, “Those whom [God] foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son” (Rom. 8:29). And, “All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image” (2 Cor. 3:18).



“Therefore I urge you to imitate me.” (1 Cor. 4:16)

Paul told the Corinthians to imitate his life. He was able to make this statement because he walked close to God, spent time in God’s Word and in prayer, and was aware of God’s presence in his life at all times. God was Paul’s example; therefore, Paul’s life could be an example to other Christians. Paul wasn’t expecting others to imitate everything he did, but they were encouraged to imitate those aspects of his beliefs and conduct that modeled Christ’s way of living.

“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” (Heb. 6:12)

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Heb. 13:7)

“Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.” (3 John 1:11).

If you are a Christian, you owe much to others who have taught you and model for you what you need to know about the gospel and Christian living. Continue following the good examples of those who have invested themselves in you by investing your life through evangelism, service, and Christian education.

God uses our common, everyday life to form His character in us. One

particular teacher calls what we do in the church “the kitchen of Christianity.” It is there that we develop our understanding, shaping and molding the dough of our life in preparation for the remaining week to follow. The truth of the matter is that what we do in the church on Sunday, though critically important, is not what proves out our witness. Our character is shaped and honed as we go through life. Patience is patterned as we stand in the checkout line. Perseverance is taught when we seek out a new job. Love is learned as we see and meet the needs of others. Regardless of station, whether it is in an office or in the field, our work becomes the foundation from which our Lord builds our character.



“The prompting of the Holy Spirit is the gateway to discovery.”

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” (James 1:2-3)

Daily experiences become the platform for Holy Spirit filled discipleship. This process teaches us the value of character. Punctuality, timeliness, and obedience are items learned as we go through life.

BOOK 1: THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

Jesus is our model of the Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered life (Acts 10:38). The activity of the Holy Spirit is evident at every phase of the life and ministry of Jesus. It was by the power of the Spirit that Jesus was conceived in Mary’s womb (Mth. 1:18, 20). Before Jesus began His public ministry, He was filled with the Spirit of God (Mth. 3:16), and followed the Spirit’s leading into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil as further preparation for His messianic role (Mth. 4:1). The power of the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to heal (Mth. 12:15-21) and to cast out demons (Mth. 28:16-20). Disciples are commanded to go and make disciples of all nations, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mth. 28:19). In other words, we are to baptize them into the name - the authority - of the triune God. As we obey this commission, His Holy Spirit assures us of His ongoing presence with us. Likewise, the Bible declares to all generations, “Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18) for “as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14).

“And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the One who draws us to Christ, convicts us of sin, enables us to accept Christ as our personal Savior, assures us of salvation, enables us to live the victorious life, opens our eyes to the truth contained in the Bible, prays alongside us according to God’s will for us, empowers us in our witness, worship and warfare, and enables us to build lasting interpersonal relationships as God desires.



*“It was he who gave
some to be apostles,
some to be prophets,
some to be evangelists,
and some to be pastors
and teachers, to prepare
God’s people for works of
service, so that the body
of Christ may be built up
until we all reach unity
in the faith and in the
knowledge of the Son of
God and become mature,
attaining to the whole
measure of the fullness of
Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11-13

We become Christians through the work of the Holy Spirit. He brings new life; even our faith to believe is a gift from Him (“gift” in the Greek is “charisma” also uses in Rom. 1:11; 6:23; 12:6; 1 Cor. 1:7; 12:4, 9; 12:28; 12:30, 31; 2 Cor. 1:11; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; 1 Pet. 4:10).

The Holy Spirit instructs, guides, leads, and gives us power. He ends our bondage to evil desires, and He creates in us love, joy, peace, and many other wonderful changes.

When we choose to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, He produces His fruit in us. Just as we are saved by faith, not deeds, we also grow by faith. By believing and choosing to obey Christ by following the Holy Spirit’s leading, we can be empowered by the Holy Spirit within us, helping us live for Christ.

Our salvation - when we accepted Jesus as Savior, Lord and Master of our lives - is based on the acceptance of God’s unmerited grace and we then continue to become individually unique expressions of Christ, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or acts of service on our part. In truth, we receive “the promise of the Spirit” (Acts 2:38, 39) in the exact same manner we received our initial salvation through Christ Jesus.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that our Christian lives, which began with faith in Christ and Him crucified and were certified by the gift of the Holy Spirit, are altogether apart from the Law. The assertion is clear; we began our Christian lives by the Holy Spirit (salvation), we continue to be changed by the Holy Spirit (sanctification), and we will be glorified by the Holy Spirit (glorification). The point is that the same Spirit who regenerated us causes our new life to grow. It is only by the Holy Spirit, when we deliberately choose to submit to His control and actively walk in Him, that He can enable us to die to the flesh (Gal. 5:16, 17), deliver us from the tyranny of the Law (Gal. 5:18), and cause the fruit of holiness to grow in our lives (Gal. 5:22, 23).

Regarding the process of salvation, Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote:

“And first, let me start by asserting that THE COMMENCEMENT OF SALVATION IS THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK. Salvation is not begun in the soul by the means of grace apart from the Holy Spirit. No man in the world is at liberty to neglect the means that God has appointed. If a house be builded for prayer, that man must expect no blessing who neglects to tread its floor. If a pulpit be erected for the ministration of the Word, no man must expect (although we do sometimes get more than we expect) to be saved except by the hearing of the Word. If the Bible be printed in our own native language, and we can read it, he who neglecteth Holy Scripture and ceaseth from its study, has lost one great and grand opportunity of being blessed. There are many means of grace, and let us speak as highly of them as ever we

can; we would be far from depreciating them; they are of the highest value; blessed are the people who have them; happy is the nation which is blessed with the means of grace. But my brethren, no man was ever saved by the means of grace apart from the Holy Spirit.”

You are a Christian if the Holy Spirit of God is living in you. If you have sincerely trusted Christ for your salvation and acknowledged Him as Lord, then the Holy Spirit has come into your life, and you are a Christian. You won't know that the Holy Spirit has come if you are waiting for a certain feeling; you will know He has come because Jesus promised He would. When the Holy Spirit is working within you, you will believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that eternal life comes through Him (1 John 5:5); you will begin to act as Christ directs (Rom. 8:5; Gal. 5:22, 23); you will find help in your daily problems and in your praying (Rom. 8:26, 27); you will be empowered to serve God and do His will (Acts 1:8; Rom. 12:6); and you will become part of God's plan to build up His church (Eph. 4:12, 13).

As the Holy Spirit leads you, He produces His fruit in us. Just as we are saved by faith, not deeds, we also grow in faith. By believing, we can have the Holy Spirit within us, helping us live for Christ. We are obeying Christ only as we follow the Holy Spirit's leading and this is a deliberate, conscious, moment-by-moment decision we must make.

The Bible reveals that the Person of the Holy Spirit has been the primary agent in the entire ministry of the Word from the very beginning. The Apostle John demonstrated that the Spirit's role encompasses every facet of our lives. In regard to unbelievers, He works as the agent who convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11). The experience of being "born of the Spirit" is descriptive of New Birth (John 3:6). Because God is Spirit, those who worship Him must do so spiritually as directed and unmotivated by the Holy Spirit (John 4:24). Additionally, it is the Spirit who is the divine enabler for all true, authoritative ministries (John 20:21-23).

The Spirit does not draw attention to Himself nor does He speak in His own authority. In truth, His mission is to glorify Jesus and to declare Christ's teaching to His disciples (John 16:14). The Bible teaches that the function of the Holy Spirit is to continue the work Jesus began, to lead believers into an understanding of the meanings, implications, and imperatives of the gospel, and enable us to do even "greater works" than those done by Jesus (John 14:12).

The Holy Spirit filled and empowered life is not our trying to live like Christ, it is not our trying to be Christ-like, and it is not Christ giving us the power to live a life like His. It is simply Christ indwelling us, living His life again through us by His Holy Spirit. That life was designed to be lived out in our everyday, normal, seemingly unspiritual lives and the most evident and pointed measure of our walking in the



“We are obeying Christ only as we follow the Holy Spirit's leading and this is a deliberate, conscious, moment-by-moment decision we must make.”



*“If anyone comes to me
and does not hate his fa-
ther and mother, his wife
and children, his brothers
and sisters--yes, even his
own life--he cannot be my
disciple.”*

Luke 14:26

Spirit can largely be measured in the most uneventful places - our homes. Home is the most pointed evidence and laboratory displaying in truth whether or not the power of the life of Christ is really being manifest. Is your home life the same as your church life? Would your spouse, children or closest friend agree? Holy Spirit filled living is lived out first in the home.

We must understand and accept that Christianity is 100 percent spiritual, it is a process, and that our Christian journey will never make sense if we do not realize that what God began in the Spirit, we can no less finish without Him. It is only through His Spirit that we can understand and apply God’s Word and purpose to become more effective, intimate, and authoritative in our witness, worship and warfare.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Discipleship By Design is not a program nor a Bible school philosophy whose primary focus is imparting knowledge through the classroom. Knowledge is only one of the nine elements listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7 of growing in grace and the divine nature. Character cannot be developed in the classroom. It must be “worked out” in the real world since people learn and retain more by action than just by listening.

The Lord not only verbally instructed His disciples, but He also modeled for them what He taught. By demonstrating Kingdom principles He built an experiential base in their lives. He taught them to do the same then moved them through a confidence and wisdom-building process toward ministry release.

Discipleship By Design uses a similar approach in developing Kingdom character traits in each believer. The model is based on the principles found in God’s Word.

Value Of Discipleship By Design

- Development of released disciplers.
- Commissioned ministers.
- Development of a Biblical “world view” of God’s plan in the earth.
- Character assessment and development.
- Equipping with Kingdom principles.
- Hands-on experience and discipleship.

The Course

The course is made up of five books. Work through the material at a pace arranged by the Group Discipler (usually one session per week). The purpose of the process is threefold:

1. Enhance the growth of new or immature Christians into mature disciples.
2. Equip disciples to disciple others.
3. To learn to be Holy Spirit led and empowered in all aspects of

ministry.

Spiritual Reproduction

At the beginning and throughout Book One the Group Discipler will challenge each disciple to begin to reach out to a new or immature Christian that he or she knows, to continue the process of multiplication. You will then be reproducing your discipling in a second generation. The purpose of the course is to make disciples who can make disciples.

HOW TO BEGIN

Discipleship By Design is not a replacement of any of your current processes, programs, or ministries; it is an enhancement to your existing curriculum.

Preferably, your Group Disciplers are those who have come through the process. They are the ones who will eventually be used in leadership. This entire process is based on the team approach modeled by Jesus' team. Some practical considerations for integration into your Church:

1. Don't move too quickly! A slower pace is better. You're building for the future and a process takes time. Remember, the strength and the quality of the foundation determines the strength and quality of everything built upon it. Build to last!
2. Begin by discipling a small group of your most teachable and committed people. Don't draw a lot of attention to the new process. Remember, it's the results that count.
3. Become purpose oriented. Discover your passion and direct your efforts toward that end. Not only will purpose keep you on track, it will help you steer clear of wasted efforts. Teach on purpose. Preach on purpose. Sing on purpose. Disciple by purpose. Build on purpose. Grow on purpose. Work with your core leadership and define your purpose and goals to get there. That's what Discipleship By Design is all about.
4. Recruit your newly trained disciples as Group Disciplers for new groups. You'll be well on your way!



“Nothing should be placed above a total commitment to living for Jesus.”

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

The internet is a great tool for sending and receiving all kinds of information. For instance, if you know the web or the e-mail address of someone you want to communicate with, you simply type in their address and zip, you're communicating. What a godsend!



“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38, 39

In the same way, wouldn't it be great to receive a daily e-mail from God? You know, log on, take another sip of coffee, sit back and digest God's specific plan for you each day; what to do, where to go, who to see, and the timing of each activity. Now wouldn't that change your life? God has a better plan — it's called direct access.

God is communicating, but most of us don't know the location of His “home page.” Usually, we're on the wrong channel and end up thinking we've heard from Him only to discover later that we missed Him entirely after the damage is done. But what if there was a way to “tune-in” to the right address? A way that could greatly reduce the anxiety, pressure, worry, financial disaster, fear, panic, depression, concern, and the post-collision-traumatized-spirit-syndrome so many of us face when we miss hearing from God?

We all make mistakes, some minor, some major. But we also know what it's like to connect on a few incoming messages from our Father and have watched His plan successfully unfold right before our eyes. We've also seen some very sincere believers make debilitating mistakes thinking they've heard from God only to smack head-on with some disastrous situation — all because they thought they were being “led by God.” To illustrate, here are three true, hauntingly familiar stories from Christians who thought they heard from God, but in fact, had missed Him entirely. See if you can identify with any one of them.

On a Mission: Jack came from a long-line of pastors and had recently graduated from seminary. For as long as he could remember, he had been told that he would become a great pastor, too. So, to get the ball rolling, he felt led to join an overseas missionary effort. One month into this four-month mission, he was absolutely miserable, packed his bags, and headed back to the U.S. feeling he had missed God entirely.

Doing Good Deeds: The Pregnancy Counseling Center provided young, unwed mothers with an alternative to abortion. But their equipment was anything but state-of-the-art. Jane Anne, one of the Center's longtime volunteers, felt led to create a fundraiser where all the proceeds would be given to the Center. She contacted an internationally recognized Christian songwriter to headline the event. He agreed because he believed in their sincerity and even reduced his fee substantially if the group would simply pay for his plane fare. Several other talented local Christian artists volunteered their time and resources, too.

Then she and a handful of others began promoting the event — three weeks before the event was scheduled to take place. The outdoor amphitheater where the event was scheduled held 3,000 people. Just a handful of people showed up and the Center ended up paying out thousands of dollars to cover expenses. The young woman was humiliated and felt she had missed God entirely.



Launching A Business: A young Christian couple had been working in full-time ministry for years. One day a local restaurant came up for sale and they felt led to buy the business. Six months later the restaurant was for sale again. The young man was bitterly disappointed and financially devastated. He was fully convinced that he had heard from God. His wife reminded him of the question she posed the day they considered buying the restaurant; “Don’t you think you should at least go to work at a restaurant before we consider buying one?”

“God is communicating, but most of us don’t know the location of His “home page.”


All of us want to know God’s will and to be a blessing; it’s the heart of being a Christian. But do you ever find yourself doubting whether or not you’ve really heard from God? Or have you ever watched someone else jump into a project or mission, which you inherently know, is not in God’s will and destined for failure from the start? With so many voices out there competing for our attention and because there are so many major life-altering decisions to make, how can we begin to recognize God’s voice and exercise our spiritual muscles?

LET’S REVIEW:

1. In what ways does God speak to you?

2. “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27). What does this mean?

3. Do you have an experience similar to the stories illustrated here? Explain:



“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.”

Romans 8:5

The problem of living in the Spirit is not how to live, but how to keep living. It’s not hard to teach others how to live in the Spirit. It can be done in three easy steps: 1) Know what God says took place on the cross of Christ regarding you and your old man, your old nature, your human life. Consider it to be continually true for every day, every hour, and every moment of every day; 2) Yield, give over, lean back upon the mighty indwelling life of the Holy Spirit who has come to live in you and work through you; 3) Expect him to live his life through you and to do it without destroying your personality and without setting aside your activity. That is the whole process. But the problem does not lie in the beginning; it’s in the process.

To illustrate, babies have no problem taking their first step. The problem is in step number two, three, four and so on. Somewhere along the way they become distracted at mom or dad’s encouragement, the big yellow ball in the room, or something else and they quickly discover the floor.

This seems to be true of learning to walk in the Spirit, too.

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE ARE:

The Bible divides people into two categories — those who are controlled by their sinful natures, and those who follow after the Holy Spirit. All of us would be in the first category if Jesus hadn’t offered us a way out.

“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.” (Rom. 8:5)

Each day we must consciously choose to center our lives on God. We must use the Bible to discover God’s guidelines, and then follow them. In every perplexing situation we should ask ourselves, “What would Jesus want me to do?” Then, when the Holy Spirit points out the direction, we should do it eagerly. But how can we know beyond

a shadow of doubt that we've heard from God?

The Bible encourages us not to live according to the flesh, but to put to death the deeds of the body. Therefore, being "led by the Spirit of God" involves a daily, progressive putting to death of the sinful desires of our lower nature. While all Christians are in some ways being "led by the Spirit of God" there are ever increasing degrees of being led by the Spirit. Regardless of how long you have walked with God, there is always room for growth. As you are more fully led by the Holy Spirit, the more completely you will be obedient to God and become conformed to His holy standard.

You don't have to be mature to enter into the Kingdom of God or make sound choices, but you do have to be mature if you are to experience all of God's blessings for you now.

UNDERSTANDING OUR RESPONSES:

At the outset, we must understand and accept the truth that Christianity is 100 percent spiritual. God is Spirit. You were created a spirit, you have a soul, in a body. God's Word can be viewed on many planes - natural and spiritual - but, it is entirely a spiritual Word from a Spiritual God and can only be understood by the regenerated spirit of man. Predominantly, the Word of God has been interpreted and applied entirely through the obvious natural plane, even by those who profess to be born-again for they have not yet yielded their soul response to the control of the Holy Spirit. However, the Word of God can only be viewed, interpreted, understood, and applied as God intended on a spiritual plane. This can only be done through the Holy Spirit's instruction and guidance. We must simply agree with God's Word that though we received God's Holy Spirit upon our asking Jesus to come into our hearts, and even though our human spirit was regenerated in that instant, our souls - the overwhelming portion of what we think, believe and hold to be truth - is in need of being continually transformed. In truth the Bible tells us that we are not to be conformed to this world and its way of thinking, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:1, 2). We must grasp that our salvation is both an initial event and an ongoing experience - we were saved (justified), we are being saved (sanctified), and we will be saved (glorified). It is only as we accept this process as truth that we can begin to realize God's restorative plan. Otherwise, we will be continually frustrated.

To help understand our current dilemma, we must also understand what took place in the Garden. In man's fallen, unregenerate state, the spirit that is given to man is dead. This is what the Scripture means when it says man is "dead in trespasses and sins," (Eph 2:1). His spirit does not function as it should. Therefore the soul, which reflects like a mirror the activities of the spirit, reflects a dead and lifeless nature. This is what creates the intense, worldwide restlessness and competitiveness, survival of the fittest, the inability to be satisfied, the unend-



“As you are more fully led by the Holy Spirit, the more completely you will be obedient to God and become conformed to His holy standard.”



“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Romans 6:13, 14

ing search for answers that can never be found apart from God. It is all an expression of a wasted spirit, lying ruined within us because of the fall of man. But in the beginning as Adam came perfect from the hand of God, he was a lamp -- and a lamp that was lit -- alive in ways beyond anything that we can possibly imagine.

That is what the first Adam was. Now, in the fall, the Holy Spirit that dwelt in the human spirit of Adam was withdrawn, and the human spirit became darkened, chaotic, confused, unable to “hear” or “sense” God. In other words, it was lifeless and dead. As a result of Adam’s disobedience, he and every person born from that point forward can only be governed (controlled) by his soul, the highest part of his being, which can feel and touch and taste and reason and think, but it has no contact with anything of God or from God. It is “dead in trespasses and sins,” (Eph 2:1). We were all born that way - no exceptions. Every human being is a son or daughter of the first Adam by nature or descent.

But then something incredible happened; there came last Adam. Jesus Christ, born of, filled, led, empowered, and submitted entirely to and controlled by the life-giving Holy Spirit each and every moment of his entire life, now he indwells, by faith, our human spirits when we receive him, when we open up our life to him. He “regenerates” our human spirit (we become spiritually reborn or converted), and he is now, from that vantage point within us, beginning to impart life to our souls again, to recapture the mind (perceptual and conceptual knowledge), our emotions (what we feel) and our wills (what we choose) and to bring each of these areas back under the government, God-rule, or subjection to his Lordship. As such, we can begin to experience in our life, right now, the joy of being once again in right relationship with the God who made us. He is a life-giving Spirit, and he wants to impart his life to our whole being. This order is determined by God:



“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.” (1 Cor. 15:46)

First Adam (Adam): Romans 5:18 summarizes Paul’s teaching. One act of one man (first Adam) brought sin and its penalty of death upon the entire human race (all who have lived, are living, or will live; not by choice, but by descent). First Adam headed the old humanity characterized by self-rule, selfishness, sin and death.

Last Adam (Christ Jesus): The obedience of one Man (last Adam - Christ Jesus) counteracted the disobedient act of Adam and made righteousness and eternal life available for humankind; heads a new humanity characterized by righteousness and life. We all come under the consequences of first Adam’s choices by natural descent. However, we come under Christ Jesus’ obedience by faith. First Corinthians speak of Jesus as the first-fruits which are the first ripened part of the harvest, furnishing actual evidence that the entire harvest is on the way. According to Lev. 23:4-14, the first-

fruits in connection with the Passover were used to consecrate the coming harvest. Jesus died on the Passover, and his resurrection is a promise of our own resurrection.

In the “new way of the Spirit” found in the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit gives us power to obey God, a power the Law by itself can never provide. The Law is good, but it cannot empower us to obey it. We must agree that there will always remain a struggle with sin in the lives of each and every Christian believer (Rom. 6:12-16; 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:16, 17; 1 Pet. 2:11).

Some people try to earn their way to God by keeping a set of rules (obeying the Ten Commandments, attending church faithfully, or doing good deeds), but all they earn for their efforts is frustration and discouragement. However, because of Christ’s sacrifice, the way to God is already open, and we can become his children simply by putting our faith in him. No longer trying to reach God by keeping rules, we can become more and more like Jesus as we live with him day by day. We should let the Holy Spirit turn our eyes away from our own performance and toward Jesus. He will free us to serve him out of love and gratitude. This is living “in the new way of the Spirit.”

Keeping the rules, laws, and customs of Christianity will not save us. Even if we could keep our actions pure, we would still be doomed because our hearts and minds (souls) are perverse and rebellious. Like Paul, we can find no relief in the synagogue or church until we look to Jesus Christ himself for our soul’s salvation - which he gives us freely. When we do come to Jesus, we are flooded with relief and gratitude. Will we keep the rules any better? Most likely, but we will be motivated by love and gratitude, not by the desire to get God’s approval. We will not be merely submitting to an external code, but willingly and lovingly seeking to do God’s will.

In truth, the realization of sin through the tool of the Law makes us conscious (aware) of our spiritual death. The Law cannot deliver a person struggling with sin. Yes, the Law can enlighten our conscience, but it is powerless to produce holiness of life. You see, the fault is not in God’s Law - it is entirely spiritual - the fault is with the law of sin.

“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.” (Rom. 7:14)



“but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.” (Rom. 7:23)

The “law at work in the members of my body” is the sin deep within us even after we are “reborn.” This is our vulnerability to sin; it refers to everything within us that is more loyal to our old way of selfish living than to God.




“Keeping the rules, laws, and customs of Christianity will not save us. Even if we could keep our actions pure, we would still be doomed because our hearts and minds are perverse and rebellious.”

This inward struggle with sin was as real for Paul as it is for us. From Paul we learn what to do about it. Whenever Paul felt lost, he would return to the beginning of his spiritual life, remembering that he had already been freed by Jesus Christ. When you feel confused and overwhelmed by sin's appeal, follow Paul's example: thank God that he has given you freedom through Jesus Christ. Let the spiritual reality of Christ's Holy Spirit power lift you up to real victory over sin.

The fault is the indwelling depravity of our human nature, which rebels against God's laws. Paul declared himself to be "carnal," a creature of the flesh, sold under sin, in captivity to sin. The point needs to be made, throughout our lives, a conflict will go on between the new nature (regenerated spirit) and the old nature (unsaved soul), but there is a way to victory: Christ frees us to live in the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 7:25 - 8:11).

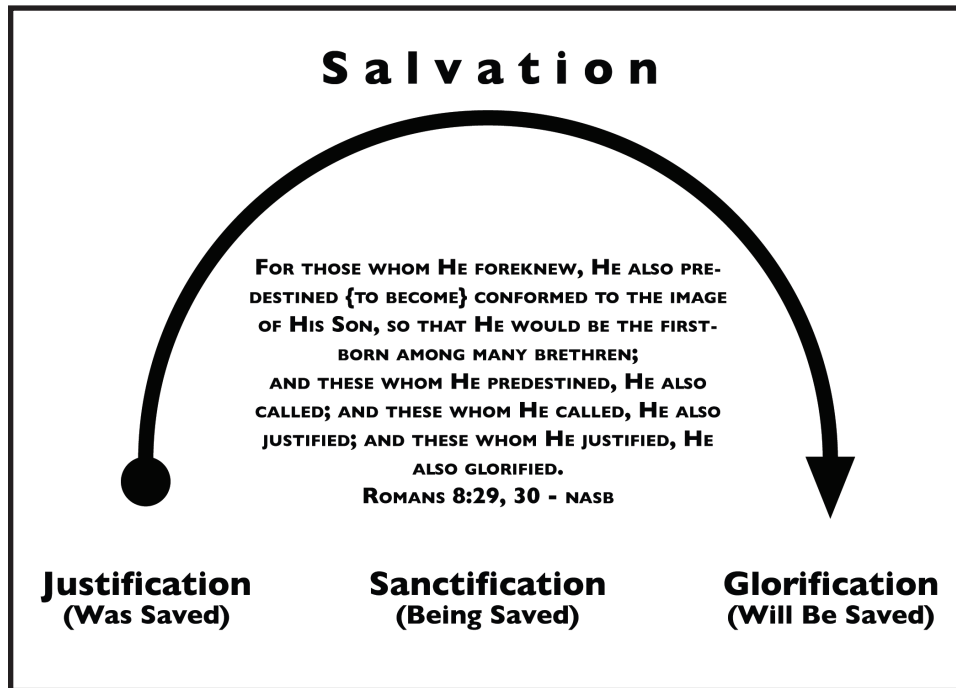
"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "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." (1 Cor. 2:6-16)

We must understand and accept the precept that Christianity is entirely 100 percent spiritual. God is Spirit. You are an immortal spirit, have a soul, in a body. With this stated, we must see that God's Word can be viewed on many planes - naturally and spiritually - but, it is entirely a spiritual word from a spiritual God and can only be understood by the regenerate spirit of man. Mostly, the Word of God has been viewed only on the obvious natural plane, even by those who profess to be born-again for they have not yet yielded their soul response to the control of the Holy Spirit. However, the Word of God can only be viewed, interpreted, understood, and applied as God intended on a spiritual plane. This can only be done through the Holy Spirit's in-


"God is spirit, and his
worshippers must worship
in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

struction and guidance. We must first understand and accept the fact that even though our spirits were regenerated when we received God's Holy Spirit, our souls are being saved (made whole), and that we will ultimately be saved (glorified). If we can understand the process of sanctification as both an initial experience and an ongoing process we can then begin to realize God's restorative process.



“True worship is not mere form and ceremony, but spiritual reality, which is in harmony with the nature of God, who is Spirit.”

We have been taught and continue to think and apply God's Word predominantly on the natural plane of reasoning. The vast majority of time we reason, translate, interpret, and apply God's Word through our unregenerate hearts and minds (souls). However, spiritual reality is precisely that - it is spiritual, not natural.

True worship centers around the attitude flowing out of our hearts and minds. True worship is not mere form and ceremony, but spiritual reality, which is in harmony with the nature of God, who is Spirit. Worship must also be in truth, that is, transparent, sincere, and according to biblical mandates.

“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16)

Just as our bodies are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 6:19), the regenerated spirit of man is God's temple.

“Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be a house of prayer”; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” (Luke 19:45, 46)

“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)



“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”

1 Corinthians 6:19

Rooms or mansions literally means “dwelling places.” The better translation is used here as “rooms.” Within each person, there are many “rooms.” At regeneration the Holy Spirit comes and takes up residence or abides within our human spirit. This “new birth” begins once a man receives Christ Jesus, yet, his soul and nature remains unchanged. For example, we’ve seen many who have accepted Jesus as Lord and their spirit is regenerated. At that moment the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within their human spirit. They have experienced “new birth.” However, regardless of chronological age, and sometimes this, too, is a hindrance, the entirety of their past perceptual and conceptual knowledge base must now be renewed (their soulish nature). In other words, the “renewing” of the mind must now take place. It is only as we begin to obey the Holy Spirit and God’s Word that our minds can be renewed.

God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for his children. He wants us to be transformed people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey him. Because he wants only what is best for us, and because he gave his Son to make our new lives possible, we should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices for his service.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom. 12:1, 2)

Christians are called to “not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,” with its perceptions and conceptions, behavior and customs that are entirely selfish, at war with God’s Kingdom, and often corrupting. We must understand, agree with God’s truth, and decide that worldly behavior is a contradiction to God’s Kingdom spiritual realities. Our refusal to conform to this world’s values, however, must go even deeper than the level of behavior and customs - it must be firmly planted in our minds (how we perceive truth and how we act out that perceived truth) - “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” It is possible to avoid most worldly customs and still be proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. It is only when the Holy Spirit renews, reeducates, and redirects our minds that we can truly be transformed (Rom. 8:5). In truth, it is more a process of unlearning initially and progressively rather than integrating new knowledge with existing perceptions.

“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet. 2:5)

When we become Christians believers, the Holy Spirit fills and lives within our human spirits. Therefore, we no longer own our souls or

bodies. Christ's death frees us from sin, but now obligates us to his control. If we live in a house owned by God, and we do in fact we are born-again, then, we should not think we have the right to violate his rule. We are not to violate his standards for life.

*"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."
(1 Cor. 6:19)*

Just as Jesus entered the temple of God and "cast out" those agents which were violating the temple, likewise, Jesus' Holy Spirit now invades our "soul temple" and all the various "rooms" within we have purposely closed off to God's sanctification.

*"Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves."
(Mth. 21:12)*

*"I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."
(Rev. 21:22)*

Spiritual reality is the temple, the center of God's presence among his people; it is the primary place of worship. No temple is needed now or in the new city to come because God's presence is and will be everywhere. He will be worshiped throughout the city, and nothing can hinder us from being with him.



*"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."
(John 15:4)*

*"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."
(1 Cor. 2:27)*

Christ lives (remains) in us through the Holy Spirit, and we also live in Christ. This means that we place our total trust in him, rely on him for guidance and strength, and live as he wants us to live. It implies a personal, life-giving relationship. John uses the same idea in John 15:5, where he speaks of Christ as the vine and his followers as the branches (see also 1 Cor. 3:24; 4:15).

*"No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you"
(Luke 11:33, 34, 36)*



"When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit filled and now lives in you - you no longer own your body."

“John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.” (John 5:35)



“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”

1 Corinthians 15:46

It is at the point that we turn our attention to the composition of man; spirit, soul, and body. We recognize that there have been and continue to be many a conflicting view taught on the spirit, soul and body and because of the degree of concentration needed to absorb the intricacies of this concept, very few teachings can be found on the subject. However, in this brief overview, we will attempt to define spirit, soul and body as Kingdom realities in the simplest terms possible with the overall objective of bringing restoration and spiritual maturity to the individual and the body of Christ.

TRIPARTITE MAN: SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

All of us realize that we have a body. However, the vast majority of believers have not yet learned to distinguish between their soul or heart's response and their spirit response. Obviously we know we exist and there is certainly more to us than our physical bodies, but is there some easy-to-understand way we can learn to differentiate between the two?

The Bible uses various terms to describe both born-again Christians (the spiritual man and the carnal man) as well as those who have never received Christ Jesus (natural man). All people fall into one of these three categories. An understanding of each will help clarify how the revelation of the Cross by the Holy Spirit is received by the human spirit.

The Apostle Paul draws clear distinctions between the natural man, the carnal man and the spiritual man.

*“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned...And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ.”
(1 Cor. 2:14; 3:1)*

To illustrate we have provided three simple graphics representing the three categories of man. In each you will note the five-sided “house” representing the “temple” (body) of man. The house has five entrances representing the five senses; sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Within the house drawing is the triangular shaped soul made up of the mind, will and emotions. The inner portion or “heart” of man is represented by the inner circle. All people have a human spirit, but it is only the regenerated human spirit that can fellowship with God. Otherwise, the human spirit is considered “dead” to God. In reality, if a person does not receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, they are in truth destined to be separated eternally from God at judgement and therefore considered “dead.”

Again, we must remember that within any “spiritual” house there are many rooms; some of which we have allowed God’s sanctification, others which we have either knowingly or unknowingly not allowed God’s presence. As we are “conformed” into the image of Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:28, 29), as we discover our “soulful” response as troubles, tribulations, and trials present themselves, we begin to discover our need in light of God’s eternal truth. It is then we learn that we have kept hidden from others rooms within ourselves we secretly did not want anyone - God included - from discovering. It is only as we allow the light of God’s Word into those inner rooms within our thinking, beliefs and attitudes do we experience holiness and freedom.



“A believer is not someone who cannot sin, but someone who is no longer a slave to sin. He or she belongs to God.”

Natural Man (an unbeliever): An unregenerate person (one who has not received the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit upon acceptance of and ongoing filling of the Holy Spirit); this individual can have absolutely no understanding nor appreciation of the Gospel message; sees the world only through a very limited, worldly perspective and bases their entire world view upon perceptual and conceptual knowledge; cannot appreciate nor can they grasp God’s Kingdom realities; is both repelled and attracted to authentic, Holy Spirit filled believers.



Carnal Man (a believer): The carnal man, regenerate or having been “born-again”, but living much like an unbelieving, natural man, is a believer with childish ways, as seen in a jealous, competitive, divisive, and sectarian spirit. An immature Christian who lives more for the opinion of others than for Christ. Because a carnal Christian is neither hot nor cold, they live a spiritual paradox, have little or no impact on other’s lives, and cause unbelievers to question the validity of the Gospel. The carnal Christian represents the majority of believers today.

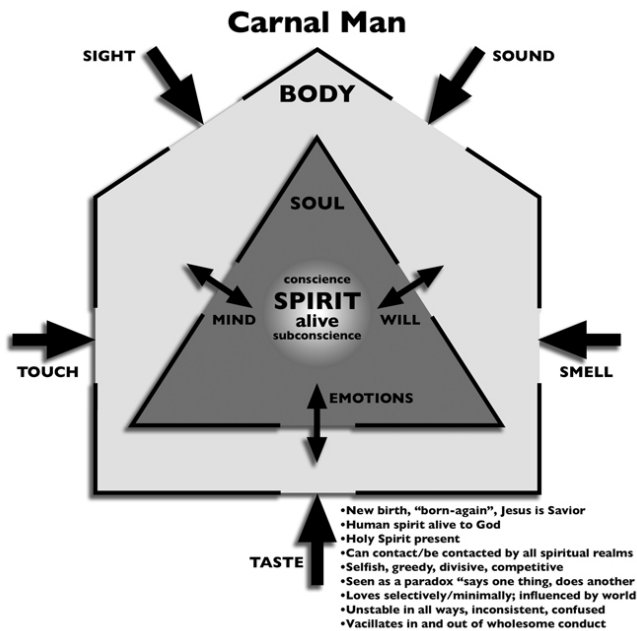
To this end Matthew Henry wrote, “Paul blames the Corinthians for their weakness and non-proficiency. Those who are sanctified are so only in part: there is still room for growth and increase both in grace



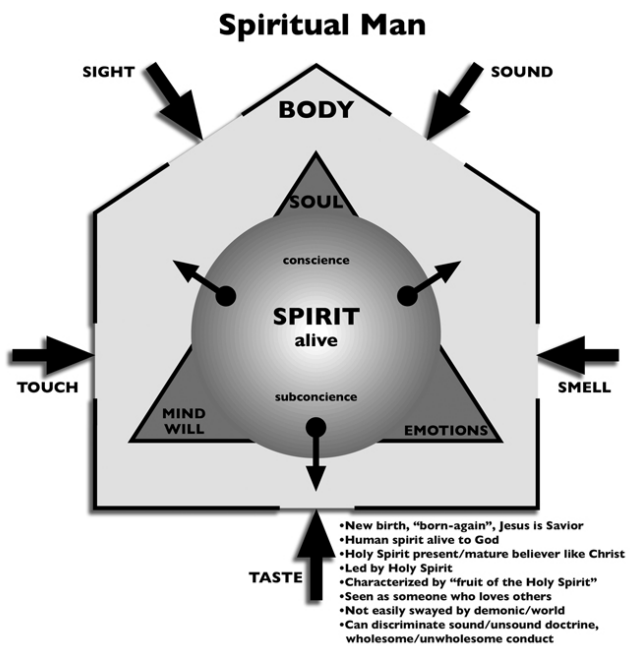
“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). Those who through divine grace are renewed to a spiritual life may yet in many things be defective. The apostle tells them he could not speak to them as unto spiritual men, but as unto carnal men, as to babes in Christ...it is to be lamented that many who should walk as Christians, that is, above the common rate of men, do indeed walk as men, live and act too much like other men.”



Spiritual Man (a believer): The spiritual man, regenerate and possessing spiritual maturity, as demonstrated by their love, their ability to discern between sound and unsound doctrine, good and evil, and who have a nature able to respond to the truth. Unbelievers find the spiritual man difficult to understand, but are drawn to their unmistakable peace. On the other hand, carnal believers are greatly challenged by and repulsed by the sincerity of the spiritual man’s life.



The Soul

Our Human Soul: What many call our conscience, the Bible calls the soul. The soul receives information from the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch). The soul consists of:

- a. Mind (the ability to reason)
- b. Emotions (the ability to feel)
- c. Will (the ability to choose).

In Hebrew, the word for soul is nephesh (neh-fesh), Strong's #5315. Translated, it means a life, a living being; soul, self, person, mind, personality; inner desires and feelings. This noun occurs more than 750 times and is a very significant word in the Bible. "Soul" is the word usually chosen in translations for nephesh, but "heart," "person," "life," and "mind" is occasionally best suited to a particular context. Unlike the English word "soul," which usually describes only the inner person and is contrasted with the outer person, nephesh describes the whole person as a unit, that is a life, a living creation. The mind and emotions feed information and assert direction upon the will. Those who have not received Christ as Lord and Savior make all of their decisions based entirely from this highly subjective level. Christians who have not learned to distinguish between that which comes from the soul and that which comes from the Holy Spirit are also subject to this soulful, conscious level. ALL decisions flowing out of this level of will are dictated by the soul (what we think and how we feel). Let's read that again: ALL decisions flowing out of this level of will are dictated by the soul (what we think and how we feel). Major life-changing decisions should NEVER be based on our soul response.



“The focus of Christianity is not dying, but living. Because we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been raised with him. We have been reconciled with God and are free to grow into Christ's likeness. We are no longer alone, for Christ lives in us--he is our power for living and our hope for the future.”

The Heart

Our Human Heart: From Strong's #2588, kardia (kar-dee-ah), we learn that "heart" is from a root word meaning "to quiver" or "to palpitate" (compare with cardiac or pericardium). "Heart" is the physical organ of the body, the center of physical life, the seat of one's personal life (both physical and spiritual), the center of one's personality, the seat of one's entire mental and moral activity, containing both rational and emotional elements. It is the seat of feelings, desires, joy, pain, and love. It is also the center for thought, understanding, and will. The human heart is the dwelling place of the Lord and the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that the omniscient Lord sees into the heart where all decisions concerning Him are made.

The Human Spirit

Our Human Spirit: From Strong's #7307, ruach (roo-ach) meaning Spirit, wind, breath. This word occurs nearly 400 times. Generally ruach is translated "spirit," whether concerning the human spirit, a distressing spirit (1 Sam. 16:23), or the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is especially presented in Is. 42:1: God puts His Spirit upon the Messiah; He will pour out His Spirit upon Israel's descendants (Is. 44:3); Anointed One (Is. 48:16, a reference to the triune God); the Spirit of God commissions and empowers the Messiah (Is. 61:1-3). Just as there is a conscious area of our lives, there is an unconscious area called our subconscious. The Bible calls this the spirit. For those not



“We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.”

2 Corinthians 5:12

born-again, this area is dark, chaotic, confused, uncertain, and void of any truthful direction; it simply lies dormant. Our conscience is a function of the spirit, but the conscience can be very misleading. Non-Christians who seek guidance from this “inner power” are often misled, uncertain and perplexed.

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord He begins to assert His authority over and in our lives; we are born again. The spirit within is made alive at this new birth. Does this mean only Christians do good? Of course not — many people do well to others. On a relative scale, many are moral, kind, and law-abiding. Comparing these people to criminals, we would say that they are very good indeed. But on God’s absolute scale, no one is good enough to earn salvation (“you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Eph. 2:1). Only through being united with Christ’s perfect life can we become good in God’s sight.

The Bible emphasizes that we do not need to live any longer under sin’s power. Christ miraculously destroyed the penalty of sin and its power over us on the cross. Through faith in Christ we stand acquitted, or not guilty, before God (Rom. 3:21, 22). God does not take us out of the world or make us robots — we will still feel like sinning, and sometimes we will sin. The difference is that before we became Christians, we were dead in sin and were slaves to our sinful, soulful nature. But now we are alive with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Our spirit then became a place of glory and beauty, fully under the control of the Holy Spirit who dwells within.

LET’S REVIEW:

1. Do you believe that there are differing levels of spiritual maturity? How can you know if someone is walking in the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22):

2. What are the three parts of man?

3. What are the three parts of the soul?

4. When making life-changing decisions, which part or level of man should we not consider?

5. People say they make decisions based on “gut-instinct” or their conscience. Is this a reliable way of being spirit-led? Why or why not?

OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST:

We are justified (declared 'not guilty' of sin)..... Rom 3:24
No condemnation awaits us Rom 8:1
We are set free from the law of sin and death Rom 8:2
We are sanctified and made acceptable in Jesus Christ 1 Co 1:2
We are righteous and holy in Christ 1 Co 1:30
We will be made alive at the resurrection 1 Co 15:22
We are a new creation 2 Co 5:17
We receive God's righteousness 2 Co 5:21
We are one in Christ with all other believers Gal 3:28
We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ .Eph 1:3
We are holy, blameless, and covered with God's love .Eph 1:4
We are adopted as God's children Eph 1:5-6
Our sins are taken away, and we are forgiven Eph 1:7
We will be brought under Christ's headship Eph 1:10-11
We are marked as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit Eph 1:13
We have been raised up to sit with Christ in glory..... Eph 2:6
We are God's work of art Eph 2:10
We have been brought near to God Eph 2:13
We share in the promise in Christ Eph 3:6
We can come with freedom/confidence into God's presence Eph
3:12
We are members of Christ's body, the church Eph 5:29-30
We have been given fullness in Christ Col 2:10
We are set free from our sinful nature Col 2:11
We will have eternal glory 2 Ti 2:10



“You can identify false teachers by finding out what really motivates them. If they are more concerned about themselves than about Christ, avoid them and their message.”

As a result of this new resurrection life through Jesus Christ, our heart's response can begin to function beneath the influence of the Holy Spirit. Likewise, as we become more obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit seeks to influence and take charge over the soul (mind, will and emotions). For this reason, it becomes very difficult in certain Scripture passages to distinguish between the human spirit and the Holy Spirit. However, the soul within us has the power to reject the prompting of the Spirit by choice. We must remember that salvation is a process; we are saved, we are being saved and we will be saved (justification, salvation, and glorification). Because of His great love for us, God does not force His will over human will; He does, however, assert His kindness to win soul-approval over time.

Maybe you've surrendered yourself to serving Him again in some new endeavor or have dedicated yourself to a mission field, and then nothing happens, no open doors, no further evidences of this new covenant, nothing. We say, "Hey, wait a minute. We had an understanding; I'm here ready for the next big step!" Still nothing.

First, our Father God is NEVER moved by our emotional responses. Decisions made on high-octane emotions are never faithful. How many times have we been moved by some experience we think is



“So I say, live by the

*Spirit, and you will not
gratify the desires of the
sinful nature.”*

Galatians 5:16

spiritual, make a promise, and then find ourselves running out of fuel long before the promise is fulfilled? This is precisely the story of many Christians today. God is not impacted with our emotional response. He often times delays action to give us time to reflect on the matter thoroughly and allow us time for our daily lives to catch up with our spiritual selves; our emotional response must move on to knowledge. Our faith takes the lead, but if our understanding doesn't catch up, our faith will soon begin to fail.

It's also during these times of “waiting-on-God”, that He provides great opportunity for our souls to get filled with all kinds of pride. This is part of God's purpose of revealing what's really in our hearts. Our paper-thin veneer is popped, and if we are honest, we see our arrogance in a very revealing way (pride comes before a fall). We see our flesh for what it really is, stinking, rotting, and repugnant to the core. It's only then we see the real enemy in the camp. This is a very hopeful moment for us because, of course, the problem has been there all along. God's grace is truly amazing.

Have you discovered how easy it is to become self-elevated with our own accomplishments? And, how quickly we gather friends to mourn our loss when we don't get our own way? Like, “Boy, I told him a thing or two...and then he said...and then I told him, etc.” We really do enjoy retelling our story of how we've been wronged, our great missionary contributions, the number of people we've “led to Jesus,” our wealth, our position, or other ways which God has “blessed” us. What absolute rubbish! Those who “take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart” are always more concerned about getting ahead in this world than in the things of God.

In today's religious circles, just as was true in the day of Paul (2 Cor. 5:12), there were those who were preaching the gospel for the wrong reasons, while Paul and his companions were preaching out of concern for eternity.

All that comes from our lower, soulful human nature is self-centered and feeds on pride; pride is deceptive and is always blinding. When men become blind they are helpless and continuing boastfully, confidently and blindly forward, they fall headfirst into destruction.

LET'S REVIEW:

1. Does our soul have the power to reject God's prompting? Why or why not?

2. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where God has in fact spoken to you, but after that time, all of Heaven seems closed or nothing seems to be happening? What do you think is taking place?

3. Do you think God is moved by our emotional response? Why or why not?

4. All that comes from our soulful nature is self-centered and feeds on pride. Explain:

5. When we hear a difficult word, we immediately say, "I don't have to stand here and take this abuse!" If, in fact, the message being presented is God's truth, then, if we respond negatively, emotionally, and yes, sometimes even violently, what might this suggest? Could our response be an indication of our unwillingness to accept God's Word and the hopeful change He has for us? Give an example of a recent "Word" you received in which you rejected:



“Being led by the Holy Spirit involves the desire to hear, the readiness to obey God’s Word, and the sensitivity to discern between your feelings and his promptings.”



*“The angel answered,
“The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, and the
power of the Most High
will overshadow you. So
the holy one to be born
will be called the Son of
God.”*

Luke 1:35

BEING SOUL-LED

- When I become arrogant and proud my soul is running the show; I then become blind and run head-on into some ridiculously stupid roadblock which everyone but me can see — and it costs not only me and those around me time and resource to repair the damage I’ve caused, but strongly promotes Satan’s agenda.
- I am led by my soul and am at my most vulnerable when I believe I am bulletproof and invincible; I become proud, arrogant, and filled with myself.
- I am led by soul when I am willing to exchange my Kingdom inheritance for something as worthless as “stuff”: I can gain thousands of acres, millions of dollars, and tons of tea if I am willing to take on one ounce of pride.
- I am led by my soul when I believe it’s “their” fault. I always try to justify my actions when things go wrong as if someone else is to blame and not me.
- I am led by my soul when I do anything to bring attention to myself.
- I am led by my soul when I think I am indispensable. My grandfather taught me a lesson on just how indispensable I am. He said, “Place your hand in a bucket of water and then quickly pull it back out. Notice how fast the water filled the place where your hand was? That’s how indispensable you are.”
- I am led by my soul whenever I’ve been offended; first I want to go tell as many people as possible about how badly “they” hurt me and how “right” I am and secondly, I want to get even with the person who wronged me. Of course, being a Christian, I’ve mastered this technique and have discovered numerous ways to hurt others without them really knowing it.
- I am led by my soul when I say something I know I will regret later — usually said in anger — and I find myself desperately trying to find the “abort mission” button though the guided missile has already hit its target perfectly; and always, without exception, the bigger the missile, the more I sincerely love the person I’m aiming at.
- I am soul-led whenever I use manipulation, intimidation, or domination to get what I want.
- I am led by my soul response whenever that which I’m thinking or doing is selfish instead of selfless or if I desire to be “in control.”

God, in all His splendor and loving grace, takes us to the place where we learn what we are really like. When we begin to see it honestly and realistically, recognizing it for what it is, then He has a way of taking care of us. Our soulful plans and efforts will never work. His plans and efforts will.

The kindest thing God can do is to allow us to be in some circumstance, which so engages our pride that we act in some stupid way destined

for disaster. Then, after the dust has settled, we can begin to see what is really inside, and can deal with it according to the process he has designed. Our most hopeful moment comes when we recognize it is there, stop defending it, and begin to treat it, as God would direct.

BEING SPIRIT LED

The Apostle Paul says if you are led by the Spirit of God, you are a son of God. Now, to be led by the Spirit means that you are under the control of the Holy Spirit.



“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14)

Three Reasons We Should Desire To Walk In The Spirit:

1. Not being Spirit-led, our worship will never be as free or full as God intends.
2. Not being Spirit-led, our witness of Christ will never be as effective as God desires.
3. Not being Spirit-led, our warfare can only be waged on a fruitless, physical plane as opposed to the real and powerful realm of the spiritual.

Having discussed why we need the Holy Spirit in our lives and the need to learn to walk in the Spirit of God, it is important to make note of two cautions at this point. Because we are interested in becoming “balanced” in all our being, these two extreme swings of the pendulum must be avoided because both can be dangerous. God desires both a Joel and Isaiah spiritual balance in the church today.

1. Being led by human logic: This is best demonstrated when we tend to over-rationalize; where we take no risks; where we want every door opened; where we want an absolute, watertight, clear picture. This is usually accomplished with little or no faith; it’s identifiable with a “walk by sight” mentality, it is objective-minded. A good example is from Acts 26:28. King Agrippa said to Paul, who had just finished an incredible discourse on his changed life and the life of Christ, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” Agrippa embraced human logic. He was not persuaded. Neither will any one be whom God’s Holy Spirit does not move. In the Old Testament, this would be typified as the spirit of Isaiah; logical, linear, objective and is characterized by many in the church today.
2. Being led by mysticism: This is the opposite of being led by human logic; it is based on the invisible and unknowable; it is subjective-minded; it is emotional; it is often typified with statements like, “I feel led” or “God told me.” A good example of being overly mystical can be drawn from 1 Samuel 28:3-25. Here we see Saul, who had banned all mediums and spiritists (those



“Death is no longer a source of dread or fear. Christ overcame it, and one day we will also. The law will no longer make sinners out of us who cannot keep it. Death has been defeated, and we have hope beyond the grave.”



“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:1-4

who consult with the dead) from Israel, but in desperation he turned to one for counsel. Although he had removed the sin of witchcraft from the land, he did not remove it from his heart. We may make a great show of denouncing sin, but if our hearts do not change, the sins will return. Knowing what is right and condemning what is wrong does not take the place of doing what is right. God had strictly forbidden the Israelites to have anything to do with divination, sorcery, witchcraft, mediums, spiritists, or anyone who consults the dead (Deut. 18:9-14). Practitioners of the occult have Satan and demons as the source of their information; God does not reveal His will to them. Instead He speaks through His own channels: the Bible, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Obedience to God always begins with humility. We must believe that His way is better than our own. We may not always understand God’s ways of working, but by humbly obeying, we will receive His blessings. We must remember that:

- God’s ways are always best.
- God places a premium on our obedience.
- God can use anything or anyone to accomplish His purposes.

To be Spirit-filled and led is to come to the King Himself, to bow at Jesus’ feet and receive divine power from His own hand. To be Spirit-filled and led is to experience Christ as He unselfishly shares with you the same power for living and serving that He experienced Himself, the power of the Holy Spirit. To be Spirit-filled and led is to have the Holy Spirit, the “oil of heaven”, poured from God’s throne into your own being; to be anointed by Christ the King.

Entering into the fullness of the Holy Spirit is just that; it is the beginning. It is the point at which Jesus intends for us to enter a partnership with him. Jesus said:

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” (John 7:38)

This refreshing is designed as an outward flow to others. In John 4, Jesus talked with a needy woman. He addressed her spiritual thirst. In doing so, He gave His answer to every deep human desire for lasting fulfillment:

“...but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

Later, John explains that the “rivers” were to come after Pentecost:

“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.” (John 7:39)

Still, the most important reason for anyone to be Spirit-filled and led is that the power of the Holy Spirit is the power by which Jesus carried out His entire ministry. Following his baptism by John, Jesus said:

“Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.” (Mth. 3:15)

Immediately, the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and His preparation for His ministry was complete. Jesus himself, though born of the Holy Spirit as the sinless and perfect Son of God (Luke 1:35), needed another dimension of power to embark upon and fulfill His ministry. This point truly emphasizes that He was a man. Christ voluntarily surrendered His divine powers as God so that He could live, serve the Father’s will, and demonstrate to us that He was operating on entirely human terms.



“...but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Phil. 2:7)

As God He was completely holy, but as a man just like you and me, He was completely helpless to accomplish His ministry apart from the indwelling and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

This reveals God’s intent to restore man’s fall. Through sin, Adam not only lost his open relationship with God, but he also lost his God-given rulership in life. So, through Jesus’ sinlessness, God revealed His Son as the way for man to restore his relationship with God. When the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, God revealed His plan for allowing man to recover rulership as well.

LET’S REVIEW:

1. The kindest thing God can do is to allow us to be in some circumstance, which so puffs up our pride, that we act in some ridiculous way that blows our cover. Then, after the dust has settled, we can begin to see what is really inside. Why is this important?

2. What three ways does the Spirit impact our spiritual service?



“At Pentecost, God confirmed the validity of the Holy Spirit’s ministry by sending fire. At Mount Sinai, fire had come down on one place; at Pentecost, fire came down on many believers, symbolizing that God’s presence is now available to all who believe in him.”



“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.”

Acts 1:8

3. What two extremes should we always avoid when making big decisions?

4. Why would you want to be Spirit-Controlled? Explain:

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THESE RESOURCES

1. The presence of the Holy Spirit and the assistance of growing in relationship with God.
2. The power of the Holy Spirit filling and overflowing us allowing us to extend God’s kingdom authority in us and to others.

Jesus desires that each of us have the same power and ability that He had for ministry. Jesus, who emptied Himself of all His powers as God, carried out His life on human terms. He asks us to do the same. The major difference obviously is that Jesus never sinned because He was born of God. But Jesus came to do more than to simply live a sinless life. The ultimate purpose of Christ’s Incarnation was not only to save sinners, but the destruction of the devil and deliverance from the fear of death (see 1 Cor. 15:54-57). In other words, He came to break the curse and to become Lord of a new generation of redeemed men and women. And He wants to fill each of us with the power that will enable us to do what He did, to move His mission forward.

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work...you, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world...for everyone born of God overcomes the world” (1 John 3:8; 4:4; 5:4)

Jesus

- Born of the Holy Spirit..... (Mth. 1:20; Luke 1:35)
- Sinlessly perfect (Mth. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Received the Holy Spirit's power (Mth. 3:16; John 3:14, 35)
- Triumphed over the enemy and delivered the needy .. (Luke 4:18-21; Mth. 28:18-20)

Believers Today

- Reborn by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-8; Rom. 8:11)
- Declared forgiven in Christ Jesus .(Acts 13:38, 39; Rom. 5:9; 8:1)
- Commanded to receive the Holy Spirit's power for service ... (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)
- Commissioned to the same ministry and victorious life as Christ.....(Mth. 28:18-20; Acts 10:38; Mark 16:15-20)

When we are filled with His Spirit, His grace and power can change the world. We are here to change our world!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

The Holy Spirit has been given as a gift to the church to assure that the continued ministry of the resurrected Christ is expressed and verified. The Holy Spirit has all the characteristics of a person:


1. He possesses the attributes of mind (Rom. 8:27), will (1 Cor. 12:11), and feeling (Eph. 4:30).
2. He engages in such activities as revealing (2 Pet. 1:21), teaching (John 14:26), witnessing (Heb. 10:15), interceding (Rom. 8:26), speaking (Rev. 2:7), commanding (Acts 16:6, 7), and testifying (John 15:26).
3. He has a relationship with human persons: He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30), lied to (Acts 5:3), and blasphemed (Mth. 12:32, 32).
4. The Holy Spirit possesses the divine attributes of the Godhead: He is eternal (Heb. 9:14), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-10), omnipotent (Luke 1:35), and omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10, 11).
5. He is referred to by such names as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of promise, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of life, the Spirit of adoption, and the Spirit of holiness.
6. He is illustrated with such symbols as fire (Acts 2:1, 2), wind (Acts 2:1, 2), water (John 7:37-39), a seal (Eph. 1:13), oil (Acts 10:38), and a dove (John 1:32).



“God has important work for you to do for Him, but you can only accomplish His desires by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

NOTHING TO BE FEARFUL ABOUT

Becoming Spirit-filled is not some mysterious, abstract relationship with God. There is however a difference between being filled with God's Holy Spirit and being filled with any other kind of spirit. Jesus highlighted this when he said:



“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!”

“If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:11-13)

The abundantly clear promise of Jesus is that anyone who asks to be filled with the Holy Spirit will not come up with something hard and dry (stone), something destructive (scorpion), or satanic (snake). We must see the Holy Spirit for who He is, entirely and beautifully different from those from the realm of darkness and confusion.

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LIKE

The Holy Spirit is just like Jesus. To help his disciples prepare for his departure and the Holy Spirit's coming, Jesus said:

“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.” (John 14:16, 17)

Jesus says, “I will send another Comforter.” The word “another” is one of the exact same kind. By saying this, He was saying that the Holy Spirit would help them and be to them precisely as He did and was.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR TEACHER

As a teacher, the Holy Spirit's assistance is not so much academic as one of inward instruction. He teaches us what to do and say at important times. He helps us keep our life (conduct and standards) in accordance with what Jesus wants. He helps us understand and keeps us consistent with our Father's heart and purpose.

“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.” (John 14:26)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER

Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to help the Church in the task of touching the world with God's love. He strengthens us within and stabilizes us to withstand circumstances and moves us forward in power.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” (John 15:26, 27)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR CONVINCER

No one can remain passive when the Holy Spirit is at work. He convinces people that sin separates them from God; that Jesus is God, and that this is the focal point of salvation; and that this world system is headed toward destruction. He does what we could never do: He convinces people that God is right, that man needs a Savior. Our role is not to attempt to convict or condemn others by zeal, argument, guilt, or ability. Our work is to bear witness to others of Jesus Christ, pray, and let the Holy Spirit accomplish the task that only he can perform.

1. The Holy Spirit Convicts/Convinces: Our tendency is to do the work of the Holy Spirit. We can never accomplish what He has been sent forth to do. Have confidence in His abilities.
2. The Holy Spirit Convicts/Convinces People: The Holy Spirit is fully capable of breaking through every barrier in the heart of man. We are called to sow seed and to water. Ours is to witness in Spirit and pray, believing it is God who will accomplish the bringing forth of harvest. Prayer “energizes” the Holy Spirit. As said, manipulation, intimidation, and domination in any form are never characteristics of those led by the Spirit of God.



“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: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” (John 16:7-11)

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD

The greatest evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence is that Jesus will be praised. Jesus will be honored. Jesus will be worshiped as God’s Son. Jesus will be announced as Lord and King. A great deal of confusion exists in American Christianity today because of the “evidence errors” that are so widely spread. The teaching that any specific “sign” or “spiritual gift/endowment” must accompany the infilling of the Holy Spirit simply does not hold up under honest scrutiny of God’s Word.

There is much confusion regarding the evidence of whether or not a believer has in fact been “filled” with the Holy Spirit. We must simply agree with our Lord Jesus, who said, “...you will receive power when



“The most important gift Jesus could ever give us is the Holy Spirit, whom he promised to give all believers after His death, resurrection, and return to heaven.”

the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8).

B

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.”

Galatians 5:18

The absolute test or evidence of first having received, and secondly, walking (continuously) in the Holy Spirit, is less controversial, less popular, less “showy”, and even more empirically and Biblically sound than the “evidences” most suggest; it is an increasing measure of Christ-likeness as evidenced by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. According to John 15:1-8, the fruit (which is often mistakenly suggested as the output of man) is, in fact godliness. Christ-likeness is what the heavenly vinedresser looks for in His people (Gal. 5:22, 23).

“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.” (Gal. 5:22, 23)

There is one absolute test of whether an experience is of God. If there is genuine commitment to honor, to obey, to praise, and to worship and glorify the Lord Jesus, then the Holy Spirit is very present. One thing is for certain; Satan will not glorify the Son of God. The Holy Spirit’s ministry of making Jesus real, glorifying Him, is His highest desire.

“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.” (John 16:14, 15)

LET’S REVIEW:

1. Do I really believe God wants me to have the same power and authority as Jesus? Am I walking in that kind of power and authority? Why or why not?

2. What are some of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit?

3. What is the Holy Spirit like?

4. The Holy Spirit is our teacher, helper and convincer. Do you ever lend the Spirit a hand in these areas? What observations can you make about your assistance?



“Two forces wage a continual conflict within us - the Holy Spirit and our sinful nature. If you try to follow the Spirit by your own human effort, you will fail. Your only way to freedom from your evil desires is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.”

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

(ACTS 2:38, 39)

There are a number of things an individual need to do to receive this blessing. If you're not sure whether you've received the Holy Spirit or not, consider the following:



“But the fruit of the

Spirit is love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, good-

ness, faithfulness, gentle-

ness and self-control.

Against such things there

is no law.”

Galatians 5:22, 23

1. Be born again: The person who is going to be filled with the Spirit must have the indwelling Spirit and must belong to Jesus (Rom. 8:9).
2. Ask: The Bible says, if we ask for the Holy Spirit, that prayer will be answered (Luke 11:13).
3. Surrender: The Apostle Paul made this clear in the Book of Romans when he said, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1).
4. Willing to obey the Spirit: God does not give this blessing/power to someone and allow him or her to say, “I’ll pick and choose what I like.” If you want to be immersed in the Holy Spirit, a person must be prepared to obey the Spirit (Acts 5:32).
5. Believe: Apostle Paul said, “Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” (Gal. 3:2). Faith is the answer. A person must believe that just as when they received Jesus as Lord and Savior they now receive the Holy Spirit by the same process.
6. Exercise: Having asked, having received, having been willing to obey, having believed, the person must now exercise. This is why discipling (a seasoned, more spiritually mature saint instructing a younger born-again believer) is so desperately needed in today’s church. Parents serve this position in the home and the church is to function in the same model. Kids must have the same opportunity for failure as they receive for success and only a seasoned coach can provide that role.

SEVEN GUIDELINES FOR MAJOR DECISIONS

The following seven guidelines have greatly benefited believers around the world (the complete workbook entitled “Discovering God’s Will” is available at CoreDiscipleship.com). They have assisted Christians in their learning to be led by the Holy Spirit. But they are only useful if they are put into practice. The heart of all seven of these principles is based on God’s desire and promise to lead those who are sons of God: Those who are actively working at growing in holiness and “putting to death” any sin in their hearts. They are based on the following Scriptural premises:

“On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.” (Deut. 17:6; Deut. 19:15)

“...Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (2 Cor. 13:1)

All of us make decisions. Some minor, some major. Major life-changing decisions should always be prayerfully considered and NEVER be based on our subjective nature. These seven guidelines can keep you on track and centered in God’s plan for you. As an observation, the only time a believer does not want to utilize these tools is because they have a hidden agenda and don’t want to submit their direction to the counsel of others. When someone comes to you and says something like, “God told me to do such and such or to do this or that...” it usually means that they are not interested in what others might suggest; they have already made up their minds and have seemingly appealed to the highest court in the universe. Nothing anyone else might suggest will have an impact. On the other hand, and more in keeping with Christ, a godly attitude would begin with something like, “I think the Lord is instructing me to do such and such or this or that or to go here or there, but I fully realize how easily I can be misled or deceived. I would really appreciate your hearing me out, thinking, praying and meditating on what I’m considering, and getting back to me with your counsel as you are led.” That’s a humble, Christ-exalting attitude.

1. Am I surrendered to God’s will of Him conforming me into the image of His Son Jesus and am I filled/empowered by His Holy Spirit? (if yes, then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP).
2. Am I at peace? Peace is the umpire of your life. If you or your spouse if married do not have peace STOP (if yes, then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP and wait until you have God’s peace).
3. Have I purposely and quietly meditated on what I’m considering, and not acting out of false emotions, have carefully discerned God’s plan for me? (if yes, then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP and get quiet before God until He gives you His directive).
4. Do I sense any resistance/opposition/hesitation from the Holy Spirit, am I walking blamelessly before God and man (a clear conscience with no unforgiveness/trespass/offense), and am I walking obediently in God’s revealed Word? (if no, then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP).
5. What is the situation, timing and provision? Sometimes you can get “Yes” but not now. Have my life situations led me to this point and confirm this direction? Is there provision? (if yes,



“The fruit of the Spirit is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. They are the by-products of Christ’s control - we can’t obtain them by trying to get them without his help.”

then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP).

6. Have I asked Father God what He wants and have I received His approval? (if yes, then go on to the next step, otherwise, STOP).

7. Have I asked 2 or 3 other more spiritually mature believers to provide their counsel? Have the majority responded positively? (if yes, then proceed, otherwise, STOP).

SEVEN HINDRANCES TO OUR HEARING GOD

1. Being lost/unsaved (John 10:3)
2. Not being Spirit-filled (John 7:39; John 16:13)
3. Pride (Ps. 25:8, 9; James 4:6)
4. Self deception (John 7:17; James 1:22)
5. Dishonesty (Prov. 11:3)
6. Not living an examined life (Prov. 18:1; 2 Thess 2:10)
7. Not knowing God's Word (Ps. 119:105; Ps. 103:7; Hos. 4:6; Ps. 32:8)

LET'S REVIEW:

1. What six steps must a person take to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit?

2. What are the seven guidelines to help you know you are making the right decisions?

3. What seven things can hinder a person from not being Spirit-led?

4. Do I realize I have the full potential to fellowship with the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment? Describe:

5. Have I discovered that God's Holy Spirit speaks truth to me? In what ways? In what ways are you not being led of God's Holy Spirit?

6. Do I understand and believe that I can walk blamelessly? Do I exercise self-control so that I can hear the Holy Spirit?

7. Am I learning to be still before God (Ps. 46:10), purposely removing myself from noisy distractions of this world, my fleshly desires, and focusing/meditating only on being Holy Spirit led daily?

8. Am I asking to be refilled many times of the day? Why or why not?

At work in your mind at this very moment is your soul — that which the Bible calls the flesh — tricking us into believing that the only way we will ever get what we want is by choosing our own way and ignoring the life of Jesus Christ within us.

This is the whole aim of the soul in the life of a believer. The devil well knows that if he can get a Christian to operate out of the flesh, that person’s total ministry is utterly worthless as far as God is concerned. This is the major struggle, the major battle of the Christian life, and it’s going on right now in our own lives and will continue until Jesus returns.

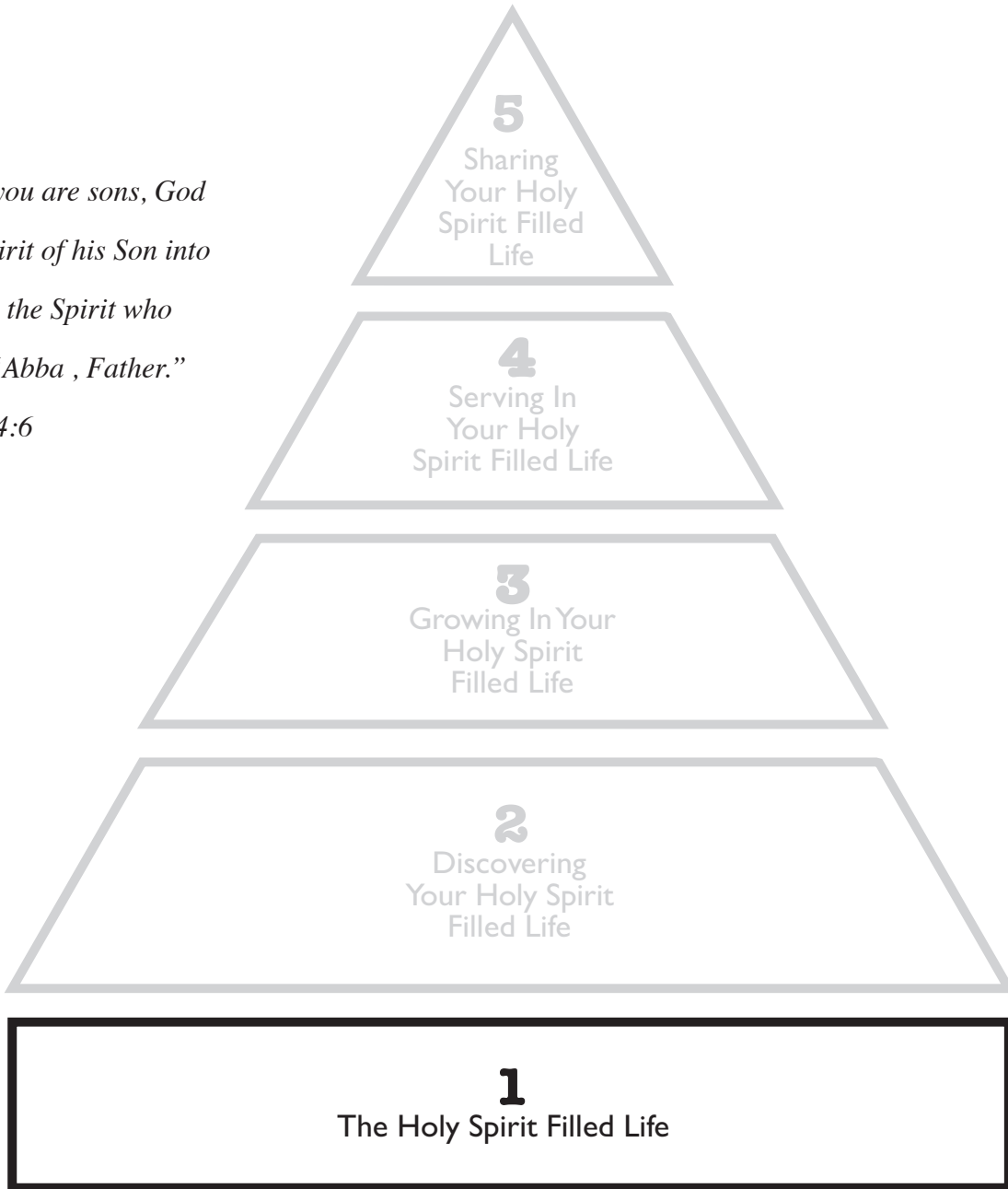
However, today, you can change your life forever.

Prayer: Our Father, these words have been lifting up our hearts and our eyes, to look beyond this present life. We thank you, Lord, that our hope does not end here, but looks beyond to realms that are beyond our understanding at the moment, and into exciting and thrilling possibilities that are far greater than we can even dream at this present hour. But we thank you that the secret of attaining these, the secret of entering into our inheritance lies in this simple thing that we have been speaking of all along — fellowship with our Lord Jesus — that you dwell in us as you, Father, once dwelt within him — that we have the same possibilities as he had, of life lived to the full. We pray, Father, that we may begin to possess them, that we may begin to enjoy them as being your sons and daughters, that we may begin to understand and to see something of the supernatural possibilities of Christian living. We ask it in Christ’s name, Amen.

Now, let’s go on to workbook 2, “Discovering Your Holy Spirit Filled Life”...

YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FILLED LIFE: SPIRITUAL COVENANT

“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba , Father.” Galatians 4:6



Father, I have received Jesus Christ as my Savior, Lord and Master and I receive the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, surrender my life to His Lordship, choose to obey the Holy Spirit’s prompting, believe right now by faith that this has happened, and will now begin to exercise what you’ve given me as I continuously submit to the Holy Spirit’s power and control moment-by-moment from this day forward.

Name: (print).....

Mentor/Coach/Discipler/Spiritual Parent:.....

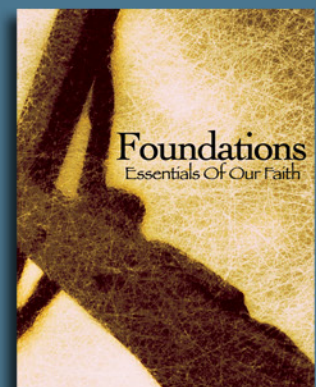
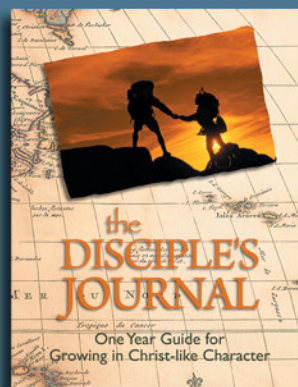
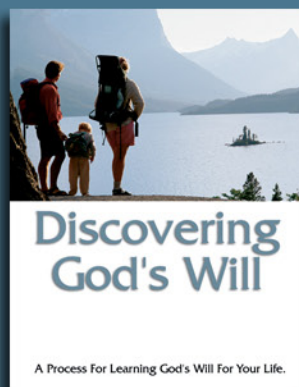
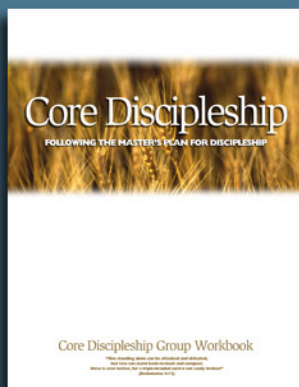
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May God grant that we become
His disciples by His grace,

Doug & Suzie Morrell
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