



YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES  
UNIT 29 • SESSION 3

# THE SPIRIT **ENABLES**

## MAIN POINT

**The disciples receive the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **ACTS 2:1 • JESUS'S DISCIPLES WITNESS GOD'S PLAN**

**1** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

## **ACTS 2:2-5 • JESUS'S DISCIPLES ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

## **ACTS 2:6-13 • JESUS'S DISCIPLES REVEAL GOD'S WORKS**

**6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." **12** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

## 1. JESUS'S DISCIPLES WITNESS GOD'S PLAN

### READ ACTS 2:1

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CHOSE PENTECOST TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT? WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT GOD? EXPLAIN.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOLLOWING THE LAW AND BEING GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## 2. JESUS'S DISCIPLES ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### READ ACTS 2:2-5

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT STILL EQUIP BELIEVERS TO DO MIRACULOUS THINGS TODAY?

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE IN YOUR LIFE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT?



## BIG QUESTION

### HOW DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is a gift to all believers, and it's one we don't earn. Scripture teaches that when we confess Jesus as Lord and claim our belief in Him as the Son of God, then the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us (see Eph. 1:13-14). We don't have to wait days, weeks, or even years for this to happen. It occurs at the moment of salvation! In fact, if the Spirit doesn't live within us, then we don't belong to Christ (see Rom. 8:9). The Holy Spirit living inside of us—guiding us, comforting us, and enabling us—is evidence of belonging to Jesus. The Spirit does a work in us over time as we grow in our faith. We receive the Holy Spirit when we confess Christ as the Lord of our lives, and He comes to permanently live within us.

## READ **ACTS 2:6-13**

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WHAT HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLED YOU TO DO THAT YOU COULDN'T DO ON YOUR OWN?

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HOW CAN YOU RESPOND WHEN OTHERS CRITICIZE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MOVING IN YOUR LIFE (V. 13)?



### ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

#### PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible not only affirms the full divinity of the Holy Spirit but also His personhood. Many people have mistakenly believed that the Spirit is a force or power, not a person. However, Scripture affirms His personhood by acknowledging that He is treated as a person (see Acts 5:3; 7:51; Heb. 10:29), acts like a person (see John 14:26; 15:26; Rom. 8:14), has attributes of a person (see 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 4:30), and acts in personal ways (see Isa. 63:10; Acts 13:2). In addition to these, the Bible also affirms that Christians relate to Him personally (see Acts 5:3-4; 7:51).



#### HEAD



**HOW SHOULD THE HOLY SPIRIT  
LIVING INSIDE OF YOU TRANSFORM  
YOUR MIND?**

#### HEART

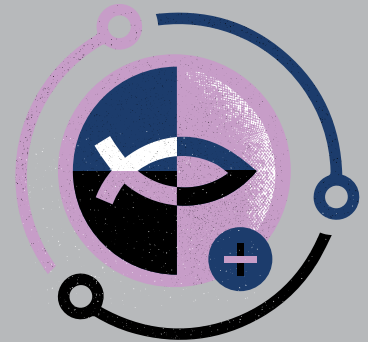


**WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU DON'T  
FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

#### HANDS

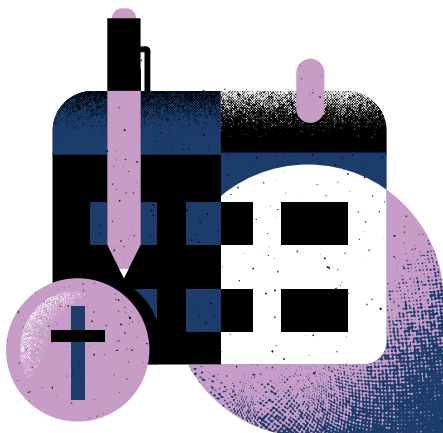


**WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE SO OTHERS  
CLEARLY SEE CHRIST LIVING INSIDE  
OF YOU?**



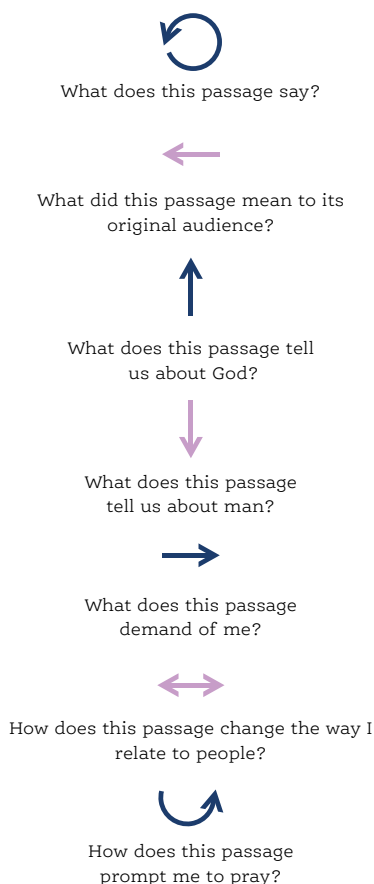
## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus had instructed His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit because He would empower them to be His witnesses on earth. Just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came on the disciples, filled them, and empowered them to complete the mission they had been given. God gives the Holy Spirit to all who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and the Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus.



## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



DAY 01

## EPHESIANS 1:13-14

Some of us may have an inheritance waiting for us. Maybe you'll inherit money, a house, or a special item from a family member. A lot of us don't have a worldly inheritance, though. But believers have the most incredible inheritance in heaven. God's Word tells us the Holy Spirit is a down payment on our inheritance. We have God dwelling within us, but one day we will see Him face to face in all of His glory. While we may not receive worldly possessions here, we can wait in expectation for our eternal inheritance—one which will never fade. It can be easy to focus on accumulating material possessions, but none of them will last. Only our spiritual inheritance endures.

**WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN TEMPTED TO FOCUS MORE ON MATERIAL POSSESSIONS?**

**HOW DOES KNOWING MATERIAL INHERITANCE FADES ENCOURAGE YOU TO INVEST IN YOUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE?**

**Pray:** Thank God for giving you an inheritance in heaven. Praise Him for sending the Holy Spirit as a glimpse of what's to come.

DAY 02

## EPHESIANS 3:20

WHEN HAVE YOU PLACED LIMITS ON  
WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH YOU?

DO YOU BELIEVE GOD CAN DO  
"ABOVE AND BEYOND" ANYTHING  
YOU ASK OR THINK? WHY OR  
WHY NOT?

Have you ever done something you thought you couldn't do? Maybe you surpassed your PR in the weight room. Or maybe you ran farther than you thought you could. When we push ourselves, we are often capable of more than we realize. Spiritually, we are capable because God is capable within us. Sometimes we limit what God can do in our lives, in the lives of others, or in our world. But these verses remind us God can do more than we can ever imagine. We'll could never accomplish apart from God what we could accomplish with Him. God is mighty inside of you. And when you rely on Him, God can do more in your life than you could possibly imagine.

**Pray:** Thank God for living within you. Ask for greater faith to believe He can do mighty things through you.

DAY 03

## JOHN 3:5-8

Water has no magical or special properties. It cleanses our bodies, but it could never cleanse our souls. And this is what Jesus explained in this passage. If we truly want to be born again—made new—we need more than water. We need the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We can sometimes lean toward good works and following rules to save our souls. This is no different than what the Pharisees did. But Jesus says we can only enter God's kingdom because of His Spirit living in our hearts.

HOW HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE  
YOU NEW?

WHAT WORKS HAVE YOU DEPENDED  
ON IN THE PAST?

**Pray:** Ask God to remind you of His goodness in saving you. Commit to leaning on the Holy Spirit for continual sanctification.

## GALATIANS 5:22-23

HOW DO YOU SEE THE FRUITS  
OF THE SPIRIT DEVELOPING IN  
YOUR LIFE?

WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU  
NEED TO ALLOW GOD TO CHANGE?

Think back to kindergarten. You've changed a lot since then physically and emotionally. It happens without us noticing, often very slowly. If you remained exactly the same, it would be concerning. Spiritually, it is no different, yet we sometimes think it's acceptable to remain unchanged. God's Word is clear: salvation leads to continual renewal. The longer we walk with the Lord—the longer the Holy Spirit lives within us—the more we develop the "fruit of the spirit" and become like Christ. If this isn't happening, then we must assess our hearts and test our faith to make sure it's genuine. When we encounter God, He changes us, both immediately and continually, as we nurture our relationship with Him.

**Pray:** Thank God for changing you. Ask Him to continue to refine you each day.

## JOHN 15:18-19

Most of us don't like being criticized or disliked, especially by people we know and love. It stings. This happened to Jesus and the disciples. Many Jews and religious leaders misunderstood Jesus, publicly criticizing His message. Jesus promised we would also be misunderstood and possibly persecuted. As God moves in your life, maybe urging you to make decisions that are different from your peers, you can expect pushback. While it's discouraging, you can be encouraged knowing God is with you. The Holy Spirit equips you to continue seeking Christ even in the face of worldly critique.

WHEN HAS SOMEONE CRITICIZED  
YOU FOR FOLLOWING CHRIST?

WHEN HAVE YOU ALLOWED FEAR OF  
NOT FITTING IN TO DETER YOU FROM  
OBEYING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**Pray:** Ask God to give you endurance when others don't understand why you're following Him. Pray for those who criticize you to see Christ and desire Him.