THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Bible Study Guide

Knowing the Holy Spirit, Experiencing His Power, and Living Under His Guidance

Key Scriptures: John 14:16–17, 26; John 16:7–15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:14–16; Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV)

John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with
you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees
Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach
you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:7-15

7Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go
away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when
He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9
of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father
and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. 13 However,
when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not
speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you
things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to
you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He [a]will take of
Mine and declare *it* to you.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be
[a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15For you did not
receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by
whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those *who
are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the
Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Central Message: The Holy Spirit is the divine Person who dwells in believers, reveals Jesus Christ, transforms character, empowers Christian living, and equips believers to fulfill God's purposes.

A. Learning Objectives

1. Explain the identity and deity of the Holy Spirit.
2. Identify at least seven major ministries of the Holy Spirit.
3. Distinguish the fruit of the Spirit from the gifts of the Spirit.
4. Describe how to discern and respond to the Spirit's guidance.
5. Identify practical steps toward a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered life.

B. Introduction: Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is fully God, eternal, personal, and actively involved in believers' lives. Jesus promised His followers another Helper who would remain with them.

John 14:16–17, 26—Jesus promises the abiding Helper, the Spirit of truth, who teaches and reminds disciples of Jesus' teaching.

The Greek term Paraklētos conveys Helper, Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter.

Discussion: If Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as our Helper, why do Christians sometimes attempt to live through their own strength?

C. Seven Major Ministries of the Holy Spirit

1. Convicts People of Sin

John 16:8–11 —The Spirit reveals sin, righteousness, and judgment, calling people toward repentance and Christ.

Reflection: How does conviction differ from hopeless condemnation?

2. Brings Spiritual New Birth

John 3:5–8; Titus 3:5—The Spirit brings regeneration, a spiritual birth that goes deeper than external religious behavior.

Reflection: How does new birth differ from merely being religious?

3. Indwells and Assures Believers

1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:15–16; Ephesians 1:13–14—The Spirit dwells in believers, assures them of their identity as God's children, and seals their inheritance.

Reflection: How should the Spirit's indwelling affect daily choices?

4. Teaches and Guides into Truth

John 14:26; John 16:13–14; 1 Corinthians 2:12–14—The Spirit teaches, recalls Jesus' words, illumines spiritual truth, and glorifies Christ.

Reflection: How can we test an impression against Scripture?

5. Sanctifies and Transforms Character

Galatians 5:16–25; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:13—The Spirit helps believers resist sinful desires and grow in Christlike character.

Reflection: What character trait needs transformation?

6. Empowers Witness and Service

Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11—The Spirit gives boldness for witness and gifts for serving the common good.

Reflection: What fear may the Spirit help you overcome?

7. Helps Us Pray

Romans 8:26–27; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20—The Spirit helps believers in weakness and intercedes in accordance with God's will.

Reflection: How does this encourage prayer during hardship?

D. The Fruit of the Spirit Versus the Gifts of the Spirit

Fruit of the Spirit	**Gifts of the Spirit**
Christlike character	Spirit-enabled capacities for service
Developed through spiritual growth	Distributed according to the Spirit's will
Expected to characterize all believers	Different gifts given to different believers
Who we are becoming	How we serve others
Galatians 5:22–23	1 Corinthians 12:4–11

Nine qualities of the fruit: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22–23: Paul describes the character qualities produced by the Spirit in believers.

1 Corinthians 12:4–11: The Spirit gives diverse gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 13: Love is essential; spiritual gifts without love do not demonstrate maturity.

E. What Does It Mean to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:18— And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Paul contrasts drunkenness with the command to be continually filled with the Spirit.

To be filled with the Spirit is to yield our thoughts, decisions, attitudes, and conduct to His ongoing influence. Such living increasingly produces obedience, gratitude, worship, love, discernment, and courage.

Christian traditions differ on the relationship of Spirit baptism, conversion, and some gifts, while affirming dependence on the Spirit for holy living and service.

F. Biblical Case Study: Peter Before and After Pentecost

Luke 22:54–62—Before Pentecost, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times in a setting of fear and pressure.

Acts 2:14–41; Acts 4:8–13—After Pentecost, Peter publicly proclaimed the risen Jesus and spoke boldly before opposition.

Discussion: What changed in Peter? How can his example encourage you (as students) to face fear, peer pressure, or opportunities to witness?

G. Practical Application: Cooperating with the Holy Spirit

- **Surrender daily to God:** Romans 12:1–2
- **Study and obey Scripture:** John 14:26; James 1:22
- **Pray consistently:** Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18
- **Walk by the Spirit:** Galatians 5:16
- **Do not grieve or quench the Spirit:** Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21
- **Use gifts with humility and love:** 1 Peter 4:10–11
- **Practice fellowship and accountability:** Hebrews 10:24–25

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Individually—identify one area of life where yuo need the Spirit's help this week: integrity, prayer, reconciliation, witness, self-control, or understanding Scripture.

Prayer—Heavenly Father, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in and guide Your children. Help us to recognize His conviction, trust His teaching, grow in His fruit, and serve others through His gifts. Give us courage to witness for Jesus, humility to seek reconciliation, and strength to obey Your Word. May our lives glorify Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, Amen.