

A Bible Study on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

This study will seek to provide a biblically-balanced presentation of the role of the Holy Spirit in advancing the Kingdom of God via the local church and the individual lives of Christians. We will see how the Third Person of the Trinity is always involved in accomplishing the purposes of God. We will also try to address misconceptions about the Spirit's work in individual lives which lead followers of Jesus to suppress or fear God's work through the Spirit.

> Questions to help you prepare for Session 6 are attached <

We will meet weekly in small groups in person:

- **2 PM Wednesdays @ Dave & Ann Wolfgang's**
 - 214 Deibler RD, PA Furnace, PA 16865
 - **7 PM Thursdays @ Dick & Marcie Auhl's**
 - 250 McBath ST, State College, PA 16801
- OR**
- **7 PM Wednesdays via ZOOM—sign on information below**

If you would like to ask questions about this study, please let Pastor Gene McCallips know via email at gmccallips@icloud.com

Session 1— First Things: What Do You Want to Know About the Holy Spirit?

- This study will attempt to answer basic questions about the nature and role of the Third Person of the Trinity and seek to address misconceptions as well
- We will amend the outline to include specific questions raised by participants regarding the way the Holy Spirit strengthens the life of a follower of Christ

Session 2—Exploring the Trinity: The Holy Spirit's relationship to the Father and the Son

- The Holy Spirit provides direction and power to accomplish God's will.
- He was present at all of the inflection points of history.

Session 3—Holiness of Heart and Life: How does the Holy Spirit Lead Us to Holiness?

- Wesley's phrase "holiness of heart and life" reflects two inseparable aspects:
 - **Heart** – the inward state of the believer, cleansed from sin and filled with God's love and righteousness.
 - **Life** – the outward expression of that holiness in daily living, in speech, conduct, and service
- Holiness can be described as the pursuit of God above all other loves. Paul wrote in Romans 7:1 "...let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear (*revere*) God."

Session 4—Learning to Hear God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God/Perceiving Him At Work Around Us

- God has created us for intimate friendship with Him
- We were designed with a capacity to sense His presence via our intellect, our emotions and our physical nature

Session 5—Learning to Trust God: The Holy Spirit Wants to Guide and Empower Us

- In Mark 12:30, Jesus said: **“And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.”**
- Jesus told the disciples that it was for their benefit if He went away—only then would the Father send the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower them

Session 6—The Fruit of the Spirit: Changed From the Inside Out

- When we allow God to effect substantial, lasting change in our hearts, our behaviors will more accurately reflect the life of Jesus
- Deeply embedded practices and attitudes can be unlearned when we cooperate with the power of the Holy Spirit—resulting in authentic freedom and joy

Session 7—The Gifts of the Spirit: Equipped for Kingdom Ministry

- All gifts of the Spirit operate per our volition—in other words we will not be forced to use a spiritual gift—thus we need not fear these gifts given by God
- All gifts of the Spirit are given to build up the body of Christ and to help us become mature disciples

Session 8—Living Joyfully: Growth in the Spirit

- We are intended to live our lives as an “amen” to God: 2nd Corinthians 1:20 NIV - “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”
- The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church: “Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2nd Corinthians 13:11 NLT God’s intention is for each of His children to have inner joy and peace unrelated to life’s circumstances as we grow in our understanding and love for God

You are invited to a weekly Zoom meeting through May 27, 2026

To join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87021332323>

Meeting ID: 870 2133 2323

Session 6—The Fruit of the Spirit: Changed From the Inside Out

1. Read Galatians chapter 5, paying special attention to verses 22-26. Here they are in the Amplified Bible: “But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites. If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit]. We must not become conceited, challenging *or* provoking one another, envying one another.” **As you read these verses, both in your Bible and in the Amplified Bible above, what new insights or memories came to you?**¹
2. Take a look at the following webpage. [The Fruit of the Spirit \(and Its Meaning\) in the Bible](#) Make sure you watch the short video under the section titled “The Source of the Fruit of the Spirit”. **Please reflect on the video and the article's descriptions of each of the nine fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians.**
3. Herbert Lockyer writes that “In his Galatian epistle, the apostle Paul depicts the ideal Christian character...Fruit is no mere self-development. It is the outcome of the Spirit’s unhindered indwelling. It is the Spirit’s transplantation of Christ’s nature into the character of the Christian.”² **Does this help your understanding of the Spirit’s work?**

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² Lockyer, Herbert. All about the Holy Spirit. Hendrickson Publishers, 1995, p. 104

4. Take a look at the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17 & Deuteronomy 5:6-21), the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) and the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). **Are there any important similarities or differences?**

5. Take a look at the source of the Fruit of the Spirit in John 15:1-11. **What important reminder do you discover in these verses?**

6. Read the descriptions of the Fruit again in Galatians 5:22-23 and then read 2 Peter 1:5-9 where Peter gives us nine stages of spiritual growth in grace. **How are the two lists similar and/or different?**

7. Lockyer observed something significant in his day (late 1940's). "The fruit of the Spirit is character rather than conduct—being rather than doing. In so many of our highly organized churches, people are urged to do something. The Lord, however, wants them to be something."³ **Is it easier for you to do or to be?**

8. Note the sentence at the beginning of the paragraph containing the listing of the fruit: "But I say, walk *habitually* in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]."⁴ **What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit"?**

³ Lockyer, p.106

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9. Love—the first and foremost fruit. It has been described as a disposition of the soul. Perhaps the initial penetration of the Spirit into our being starts a transformation of our personality in which love effects a change that moves from the inside out. **What has been your experience of this fruit in your own life?**

10. Joy comes next and also represents a profound change in our soul's character. Some have suggested that Paul paced this 2nd because he saw joy as a response to the presence of God's love living within us! **How's your "joy meter"—on a scale of 0 (nowhere to be found) to 10 (off the charts)?**

11. Peace finishes the first triad and represents how love and joy transform our understanding of God, ourselves, and the relationship that we enjoy through Jesus' sacrificial death. I remember well a sense of being loved unconditionally as never before, which birthed joy and resulted in a sense of peace "that passed all understanding. I was in the busiest season of my life to date, and yet I found, in this new relationship with God through Jesus Christ, that I was rarely bothered or felt hurried. I was at peace. The only times that I felt uneasy was when I was indulging in behaviors that I knew were not in keeping with my new relationship with God. Aside from that my soul was peace-filled. **How would you describe the presence of the fruit of "peace" in your life?**

12. Now things move to how our soul meets the world around. Patience or long-suffering refers to how we wait—especially for other people and for God! Revisit the translation of Galatians 5:22-23 and note that this fruit involves how the world meets our soul while we are in the act of waiting! **Is this a hard fruit to maintain and why?**

13. "Gentleness" describes those who are so much in control of themselves that they are always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time."⁵ Wouldn't it be nice to be able to live out the above quote? I must ask the Spirit for the power to be gentle with others and with myself? This fruit is also translated in some versions as "kindness", which evokes a sense of mercy and/or compassion. **What has been your experience of the Holy Spirit producing this fruit in and through your life?**
14. Goodness comes next and is a reflection of the Trinity. God is "good". Look at Psalm 143:10 and Ephesians 5:8-9. **What do you see that can help you open yourself to the fruit of goodness?**
15. Faith or "faithfulness" is a fruit that challenges the wayward nature of the "old self/man as described in the Amplified Bible translation of Romans 6:5-7. "For if we have become one with Him [permanently united] in the likeness of His death, we will also certainly be [one with Him and share fully] *in the likeness* of His resurrection. We know that our old self [our human nature without the Holy Spirit] was nailed to the cross with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin. For the person who has died [with Christ] has been freed from [the power of] sin." Having the fruit of the Spirit of "faith" goes far deeper than having faith that God will provide you with a parking space at the right time! Now I must add this caveat: I do pray for parking spaces. Pair the verses above with Revelation 2:9-11 in your Bible. Global Methodist Christians in various parts of the world may be living out these verses, even in our day. **How have you seen the fruit of "faith: produced by the Holy Spirit in your life?**

⁵ Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament, Copyright 2004. Copied from www.biblegateway.com

16. John Perowne tells us that meekness is “a grace of the soul which consists in habitual submission to the dealings of God, arising from a sense of His goodness and man’s own littleness and sin....Meekness is the opposite of self-parade, self-assertion, self-pride, self-will and the high-mindedness so common today (1949)”⁶ Also translated as “gentleness”, this fruit seems antithetical to our day, when strength and boldness are celebrated in the cinema as well as politics. Now, I like a movie where the good guy beats the bad guys; but, it would seem that being “tough”, ala *Rambo*, is not what we’re supposed to show the world. **How have you shown humility in the sense of being willing to hear the Spirit telling you and empowering you to display meekness, humility, gentleness?**
17. Self-control or temperance completes this list of the virtues of soul, relationships and self-understanding via submission to the Spirit of God as a voluntary exercise of our free will. **“Can we say that all our appetites, habits, sensual attractions and passions, are under the firm control of the loving Spirit?”⁷**
18. Paul concludes his list with a curious statement: “against such things there is no law.”⁸ **What do you think he is trying to tell the Christians of Galatia who will hear this letter read when they assemble to worship?**

⁶ Lockyer, p 125

⁷ Lockyer, p129

⁸ The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025.

19. Earlier in Galatians, chapter 5, Paul tells them to “walk in the Spirit” and be “led by the Spirit” (Gal. 5: 16, 18). Now hear these from the Amplified Bible in the context of verses 16-21. “But I say, walk *habitually* in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]. For the sinful nature has its desire which is opposed to the Spirit, and the [desire of the] Spirit opposes the sinful nature; for these [two, the sinful nature and the Spirit] are in direct opposition to each other [continually in conflict], so that you [as believers] do not [always] do whatever [good things] you want to do. But if you are guided *and* led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. Now the practices of the sinful nature are *clearly* evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and *other* things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”⁹
- Do you think that these early Christians had it easier, about the same, or harder than we do in terms of trying to allow the Spirit to enter our lives and reproduce the character of Jesus Christ?**

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