

Holy
SPIRIT

LIFE GROUP *Study*



NEW LIFE
CHURCH

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ABBREVIATIONS

Scriptural abbreviations throughout this study are as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| Genesis: | GEN | Matthew | Mt. |
| Exodus: | EX | Mark | Mk. |
| Leviticus: | LEV | Luke | Lk. |
| Numbers: | NUM | John | Jn. |
| Deuteronomy: | DEUT | Acts | Ac. |
| Joshua: | JOSH | Romans | Rom. |
| Judges: | JUDG | 1 Corinthians | 1 Cor. |
| Ruth: | RUTH | 2 Corinthians | 2 Cor. |
| 1 Samuel: | 1 SAM | Galatians | Gal. |
| 2 Samuel: | 2 SAM | Ephesians | Eph. |
| 1 Kings: | 1 KI | Philippians | Phil. |
| 2 Kings: | 2 KI | Colossians | Col. |
| 1 Chronicles | 1 CHR | 1 Thessalonians | 1 Thess. |
| 2 Chronicles | 2 CHR | 2 Thessalonians | 2 Thess. |
| Ezra: | EZ | 1 Timothy | 1 TIm. |
| Nehemiah: | NEH | 2 Timothy | 2 TIm. |
| Esther: | ESTH | Titus | Tit. |
| Job: | JOB | Philemon | Phil. |
| Psalms: | PS | Hebrews | Heb. |
| Proverbs: | PR | James | Ja. |
| Ecclesiastes: | ECC | 1 Peter | 1 Pet. |
| Song of Solomon: | SONG of SOL | 2 Peter | 2 Pet. |
| Isaiah: | IS | 1 John | 1 Jn. |
| Jeremiah: | JER | 2 John | 2 Jn. |
| Lamentations: | LAM | 3 John | 3 Jn. |
| Ezekiel: | EZ | Jude | Jude |
| Daniel: | DAN | Revelation | Rev. |
| Hosea: | HOS | | |
| Joel: | JOEL | | |
| Amos: | AM | | |
| Obadiah: | OB | | |
| Jonah: | JON | | |
| Micah: | MIC | | |
| Nahum: | NAH | | |
| Habakkuk: | HAB | | |
| Zephaniah: | ZEPH | | |
| Haggai: | HAG | | |
| Zechariah: | ZECH | | |
| Malachi: | MAL | | |

Introduction

This study on the Holy Spirit is designed to help you grow deeper in your understanding of Who the Holy Spirit is. We will talk about what He is like, how He operates, how to connect with and be led by Him, and how to partner with Him using the gifts He has given us to reach our world with the Good News of Jesus!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- WATCH** A few of the sessions include a main video teaching topic. Ideally, watch a session video during the week prior to that session's meeting.
- BIG IDEA** This is a summary highlighting the key ideas of each video or teaching for that session. Each Big Idea is followed by a supporting scripture.
- DISCUSSION** These questions are designed to help your group review the session content in a conversational way during the life group meeting.
- NEXT STEPS** Next Steps are your opportunity to take what you learn each session and put it into practice. They are practical, attainable, and stretching actions you can take to grow and move forward in your journey following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Next Steps can be found within the Session review pages and occasionally within the Devotions.
- DEVOTIONS** This section contains a few devotionals to help you stay engaged in your journey with God and help you go deeper with the content.
- NOTES** Use this space to jot down notes and insights during your discussions.
- RESOURCES** If you would like to continue learning outside of your group, the recommended resources are included as tools to continue your journey in understanding more about the Holy Spirit.

Session 1 | THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

WATCH

“The Holy Spirit in Our Lives:”

<https://bit.ly/NLCHolySpirit1>.



BIG IDEA

This study is designed to help us understand more about The Holy Spirit: Who He is, what He is like, how He operates, how to connect with and be led by Him, and how to partner with Him using the gifts He has given us to reach our world with the Good News of Jesus!

NOTES

WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. He _____ us.
JN 13-14; JN 14:26; GEN 1:2; 2 TIM 3:16-17; JN 16:5-13

The Holy Spirit

2. He will _____ you.
EPH 5:15-20

3. He will _____ with His Spirit.
EPH 5:18; ALSO MIC 3:8; EX 31:3, 35:31; LK 1:15, 1:41, 4:1;
AC 4:8, 6:5, 9:17, 11:24, 13:9.

DISCUSSION

- Q1. What was your favorite part about this week's teaching?
- Q2: Which camp would you say your childhood church or family tended to fall into: those who always or those who never talked about the Holy Spirit?
- Q3: What were your childhood experiences like around the person of the Holy Spirit?

NEXT STEPS

- **SIT.** Be still in God's presence for five minutes each day this week. Spend a few minutes carving out margin so that you may have consistent daily time with God over the course of this study. In your daily prayer life, ask the Lord to show you which of the three main points in this session He wants you to focus on.
- **WALK.** Begin reading the devotionals and using the prayer guide (found in Appendix A). We encourage you, throughout the course of this study, to get a journal and write down any thoughts that enter your mind each day. Pray over specific thoughts, inviting God to show you which ones are from Him, from yourself, from the world, and even from the enemy. Invite Him to help you grow in discerning which thoughts are from Him and which thoughts are not.
- **RUN (with a friend).** If you have never had an accountability partner, pray about who that person could be for you. Make a connection with them over the next few days and create room in your schedule to meet often to discuss your journey together.

Make it a priority to walk through this study with a small group, and commit to regularly discuss what you're learning. Create a group message or a GroupMe to encourage one another in this season.

Devotional 1 | **QUIET TIME WITH GOD**

Have you ever heard someone say, “I didn’t have my quiet time this morning,” and you wondered what in the world they were talking about? What is a quiet time? It is a moment to get alone with God, whether reading scripture, praying, or worshipping with music. If it gets you into the presence of God, use it!

Think about this: Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden before the fall of man. When Jesus went to the cross, the veil was torn, and that communication was restored! You can walk and talk with Him! He is an accessible God!

Spend a few minutes with God right now. If you don’t know where to start, that’s okay! Jesus left a prayer model with us to help us connect with Father God called “The Lord’s Prayer.” You don’t have to pray this like a rote prayer, word for word, but use it as a template to connect with God. This is found in Matthew 6:9–13:

- **“Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.”** Spend a minute focusing on His character. He is holy. He is kind. He is loving.
 - ◁ If you don’t know too much about His character, check out Psalm 103. He forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, and satisfies.
- **“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”**
 - ◁ God invites us to partner with him in bringing more of His Presence into the world, and it starts with preparing our hearts and homes for more of His Presence. His “Kingdom” means inviting more of His Presence here, which is demonstrated by the fruit of His Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). His “will” is the direction of the Spirit.
- **“Give us this day our daily bread”** is supplication, which means to bring our specific needs and questions to the Father.
- **“Forgive us our debts”** is when you talk to God about things you may struggle with and pray for others. Pray about all personal relationships, and practice choosing to forgive and release anyone who may have hurt you.

- “...Lead us not into temptation” means to ask for the Lord’s protection over your mind, emotions, choices, and physical body, that God will protect you in the midst of whatever you’re facing.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Our first step is to practice being still in God’s presence a little bit every day. Each day, before you continue with the daily devotional, we encourage you to get quiet before God and write down what you sense He is saying to you, jotting down anything you see, sense, or hear.

Devotional 2 | PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Practice being still before God for five minutes before continuing with this Devo.

What Bible verses are you reading today? Can you pray these over your life, family, government, church, etc.? Here’s an example:

“Do not conform 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.”—ROMANS 12:2

A prayer based on this scripture might sound something like this:

“God, transform me and renew my mind. This way, I won’t conform to the pattern of the world, but will help to change it. Help me to follow You and bring glory to your Name.”

The Holy Spirit

Prayer is a conversation with God. It can be done anywhere at any time.

NEXT STEP

- WALK. Practice having a conversation with God several times throughout the day today.
 - ◁ Journal about what you see, sense, or hear, then compare it to the character and nature of God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.
 - ◁ Is what you are sensing consistent with God's Word? See GAL 5:22-23; PHIL 4:8-9

Devotional 3 | **DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE**

Often we can't hear God's voice clearly because there are too many other voices competing for our attention. It's not because he's not speaking. It's that we can't hear because of the voices all around us. These other voices may be hobbies, finances, our kids, our marriage, our job, or just plain old boredom. The voice of God is not loud. In fact, God's plans are often revealed in a still, small voice, not even as loud as a whisper.

The voice of God is not loud.

Sometimes in order to hear God, it's a matter of timing. Pastor Rick tells this story from years ago when he was able to speak at LSU's chapel the day before a football game:

I walked out on the field before anyone was on it. No one was in the stadium. It had room enough for 95,000 to sit

there, but it was just me. I was looking around, waiting for my chaplain friend, Ken, to meet me. Two guys came out on the opposite side of the stadium and were talking about whether the grass on the field was ready for the game. I was far away from them but could hear everything they were saying. I wondered if it was due to the acoustics there. The next day, the stadium was packed with 95,000 people, screaming loudly. My friend tried to tell me something during an intense part of the game, and I couldn't hear it. Why? Too many voices. (From Be Real, pp. 130–131).

One way you can eliminate distracting voices is to consistently open up God's Word in the morning. If you want wisdom, read Proverbs. For more of a heart after Him, read the book of Psalms. If you don't know how to study the Word, meet with someone who does.

We have established that God's voice comes to us like a whisper and that when we humble ourselves before him—quieting down to give him room to breathe into our lives—we can hear him more clearly! God speaks to us all the time, but sometimes we don't hear what he is saying for many reasons. Sometimes we just don't want to listen to him because we think we know what's best without his input. (In that case, there may be some pride or fear of releasing control to Him). Other times, we may be afraid of what he might say because we've learned somewhere that we should be afraid of him, that he is mad at us, or that He's weird. Both of these views of God, however, cloud our understanding of what His voice really sounds like.

Have you ever been to a coffee shop to meet a friend, but before they arrived, you heard a new band playing that you really liked? How did you find out more about that band? Maybe you used an app to identify the band or genre, and within minutes you had them on your favorite playlist. If you were really interested in them, maybe you Googled the band to learn a little more about the musicians. And the more you tune into the sound of your new favorite band, the more you discern what you like about the genre that particular band fits into. Then, you begin discovering similar bands, and before you know it, you've got dozens of songs and several new bands to listen to. All because you tuned your ear to something you liked in the coffee shop that day.

Sometimes we struggle to hear what God has to say because we haven't trained our ears to tune in. Tuning the ears of your heart to discern God's voice can be likened to the song discovery process.

The Holy Spirit

There are many Bible verses that help us discern God's voice, and the foundation of understanding God's character and nature, and therefore his voice, can be found in scripture—the Word of God—the Bible. Check this out:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. —2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

The word “God-breathed” comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*, which quite literally means “God's breath.” If you are ever unclear whether what you are sensing is God's voice whispering to you, stop and ask, “Is what I'm hearing consistent with God's Word?” The more you know God's Word, the more easily you will be able to discern His Voice.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

—GALATIANS 5:22-23

If the voice that gently whispers to you is consistent with the fruit of the Spirit, what you're hearing is from God! And if it causes you to love others well, creates more joy in your life, and encourages you to be kind towards others, it is consistent with God's character! Simply put, the voice of God will never contradict the Word of God or the character and nature of God as he has revealed himself in his Word.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Meditate on 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Galatians 5:22-23. Each time you sense that something you may be receiving is from the Holy Spirit, write it down and compare it to what God's Word says. Does it reflect the character and nature of God as He has revealed Himself in His Word? Does it encourage you to get outside yourself and serve the needs of someone else with joy?
-
-

BIG IDEA

We grow in our relationship with God when we intentionally spend time in His presence. If I am confident in my relationship with God, I can stand firm with Him through every storm.

READ

Matthew 7:24-27, *The House Built On the Rock*

NOTES

“It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools don’t turn from evil to attain them.” —PROVERBS 13:19

KEYS TO A STRONG FOUNDATION

1. Build Your House on _____.
MT 7:24-25, 15:6; JA 1:7-8

2. Anchor Your House in _____.
2 TIM 3:16-17

The Holy Spirit

3. Follow the Lead of the _____.
JN 15:26; 2 COR 1:3-5

“When the Advocate 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.”—JOHN 15:26

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.—2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-5

DISCUSSION

- Q1:** In what seasons have you needed someone to comfort you?
- Q2:** Describe a time when you made a big decision that you didn't first ask God about or a time when you made a big decision that you either felt rushed to make or felt anxious about.

Describe a time when you made a big decision that you didn't first ask God about or a time when you made a big decision that you either felt rushed to make or felt anxious about.

- Q3:** Looking back, was it a wise decision? Why or why not? What (if anything) would you do differently?

NEXT STEPS

- **SIT.** Be still in God's presence for five minutes each day, spending time in prayer. Use the prayer guide in Appendix A if you need help with staying in a heart posture of prayer. In your daily prayer life, ask the Lord to show you which of the areas in this session He wants you to focus on.
- **WALK.** Stay in God's Word every day! Each time you open your Bible, pray and ask God what He wants to show you. Write it down! Use the devotionals within this study. If you want to grow more in understanding how the Holy Spirit operates in your life, check out the suggested resources in Appendix B.
- **RUN.** Study the Word of God together, whether with your accountability partner or life group. Call or meet with your accountability partner once before the next Session. Is God asking you to take a step of faith in any area? If so, review with them what you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you, and invite your accountability partner to hold you accountable to obedience.

Devotional 4 | **PRAYING SCRIPTURE WITH WORSHIP & THANKSGIVING**

Practice being still before God for five minutes before continuing with this Devo. Once you've done that, write down anything you sense God is saying to you.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —JEREMIAH 29:11

When we first place our trust in Jesus as our Savior (from our sins), we are truly born again! In this moment of “justification,” where we are justified before the Father because of the work of the Son on the Cross (“just-as-if I’d never sinned”), we experience new life in Christ, and our lives get a fresh, new start. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that you’ve been forgiven for all the things you’ve done wrong (whether you intended to do them or not!). And so begins the daily journey of surrendering to Him as our Lord (now and for the rest of our lives), a process we commonly call “sanctification.”

We live in that elation, that joy, for about five minutes when it dawns on us that we still live in the same place. Though our hearts are forever changed, the world around us is still the same, and the people in that world are the same today as they were yesterday. The only difference now is that you see things differently, and you live from a different position—alive in Christ, as opposed to being dead in your sin.

Jesus warns us in John 16:33 that as long as we are in this world, we will have trouble! The trouble that He’s talking about is sometimes due to poor decisions we have made, but often it’s because we’re simply experiencing the consequences of living in a fallen world. Jesus also promises us in that same verse that we can “Take heart! I have overcome the world.” If He is encouraging us to “take heart,” that consequently means that He knows that we may lose heart at times.

The book of Hebrews, chapter 11, gives numerous examples of people who faced significant challenges and uphill battles. They could have lost heart, but instead, they overcame their challenges and won their battles by activating and exercising their faith! Faith, the Bible says, “is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (See HEB 11:1). The Bible also says that we

can't even please God if we *don't* have faith! (See HEB 11:6). The very cool thing is that there is a gift of faith that God gives to His children, a gift that gives us confidence that God will come through for us and that He fulfills His promises!

Most people usually don't want to be the only person in a conversation. If you take someone to lunch, and they talk the whole time, that may not be a pleasant experience for you! Jesus loves to hear from us, and yet He has so much He can tell us, but we have to get quiet enough to hear His voice. So take time to listen in prayer. How do you do that? Quiet your spirit before God. Humble yourself before Him.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. We encourage you to spend some time in worship and thanksgiving today. Here's a sample prayer to get started:

God, thank you for all that you have done. Thank you for being a good God full of hope! Thank you for setting out a prosperous plan for my life.

Try praying through the following verse on your own:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” — PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Devotional 5 | **TABERNACLE PRAYER**

Practice being still before God for a few minutes before continuing with this Devo.

See 1 PET 2:1–10

The Old Testament Tabernacle was symbolic of another prayer pattern we can use in our approach to God:

- **The Brazen Altar** looks forward to Jesus' blood sacrifice, which brought salvation, healing, freedom, infilling, provision, and justification by faith!
 - Spend some time thanking Jesus for the sacrifice He made for you.
- **The Laver** was a bowl for washing, representing the process of sanctification, where we are made into God's likeness every day as we submit to Him. The work on the Cross has already been done, and the curse over our body, mind, and spirit was broken! We just need to agree with Him!
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse your heart, mind, and body of any unconfessed sin.
- **The Lampstand** was a lamp with seven branches, reminding the Israelites that they carried the Light of the world (God). Jesus confirmed this when He said to the disciples, "You are the light of the world." We carry His light (Jesus) to others.
 - Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with His fruit and His gifts so that the light you shine reflects God's character and nature to the world around you.
- **The Table of Shewbread** was a table with 12 loaves. It represents the Word of God.
 - Ask God to reveal His word to you today. This is a great place to pray scripture back to God.
- **The Incense Altar** was an altar for worship in the Spirit.
 - This is a time for praying and singing in the Spirit.
- **The Ark of the Covenant** was the "mercy seat."
 - We experience God's mercy when we don't get what we deserve! (Aren't you thankful for God's mercy?)

Devotional 6 | **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Several of our devotionals here will focus on characteristics of the Holy Spirit. As we learn more about who He is, we also understand more clearly the direction He leads us in our daily lives, which helps us make wise choices. Today we will be focusing on the characteristic of intimacy—the Holy Spirit wants to be our very best friend, the One we can count on through thick and thin.

“I have been anointed with fresh oil...” “They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green...” —PSALM 92:10,13-14

The spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of might, the spirit of knowledge, and the spirit of the fear of the Lord... —ISAIAH 11:2

The Spirit of the Lord—Intimacy

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
—2 CORINTHIANS 3:16-18

When describing a close friend, people commonly use words like “buddies” or “kindred spirits.” The implications are familiarity and close-knit relationships. Though the Holy Spirit wants to be that kind of friend, we often struggle with seeing Him that way. Why? Because self-condemnation—the way we judge ourselves—clouds our perception of how God sees us. Instead of assuming that God is mad at us, it’s important to understand what His word says. And when we meditate on His Word, it begins to quiet the voice of condemnation in our minds. It helps us hear more easily what the Holy Spirit is really trying to say and know the direction He wants to lead us.

When Jesus died on the cross, the Word says that the veil of the Temple that separated us from God’s presence was torn in two. As

WATCH

“How to be Led by the Holy Spirit.”

<https://bit.ly/NLCHolySpirit2>



BIG IDEA

The focus over the next two sessions will be on how to be led by the Holy Spirit and how to discern when He is speaking to you.

NOTES

ROM 8:14; JN 16:13-14; EX 23:2; AC 27:13-44

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

EPH 5:15-18

Walk as a wise person walks. Walking implies three things:

1. The Holy Spirit is _____ you somewhere.

2. Walking implies _____.

The Holy Spirit

3. Walking implies _____.

THREE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH HIS LEADING

EPH 5:19-21; 2 COR 3:6

1. The _____ of worship.

“Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,...”—EPHESIANS 5:19

2. The _____ of thanksgiving.

“...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”—EPHESIANS 5:20

3. The _____ of serving.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

—EPHESIANS 5:21

DISCUSSION

- Q1:** How often do you get alone with God to simply worship Him for who He is and thank Him for what He has done? Do you feel as though you live a life that is dependent on the Holy Spirit?
- Q2:** Can you tell a difference between the days that you take time to worship and thank Him and days that you don't? Explain.
- Q3:** In what ways do you enjoy serving others?

NEXT STEPS

SIT. Be still in his presence for five minutes each day. Cultivate an atmosphere of worship and an attitude of thanksgiving in your daily prayer life. Spend time every day worshipping the Lord and thanking Him for everything that comes to mind!

WALK. Continue reading the Devos and using one of the prayer guides in Appendix A. Journal about what you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you, and discuss it with your accountability partner sometime this week.

RUN. Find someone to serve this week. Make serving others a habit that becomes a lifestyle that comes so naturally to you that you don't even have to think about it.

Devotional 7 | **THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL—DECISIONS**

The Holy Spirit is called our “Wonderful Counselor.” The word “counsel” is the Hebrew word *etsah*, which means to give wise counsel, advice, or purpose, from the root word *ya`ats*, meaning “to advise.” It means having the ability to make *one good decision*. So, basically, you have the ultimate adviser available to you, the consultant who won’t send you an invoice for the time He spends with you, who moves through your entire day with you. Given that the Spirit of God knows everything and is not confined by space or time (He knows the end of every story!), He can help you with whatever decisions you face today! In fact, He would love to be included in *every* decision and choice you make, significant or not.

If you truly want to make a one percent adjustment this week that will ultimately change the course of your life, start with consulting with the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Counsel—about every decision you make, starting with the first one you need to make today. And whatever decision you are currently facing, large or small, pray about it, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, insight, and direction. Then pay attention! Remember, the Holy Spirit is the quintessential gentleman. His voice is as quiet as a whisper, as gentle as a summer breeze. He leads you in love, with joy, full of peace! If there is confusion, anxiety, irritation, or conflict around any decision you are making, hit the pause button and invite the Holy Spirit to bring clarity to the situation.

The story goes that a man was once offered an incredible opportunity to invest in a great business venture, but the offer was only good for that day. Because that particular day was also the man’s Sabbath, he refused to decide, trusting God that if the offer was still available the next day, it was from God. Well, it wasn’t available the next day, and his business friends ridiculed him for not jumping at this great opportunity. Turns out, it was a terrible investment, and his friends lost their investment. (From Lapin, *Business Secrets from the Bible*).

When the world tries to force you to make a decision *right now*, the moment can be filled with pressure and impatience. Take note! Pay attention to whether or not your decision is consistent with the character and nature of God as He has revealed Himself to you in His Word.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Is there any decision you are facing this season, or a one percent adjustment that you need to make, that you need the Wonderful Counselor for?
-
-
-

Devotional 8 | THE JABEZ PRAYER

Practice being still before God for five minutes before continuing with this Devo.

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request. — 1 CHRONICLES 4:10

The name “Jabez” means pain. In 1 Chronicles 4, verse 9 mentions that his mother gave birth to him in pain, so she named him “Jabez.” Imagine being named after a tough situation:

“Hi, my name is Carreck.”

What?

“Mom was in a car wreck the day I was born, so she named me “Carreck.”

I’m so sorry.

“What’s your name?”

Salmon Ella. Don’t ask.

Jabez carried around a negative label his entire life! Every time someone called his name, he was reminded that he was the cause of someone else’s pain. So he prayed that God would bless him and set him free from that label—the lie that he was just a pain in others’ lives.

The point is that when you pray, “Bless me indeed,” you’re praying for *abundance*. When you pray, “Enlarge my territory,” you’re ask-

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ing for *influence*. When you pray, “Let your hand be with me,” you want *more of His Presence*. And when you pray, “Keep me from evil,” you’re inviting *God’s protection* over your life. These are all amazing things to pray for, and they’re all in God’s Word!

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Is there any negative label that you have been carrying around or that has been spoken over you? Pray a Jabez prayer over it! And remember, when you’re reading through scripture, purpose to pray it over your own life and any situation you may be facing.
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Devotional 9 | THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING—CLARITY

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. —ISAIAH 11:2-3A

Another characteristic of the Holy Spirit is the idea that He brings understanding to our minds and hearts. He makes things clear. The word “understanding” in Isaiah 11:2 is the word *biynah*, which includes both understanding and discernment, and the root word, *biyn*, means wisdom. So in the context of our everyday lives, the Holy Spirit helps us understand *what* is going on at any given moment, *why* it is happening, and what is *motivating* or energizing our words, behaviors, actions, and responses (and sometimes of those around us), and *how* to respond in light of this insight.

“Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to UNDERSTAND and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.” —DANIEL 10:12

Understanding brings *clarity* during challenging times. Check out this verse that describes the men of the Israelite tribe of Issachar:

“...from Issachar, men who understood the times and

BIG IDEA

We grow in our calling and giftings when we open ourselves to a relationship with the third Person of the Trinity: The Holy Spirit. We receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when we are born again. This is the moment He lives inside of us, bringing what was dead (our spirit) to life! He is *in you for you*.

When we receive the gift (or baptism) of the Holy Spirit, whether dually (at the same time we are born again) or afterward (because you may not even know there IS a Holy Spirit who can empower you—this is the moment that you allow Him permission to be *on you for others*).

The Holy Spirit is our best friend, a great Counselor who brings wisdom, loves us, cares for us, is real, sees our blind spots, looks out for our best interests, and encourages us to fulfill the calling God has placed on us. Who wouldn't want a Friend like that?



TEN IDEAS ABOUT THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. John baptizes with _____, but Jesus baptizes in the

_____.

MT 3:11; MK 1:8; LK 3:16; JN 1:33

2. Jesus was full of the _____

_____ and _____.

LK 4:1, 14

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3. Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit as our _____.
JN 14:16-17, 26-27; JN 15:26-27; JN 16:1-15

4. Jesus _____ the Holy Spirit.
JN 20:19-23; LK 24:44-49

5. Jesus tells them to _____ to be baptized
in the Holy Spirit.
MT 3:11; AC 1:1-8

6. The Holy Spirit comes at _____.
AC 2:1-13

7. Peter explains how to be _____ and receive
the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
AC 2:14-41

8. The Holy Spirit _____ to be poured out.
AC 8:14-17; AC 10:34-48; AC 9:17; AC 19:1-6

9. Paul explains the _____ of the Holy Spirit and proper use of the gift of _____ and _____ in the Spirit.
1 COR 12:1-11; 1 COR 14

10. Paul continues to teach on the _____ for praying in the Spirit and _____ to pray in the Spirit.
ROM 8:26-27; EPH 6:18-20; JUDE 1:20

RECEIVING THE GIFT / BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DISCUSSION

- Q1: Have you heard this teaching before, or is it completely new to you? Explain.
- Q2: Who is the Holy Spirit to you?

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- You can pray and ask Jesus Himself to baptize you in His Spirit. He would love to do that! It's one of His favorite things to do; it's right up there with Jesus praying for you before His Father all day, every day.
- Or, you can ask your local pastor or life group leader to lay hands on you and pray that you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "Laying on of hands" means they place their hand on your head while they pray, which demonstrates giving you a blessing from God. For you to allow someone to "lay hands" on you as they pray, it demonstrates that you are allowing God to use them to bless you.
- If you aren't in a place where you want to pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, then please take a moment and pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything that He would like for you to release to Him.

NEXT STEPS

- SIT. Be still in God's presence for five minutes each day, and continue spending time in prayer and reading His Word! Each time you open your Bible, pray and ask God what He wants to show you that day. Write it down! Ask the Lord to show you which of the areas in this session He wants you to focus on.
- WALK. Continue reading the devotionals and using the prayer guide in Appendix A.
- RUN. Call or meet with your accountability partner once before the next Session.

Devotional 10 | THE RIGHT AND THE POWER TO WALK IN GOD'S AUTHORITY

Prior to Genesis 3, Adam and Eve were in a relationship with God and enjoyed his presence. The Word tells us God made these two humans in his image, and he then gave Adam dominion over everything he had created. (See GEN 1:26, 28). The word “dominion” literally means to dominate or rule over something. God basically said to Adam, “You’re in charge now.” This authority that God gave Adam was based on the relationship that he established with him. Without that relationship, Adam would not have had God’s authority to rule. So, when Adam and Eve sinned, they forfeited this authority.

At the same time, it was through deception and rebellion that Satan stole the authority and dominion that God had transferred to Adam. The Bible tells us that Satan’s desire was to exalt his throne above the stars of God. (See IS 14:13). Until the fall of man, Satan lacked the authority to set up rulership. So, when Satan tricked Adam and Eve, they transferred authority to rule over to him. Adam was still responsible for his actions, though, because he disobeyed God.

Jesus confirmed the transfer of dominion from Adam to Satan when, in John 12:31, he called Satan “the ruler of this world.” Having stolen control of creation by deceit, you can think of Satan as a freeloader, a squatter who takes on rights that were not intended to be his. After the fall of man, there was no one around who had the authority and dominion to kick Satan off the throne until Jesus arrived. Why? God had given Adam, a man, the authority to rule the world; therefore, it would have to be a man, Jesus, who ultimately restored the right to rule back to mankind. The Apostle Paul explains the human side of it:

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

—ROMANS 6:16

Therefore, every person from Adam to Jesus was subject to Satan because of sin, so when Jesus came along, he truly was the real—

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and the only possible—game-changer. As fully God, he was in a relationship of unity with the Father, hearing his Father’s heart in every moment. As fully man, he chose obedience every time, never exerting his own will or exalting himself, but always only doing what he saw the Father doing and only saying what he heard the Father saying. (See JN 5:19–20; JN 12:49).

As fully man and fully God, Jesus was completely obedient to the Father and therefore was sinless, even to the point of giving his life on the Cross. He, therefore, revoked the transfer of control to Satan, returning the control to...YOU.

Because Jesus gave his life to redeem us, we have the freedom to choose to live through the power of the Holy Spirit. God cannot force us to choose obedience to his will. If he did that, we would be in exactly the same place we were before: in bondage. Slaves.

Jesus, therefore, restored our right to experience the freedom to choose righteousness. He then left the execution of the eviction of squatters in our lives to his body—the Body of Christ. We are able to accomplish this both by right and by power. Again, we have the *right* to do so because we operate under God’s authority. We operate under God’s authority because He has *adopted* us as his sons and daughters. We have the *power* to do so because dominion has been transferred back to the children of God. We have the right to do it as adopted sons and daughters of God, and we are able to carry out the task because we are empowered by the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to us.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Meditate on Romans 8:15, and Romans 8:31-39, writing down in your own words anything that stands out to you. Pray through it and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of Himself to you.

Devotional 11 | **THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Power. We all know what it means, but do we operate in it? The Greek word *dynamis* (pronounced “doo’-neh-miss”) is not the power to be able to say the blessing at the dinner table. It is dynamite power from the living God that He wants to place in our lives.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”—ACTS 2:1-5

Notice Peter. In Matthew 26:69-75, we observe Peter’s denial of Jesus. He was a wimp, afraid to tell a servant girl that he knew Jesus. A few days later we see the same Peter who denied Jesus, only now He had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, filled with boldness for the Gospel. That day, he preached the very first message in church history, and 3,000 people got saved! The same guy who had denied Jesus now had the power of the Holy Spirit, and his life was completely changed.

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“Those who accepted his (Peter’s) message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day.” —ACTS 2:41

Paul acknowledges in I Thessalonians 1:4-5 that we need more than words; we need *power!*

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.” —I THESSALONIANS 1:4-5

There’s a difference between drinking a cup of water and jumping into a swimming pool. The Greek word “baptizo” means to fully submerge. Jesus wants to cover us up with His grace, His power, and everything else that He is. He wants us to operate in the same power and authority as He did, because we are adopted as sons and daughters into His Kingdom.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Are you aware of the power of the Name of Jesus when you speak to Him, when you pray to Him, and when you ask Him questions?
-
-
-

Devotional 12 | **WORSHIPING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Take some time to meditate on any of the following passages of scripture, reflecting on their meaning, praying through them, and committing them to memory, as the Holy Spirit leads.

1 Chronicles 16:27

1 Chronicles 29:11

Psalms 93:1

Psalms 103

Micah 5:4

Matthew 6:13

Matthew 13:58

Acts 6:8

Acts 19:11

Romans 15:13,19

1 Corinthians 2:4

1 Corinthians 4:20

2 Corinthians 4:7

Ephesians 1:15-23

Jude 1:25

BIG IDEA

The focus over the next two sessions will be on understanding more about some of the various gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to use them. When we activate our God-given gifts, we walk more confidently in God’s purpose for our lives.

In this session, we will think through a few ideas to help us understand how God has uniquely gifted us, starting with the Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

WHY AM I HERE? WHERE DO I FIT IN?

JOB 10:8A; PS 139:14–16; EPH 4:16; 1 PET 4:10; GAL 5:22-23; 1 COR 7:7, 12:1

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous. You were there while I was being formed. You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.” — PSALM 139:14-16

KEY IDEAS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Every Christian has at least _____ gift!

1 COR 7:7

2. You can't _____ or _____ a spiritual gift.

EPH 4:7

3. The Holy Spirit _____ the gift I receive.

1 COR 12:4-7, 11; ROM 9:20-21

4. I am to _____ and

_____ the gifts God gives me.

1 TIM 4:14

5. It's a sin to _____ the gifts God gave me.
1 COR 4:1-2; MT 25:14-30; ESTH 4:14; EPH 2:10, 4:16;
COL 1:10; 1 COR 12:18-20
-
-
-

“There are different kinds of Spiritual Gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each one, for the good of all.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

- In Devotional 13 this week, we invite you to complete a Spiritual Gifts inventory. Take as much time as you like to walk through the inventory, though there is no requirement to complete a test to determine what your spiritual gifts are.
 - ◁ In fact, the argument has been made that if you have the Holy Spirit operating in your life, you also have access to *all* of His gifts as He determines that you might need them.
 - ◁ We won't argue against this, but we do generally tend to operate in one gift or another (or a few).
- At the end of the Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a description of each of the gifts and scriptural references for those gifts.
- We will then focus within the devotionals on the Motivational gifts (See ROM 12) and then continue with the Power Gifts (See 1 COR 12).

DISCUSSION

- Q1:** What have been your past experiences with spiritual gifts and/or spiritual gifts teaching?

Devotional 13 | **SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY**

The following assessment is to help you discover ways that God has gifted you. There are no right or wrong answers. Simply answer in a way that is most like you. Each question presents a statement about a spiritual attribute. Consider the extent to which each of the following statements is relevant to you, rating them on a scale of 1—5 as follows, and marking your responses on pages 46-47 that correspond to each question:

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. I like organizing services and events.
2. I enjoy working with my hands.
3. I can tell when someone is insincere.
4. I pray for the lost daily.
5. Encouraging others is a high priority in my life.
6. Believing God for our daily needs is important to me.
7. Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me.
8. I look for opportunities to pray for the sick.
9. I enjoy doing the little things that others do not.
10. I enjoy having people come to my house.
11. I enjoy spending hours in prayer for other people.
12. Education is very important to me.
13. I tend to motivate others to get involved.
14. My heart hurts when I see others hurting.
15. I enjoy sharing the gospel with other people, groups, and nationalities.
16. I've devoted considerable time to mastering my voice and/or instrument.
17. Caring for the hurting is paramount in my eyes.
18. The willful sin of others really aggravates me.
19. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.

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20. I enjoy creating outlines of the Bible.
21. God has used me to interpret a heavenly language.
22. I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other book in the Bible.
23. I am passionate about managing details.
24. I consider myself a craftsman or craftswoman.
25. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
26. I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.
27. I try to come across as loving and caring.
28. Asking God for a list of big things is exciting to me.
29. I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.
30. I believe miraculous healing is for this day and age.
31. Helping others is one of my highest achievements.
32. Creating a warm and welcoming home is important to me.
33. I am burdened to pray for situations in the world.
34. People seek me out to learn more about the Kingdom of God.
35. I prefer to take the lead whenever necessary.
36. I'm very sensitive to sad stories.
37. Living in another country to benefit the gospel is exciting to me.
38. I desire to serve the church through worship.
39. I enjoy connecting, caring, and coaching others.
40. Confronting someone with sin in their life is not hard.
41. It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing.
42. I share Biblical truth with others in hopes of their personal growth.
43. I pray in tongues daily.
44. When I study scripture, God gives me unique insights.
45. Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
46. Building something with my hands is very rewarding to me.
47. I can pinpoint issues or problems before others.
48. I enjoy sharing the gospel with a total stranger.

49. I look for ways to be an encouragement to other people.
50. I trust that God has my back in every situation.
51. Making more money means I can give more.
52. God has used me to bring healing to those who are sick.
53. Being a part of the process is fulfilling to me.
54. I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
55. People often describe me as a prayer warrior.
56. I enjoy knowing biblical details and helping others to understand.
57. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
58. I am motivated to help those who are less fortunate.
59. I focus a lot on reaching the world for Christ.
60. I gain my deepest satisfaction through leading others in vocal or instrumental worship.
61. I enjoy walking with someone in times of duress.
62. I enjoy hearing passionate and clear preaching of the truth.
63. I like to do small things that others pass over.
64. I prefer to teach the Bible topically rather than verse-by-verse.
65. Praying in the Spirit is encouraging and important to me.
66. In challenging situations, I tend to make wise decisions and choices.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS RATINGS

Next, add the totals from left to right. For example, questions 1, 23, & 45 combine for a total score for Gift A. Then, write in the corresponding gift from pages 48 and 49 for the two or three Spiritual Gifts that you scored the highest. For example, Gift “A” is Administration. If you scored highest for letter A, write “Administration” in that space.

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TOTAL

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 23. _____ | 45. _____ | _____ | A. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 24. _____ | 46. _____ | _____ | B. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 25. _____ | 47. _____ | _____ | C. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 26. _____ | 48. _____ | _____ | D. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 27. _____ | 49. _____ | _____ | E. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 28. _____ | 50. _____ | _____ | F. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 29. _____ | 51. _____ | _____ | G. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 30. _____ | 52. _____ | _____ | H. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 31. _____ | 53. _____ | _____ | I. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 32. _____ | 54. _____ | _____ | J. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 33. _____ | 55. _____ | _____ | K. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 34. _____ | 56. _____ | _____ | L. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 35. _____ | 57. _____ | _____ | M. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 36. _____ | 58. _____ | _____ | N. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 37. _____ | 59. _____ | _____ | O. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 38. _____ | 60. _____ | _____ | P. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 39. _____ | 61. _____ | _____ | Q. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 40. _____ | 62. _____ | _____ | R. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 41. _____ | 63. _____ | _____ | S. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 42. _____ | 64. _____ | _____ | T. _____ |
| 21. _____ | 43. _____ | 65. _____ | _____ | U. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 44. _____ | 66. _____ | _____ | V. _____ |

MY TOP THREE GIFTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PONDER THIS: Do any of your top gifts surprise you, or do your answers generally make sense? Review the definitions of gifts again (on the following two pages), and if there is any gift on the list that interests you, circle it, pray about it, and ask God to give you that gift, as well! We serve a good and great God who loves to give us good and great gifts!

“Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”—PSALM 37:4

This scripture doesn’t mean God will give you whatever you want but that He will place right desires in us to do good things. God gives each of us unique desires toward particular dreams, goals, and ways to serve others!

GIFT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following contains definitions of spiritual gifts. While not meant to be dogmatic or final, these definitions and supporting scriptures do correspond to the characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

A. ADMINISTRATION: The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. LK 14:28-30; AC 6:1-7; I COR 12:28

B. CRAFTSMANSHIP: The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. EX 30:22, 31:3-11; II CHR 34:9-13; AC 18:2-3

C. DISCERNMENT (Discerning of spirits): The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations. MT 16:21-23; AC 5:1-11, 16:16-18; I COR 12:10; I JN 4:1-6

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D. EVANGELISM: The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to become born-again Christians. AC 8:5-6, 26-40, 14:21, 21:8, EPH 4:11-14

E. ENCOURAGEMENT /EXHORTATION: The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through written or spoken word and biblical truth. AC 14:22; ROM 12:8; I TIM 4:13; HEB 10:24-25

F. FAITH: The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. AC 11:22-24; ROM 4:18-21; I COR 12:9; HEB 11

G. GIVING: The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on Earth. MK 12:41-44; ROM 12:8; II COR 8:1-7, 9:2-7

H. HEALING: The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying on of hands for the healing of physical and mental illnesses. AC 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; I COR 12:9, 28

I. HELPS: The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry. MK 15:40-41; AC 9:36; ROM 16:1-2; I COR 12:28

J. HOSPITALITY: The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. AC 16:14-15; ROM 12:13, 16:23; HEB 13:1-2; I PET 4:9

K. INTERCESSION: The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results. HEB 7:25; COL 1:9-12, 4:12-13; JA 5:14-16

L. KNOWLEDGE: The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring clarity to and understand situations or circumstances, often accompanied by a word from God. AC 5:1-11; I COR 12:8

M. LEADERSHIP: The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea. ROM 12:8; I TIM 3:1-13, 5:17; HEB 13:17

N. MERCY: The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and care for those who are hurting in any way. MT 9:35-36; MK 9:41; ROM 12:8; I THESS 5:14

O. MISSIONS: The gift of missions is the divine strength or ability to reach others outside of your culture and nationality while, in most cases, living in that culture or nation. AC 8:4, 13:2-3, 22:21; ROM 10:15

P. MUSIC/WORSHIP: The gift of music/worship is the divine strength or ability to sing, dance, or play an instrument primarily for the purpose of helping others worship God. DEUT 31:22; I SAM 16:16; I CHRON 16:41-42; II CHRON 5:12-13, 34:12; PS 150

Q. PASTOR/SHEPHERD: The gift of being a pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues. JN 10:1-18; EPH 4:11-14; I TIM 3:1-7; I PET 5:1-3

R. PROPHECY: The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to boldly speak and bring clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God's plan. AC 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; I COR 14:1-4; I THESS 1:5

S. SERVICE: The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ. AC 6:1-7; ROM 12:7; GAL 6:10; II TIM 1:16-18; TIT 3:14

T. TEACHING: The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. AC 18:24-28, 20:20-21; I COR 12:28; EPH 4:11-14

U. TONGUES (AND INTERPRETATION): The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately. AC 2:1-13; I COR 12:10, 14:1-14

V. WISDOM: The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to apply the truths of scripture in a practical way, producing the fruitful outcome and character of Jesus Christ. AC 6:3,10; I COR 2:6-13, 12:8

Devotional 14 | **MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS OF ROMANS 12**

We tend to be naturally drawn to the gifts God has placed within us, and hopefully, the Spiritual Gifts Inventory has shown you some of the ways God has uniquely created you to serve the Body of Christ. Several of the gifts listed in this inventory are mentioned in Romans 12, which we loosely call “Motivational Gifts,” meaning these are gifts that God has given us that tend to motivate us to serve the needs of others. You can look at it this way: Motivational gifts are designed to *motivate* us to build up and support the Body of Christ in various ways. (See ROM 12:3-8)

Again, we want to walk through this material with an *open hand*, meaning we don’t want to hold tightly onto these ideas as hard-and-fast rules but as rough descriptions of practical ways we can build up the Body of Christ.

(Note: The following letter labeling (A, G, N, etc.) refers to the list which corresponds to some of the gifts described on pages 52-54.

- A. Administration (Leadership)
- G. Giving
- N. Mercy (Compassion)
- R. Prophecy
- S. Serving
- T. Teaching
- E. Encouragement/Exhortation

- **ADMINISTRATION (AND/OR LEADERSHIP):** If you have the gift of Leading/Administration, you may tend to be a visionary person who enjoys delegating tasks and/or supervising people. You may be highly organized and enjoy creating structure in an organization, or you may enjoy organizing people and resources to accomplish a common goal. You tend to enjoy working on long-range goals or projects.
- **COMPASSION (OR SHOWING MERCY):** If you have the gift of Compassion, you tend to be relationally trusting and trustworthy. You often rejoice when others are blessed and grieve when others are hurt. You are typically cheerful and joyful, and you tend to be led by your heart, moved by your empathy for others.

- **ENCOURAGING (EXHORTATION):** If you have the gift of Encouraging/Exhortation, it encourages you when you help others solve problems or clear up relational difficulties. You tend to view the trials of life as opportunities, and you may enjoy challenging others with practical steps to help them grow, especially during tough seasons.
- **GIVING:** If you have the gift of Giving, you tend to enjoy giving anonymously. You love it when a gift that you give is an answer to someone's prayer. You may enjoy supporting and blessing others to advance a ministry, and you tend to handle your own finances with wisdom and frugality.
- **PROPHECYING:** If you operate in this gift, you may tend to speak persuasively to encourage or challenge others to stay on track in their walk with the Lord. You may lean toward praying for others frequently as an intercessor, and you sometimes feel compelled to communicate to others what you perceive the Lord is showing you in your prayer life.
- **SERVING:** If you have the gift of Serving, it encourages you when you see a need and find a way to fill it, whether someone asks you to do so or not. You find great joy in doing things that help others. You tend to demonstrate love for others more in your actions than in your words. You may enjoy hospitality, and you find joy in supporting others in leadership.
- **TEACHING:** If you have the gift of Teaching, you may tend to spend a lot of time researching and studying God's word, desiring to present truth in a logical, systematic way. You may enjoy finding creative ways to communicate God's ideas to others in order to help them understand God's word and grow in their relationships with God and others. You may have a large vocabulary, working diligently to use the right word at the right time to bring clarity.

SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

With the results of your spiritual gifts assessment in mind, prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to lead the local Body of Christ. The following are several areas of ministry where you can use your spiritual gifts to help the Church grow!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Life (0-K) | <input type="checkbox"/> Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KidLife (Grades 1-4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 412 (Grades 5-7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Life (Grades 8-12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kid Check-In | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Family Welcome Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercessory Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Connect Class Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers/Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up/Tear Down | <input type="checkbox"/> Dream Center/City Serve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Responders | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship | |

Session 6 | THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 2

THE REVELATION, INSPIRATIONAL, AND POWER GIFTS

WATCH

“The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

<https://bit.ly/NLCHolySpirit3>



BIG IDEA

The focus in this session will be on learning more about some of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit spelled out in 1 Corinthians 12 and how to use them.

NOTES

MT 7:11; 1 COR 12:8-10; 1 COR 13; 1 PET 2:9

THREE CATEGORIES OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 COR 12

1. _____ Gifts.

- Word of Knowledge: Divine knowledge to help us know God's will.

The Holy Spirit

- **Word of Wisdom:** Divine wisdom to solve perplexing problems.

- **Discerning of Spirits:** Divine revelation to detect warnings from the Holy Spirit.

2. _____ Gifts.

- **Prophecy:** Speaking divine words not yet conceived by human thought about things to come.

- **Unknown languages:** An utterance given by someone, not in their native language. This is different from a prayer language.

- **Interpretation of unknown languages:** The supernatural ability to interpret the unknown language that was given.

3. _____ Gifts.

- **Faith:** Divine ability to believe God without human doubt, knowing something is of God, and being sure that everything is going to be okay.

- **Miracles:** Divine moments and events that cannot be explained in the natural realm. This gift tends to be constructive in nature.

- **Healing:** Divine power to pray for the sick, and supernatural healing comes.

DISCUSSION

- Q1:** Was this the first time you have taken a spiritual gifts test, or was there anything about the results that surprised you?
- Q2:** Do your Spiritual Gift Inventory results confirm how you tend to operate, and is it consistent with your past experiences?

NEXT STEPS

- **SIT.** Be still in God's presence for five minutes each day, and continue spending time in prayer and reading His Word! Each time you open your Bible, pray and ask God what He wants to show you that day. Write it down! Invite the Lord to show you which of the areas in this session He wants you to learn more about. If there's a gift you don't currently seem to have that you want to operate in, pray about it! Ask God for that gift, then be open and willing to receive opportunities to practice using it, as He reveals.
- **WALK.** Familiarize yourself with the definitions of the spiritual gifts you tested highly on. Then, look over the comprehensive list of gifts, noticing if there are any other gifts that stand out to you or interest you. If you want a spiritual gift you currently do not have, ask the Holy Spirit for it! He loves giving good gifts to His children!

Review on the following page a list of possible ways to serve at your local church, asking yourself, "What areas or types of ministry am I passionate about or that I tend to be drawn towards?" Whether it's age groups, tasks, or types of ministry, there is a place for you to use your gifts to serve the Body of Christ in the way God has created you!

- **RUN.** Spend some time going over the Spiritual Gifts Inventory with your accountability partner. Determine what your next step might be, setting an appropriate time frame and accountability goals. For example, if you discovered that you are a people person who has a spiritual gift of teaching, and you love spending time with kids, then your next step might be to talk to your local Children's pastor

to discover opportunities to train up children in the knowledge and wisdom of God!

If you are not plugged into serving at your local church, step out in faith to begin practicing using the gifts God is showing you! Let your Life Group leader, Serve Group leader, or Pastor know the area(s) where you are motivated to serve, and take a step to get plugged in this week! If you are hesitant or need more information about an area of serving, call someone who is already serving in the area of ministry that is on your heart.

Devotional 15 | THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE—REVELATION

Knowledge is “what you don’t know.” In Exodus, Bezalel was given the task of building the tabernacle and was filled with the spirit of “knowledge.” Later, the prophet Daniel did not know what Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed, so he asked God for knowledge, and God told him the dream and the interpretation.

DA-ATH

The Hebrew word for knowledge is *da-ath*, which means “knowledge, perception, skill, discernment, understanding, or wisdom” (see www.blueletterbible.org, Strong’s H1847). It is first used in the Bible in Genesis chapter 2 when God warned Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But because the same word, *da-ath*, also describes knowledge as one of the seven attributes of the Spirit of God (see IS 11:2), we can conclude that knowledge in and of itself is not evil. It is not knowledge that Adam and Eve lost the battle to, but the *pursuit* of knowledge, the *desire* for knowledge over obedience to God.

We all fall prey to this at times. We are all tempted to place shiny things, new ideas, anxieties, or our own desire for more things over obedience to God. But as we humble ourselves daily before the Lord—giving Him the first of our mornings, remaining mindful of His presence throughout the day, and continuously seeking Him above all things—He realigns our thoughts and our priorities. We want God’s knowledge! We desire His heart, wisdom, clarity, counsel, strength, and knowledge, but remaining in a close relationship with Him is our *first* priority.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

See AC 5:1-11, I COR 12:8, 2:2-3

This is **divine knowledge to help us know God's will**. A word of knowledge will often include the truth about a person's past or a situation they are facing in order to get their attention to hear God's direction.

This gift is often used to bring information from God, through you, to someone else who needs a specific answer to prayer or clear direction in their lives. It may not even make sense to the one sharing what they sense is from God.

For example, let's say that "Joe" may be facing a big decision in his life and needs direction from God. Perhaps his prayer this morning went something like this, "God, if you want me to do this, please send someone to me who talks about orange watermelons." Later, you receive a nudge from the Holy Spirit to approach Joe and say (for example): "It doesn't really make sense to me, and I kind of feel like an idiot saying this to you, but I think I'm supposed to remind you that you love orange watermelons. I've never even seen an orange watermelon. What do they taste like?" And the other person has their answer from God, and you're just standing there confused, maybe even feeling a little foolish.

The point is that a word of knowledge doesn't have to make sense to you because the word is not for you but for someone else. A word of knowledge is usually short and sweet, just a few words, so resist the temptation to try and explain what that word means. It's not up to you to know everything about what you're saying. Sometimes God just needs someone to deliver a pointed, clear message. Adding unnecessary content will likely bring confusion.

Sometimes a word of knowledge is used in evangelism, causing the person who receives it to exclaim, "How did you know THAT about me?" Meanwhile, if you're the one being used by God to bring the word, you're actually thinking, "I really had no idea what I was saying; I was just being obedient to God."

An example of a word of knowledge being used in evangelism is when Jesus met the Samaritan woman, who had just told him, "I have no husband." Jesus then responded, "You are right that you have no husband. In fact—(and here comes the word of knowl-

edge)—you have had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now is not your husband.” Jesus, being the surrendered Son of God, only said what He heard the Father saying. Therefore, in that moment, the Father revealed to the Son what the Father wanted the Son to say, and Jesus obeyed and delivered the word about the five husbands. The result was that the Samaritan woman became a believer and evangelized her entire village with the good news of Jesus!

Another example of a word of knowledge, or operating in the gift of knowledge, is the moment Nathaniel met Jesus, who said about Nathaniel, “Here truly is an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.” Nathaniel replied, “How do you know me?” Jesus responded, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Phillip called you.” There was an unstated understanding that transpired between the two of them that then caused Nathaniel to exclaim, “Rabbi! You ARE the Son of God!”

What was Nathaniel thinking under the fig tree? We know (because he said it) that he was wrestling with whether or not anything good could come from Nazareth, so had he just asked God to give him a sign about whether or not Jesus was the Messiah? We can conjecture all day about that, but the truth is that we just don’t know. But what we do know is that Jesus gave Nathaniel a random word, and it caused Nathaniel to believe in Him as the Messiah. The fig tree had significance to Nathaniel, not to you and me.

You can think of the gift of knowledge generally in this way: to speak information that has meaning to the person you’re speaking to (so it will be information from their past—whether the distant past or yesterday), to get their attention for the direction the Lord wants them to take today.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Ask yourself, “Do I commonly pursue my own knowledge and make my own plans, independently of God’s leading, or do I check my plans with Him, asking ‘Lord, is this Your will? What do You know that I’m missing out on?’”

Devotional 16 | **THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM—ORDER**

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.—PSALM 37:23

In the Book of Acts, the Lord appointed deacons who were full of the spirit and wisdom. The spirit of wisdom is order. Order and wisdom go together.

The world often tells us that we should lead our lives based on our “gut feeling” or our “intuition.” On the contrary, God’s word instructs us that order should be well established in our day-to-day plans. The order is not built on the foundation of wavering choices dictated by our flesh but on the wisdom that the Holy Spirit grants to us. It is stated in Acts that the Lord appointed deacons who were full of the spirit and wisdom.

“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

—ACTS 6:3-4

Those who are filled with wisdom are then given the responsibility to carry out the tasks God has given them. Similarly, when we grasp what the word of God says and lean into the voice of the Holy Spirit, there is overwhelming peace. Wisdom gained from the Holy Spirit can lead to order in our homes, finances, relationships, and so much more.

How do we actually gain wisdom from the Holy Spirit? We truly encounter the voice of God when we lay down the walls we have strategically been putting up and surrender fully. Moses found himself barefoot in the presence of God as the Holy Spirit spoke to Him at the burning bush. The simple act of obeying the Spirit’s commands opens up the opportunity for wisdom to be poured into our lives.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Each day set the table for the Spirit to move by removing any walls you have set up and let the abundant wisdom He provides be given to you.

Devotional 17 | **REVELATION GIFTS: WISDOM & DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**

The other two revelation gifts are Words of Wisdom and Discerning of Spirits.

WORD OF WISDOM

This gift is divine wisdom to perplexing problems. (See AC 6:3,10; 1 COR 2:6-13, 12:8)

This gift is commonly used to address current situations, bringing clarity, direction, and/or confirmation. It is similar to the gift, “Word of Knowledge,” discussed on page 56, but it doesn’t necessarily bring up personal or past information. Rather, it tends to give directional clarity. Words of Knowledge and Words of Wisdom can commonly be joined together, as we can see in the example mentioned by Pastor Rick in this session, (starting at around 25:19). Years ago, a pastor was visiting the church Pastor Rick attended and spoke to him in a season when he needed clear direction from God: “Hey, you in the purple shirt...Come up here! ...The Lord showed me you’re about to quit Bible school (word of knowledge). ...Within the next three months, that relationship you’re concerned about will be put back together, a door will open for you, and the Bible school will change (a word of wisdom that brings clarity to his present circumstance).”

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

This gift is the divine revelation and insight to detect warnings from the Holy Spirit. (See MT 16:21-23, AC 5:1-11, 16:16-18, I COR 12:10, I JN 4:1-6)

This gift often helps identify what is likely motivating behavior or energizing situations. If you are asking, “What’s going *on* here?” you likely need this gift to operate. Let’s say a person with this gift has a “check” in their spirit about someone who wants to volunteer in Children’s ministry. Well, no matter how extensive the volunteer screening process is, we can’t discount the voice and direction of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 64:5 reminds us that God is “the defender of the helpless and the weak,” so it would not be surprising if the Holy Spirit whispers a warning about a potential danger in our midst.

The Holy Spirit

We have known of many times that a decision was made strictly because someone had a check in their spirit to make a hard choice or change directions, then later, it was proven to be the right call. (To be a little more clear, a “check in your spirit” can be loosely described this way: though you’re pressing to go in one direction, you sense a strong resistance in your spirit or an unmistakable urge to go in a different direction, regardless of what you *want* to do).

Consider this: Are you thankful that the Holy Spirit has given some of us the gift of discerning of spirits? You better believe we need that gift!

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Humble yourself before the Lord right now, inviting Him to be the source of your knowledge, to have full control of your mind, your choices, your passions, and even your emotions. Invite Him to fill you with His thoughts, His heart, His wisdom, and His presence. He is faithful! He always goes where He is invited.

There are two ways that you can receive the Revelation gifts:

- ◁ You can pray and ask Jesus to give you the gift that you desire (See MT 7:11), or
- ◁ You can ask your pastor or ministry leader to pray over you to receive the gift that you desire (See ROM 1:11)

Keep in mind that just because you ask for a gift, that doesn’t necessarily mean you will receive it! Our God is a gracious, loving, kind, and merciful Father who gives us good gifts, but He is also not a candy machine that doles out whatever we want whenever we want it.

FOCUS

Fruit of the Spirit

BIG IDEA

When we begin operating in the gifts that God has given us, whether motivational gifts (like Compassion or Teaching) or power gifts (such as Knowledge, Healing, or Faith), it is important to be socially aware, using wisdom and honor in the ways that we interact with others.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL ETIQUETTE?

ROM 12:10; PHIL 4:8; 1 COR 13:1; GAL 5:22-23, 6:1; PR 25:11; 2 COR 4:1-3ff; JN 1:14,17

- Etiquette is a code of _____ that practices _____ others.

- It is _____ in how we _____ others.

1. It includes social _____ or social _____.

The Holy Spirit

- Read the room, paying attention to how others receive you.
 - ◁ Notice their energy level: whether they're high energy or reserved, respect and honor where they are.

2. It includes _____ awareness.

PR 25:11,13

- Focus on the _____ just as much as what you think God wants you to _____ to them.

- ◁ **Dominant personality:** _____

- ◁ **Influencer personality:** _____

- ◁ **Steady personality:** _____

- ◁ **Cautious personality:** _____

- Personal _____:

- Ask for _____.

- Speak _____ and ask _____.

- ◁ Don't dive into a conversation as a _____.

- ◁ Don't use _____.

- ◁ Instead, use _____ phrases.

The Holy Spirit

◁ _____ what you sense

the Lord wants you to say in the form of a

_____:

« **Don't** _____:
"God wants to heal your headache right now!"

« **Do** _____: "Do you tend to have migraines?" If they respond affirmatively, then ask, "May I pray for you about that?"

- Clothe everything you say and do in _____ and _____.

◁ _____ before you speak.

- Choose _____ responses, leaning toward empathy over sympathy.

◁ Sympathy _____

◁ Empathy _____

- ◀ If you tend to be a logical _____, practice putting yourself in their shoes, leaning into understanding how the other person may be feeling.

- ◀ If you tend to be a _____, ask the Holy Spirit to protect your heart so that you don't get emotionally attached to the other person's pain.

3. It includes _____ awareness.

See JN 6:63

- NOTICE:

The Holy Spirit

- Don't _____ the _____
_____.
- ◁ Be _____ about your calling
and _____ about your approach.

4. It includes _____ awareness.

See 1 THESS 5:19-22; 1 COR 13; JN 6:63

- _____ your words.

- Don't _____ prophecy.

- Hold _____ to what is good.

- Reject _____ kind of _____.
HEB 3:16-19
-
-
-
-

DISCUSSION

- Q1: Have you ever received an encouraging word from someone, but it was delivered in a less-than-encouraging way? (Maybe their timing was off, they weren't paying attention to what was going on around them, or they just had poor hygiene). Explain what happened, how you felt, or how you responded.
- Q2: Have you ever received a "word" from someone who *said* they heard from God, but it was challenging or accusative, or maybe even spoken out of anger? Explain.

NEXT STEPS

- SIT. Continue to remain open to allowing the Holy Spirit to take control of your time, your tongue, your schedule, and your will, living a life of daily surrender! Invite Him to use you as a willing vessel to bring encouragement, eternal life, hope, and healing to the world around you.
- WALK. Pray for and seek opportunities to practice using the spiritual gifts that you desire! If you miss an opportunity, forgive yourself and stay open! God is faithful. If you notice an opportunity, practice honoring the other person using the principles you learned in today's lesson.
- RUN. Continue studying the gifts of the Spirit, and talk to your accountability partner about spiritual etiquette, more specifically about things that you know tend to be difficult for you to do with excellence.

PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is speaking divinely inspired words to declare God's purposes, reprove ungodly character, comfort those who are sick and suffering, reveal things that are hidden, or tell about things to come. (See blueletterbible.org, Strong's G4394).

See AC 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; I COR 14:1-4; I THESS 1:5

When Jesus foretold his impending death and resurrection to His disciples, he was operating in the gift of prophecy.

We must be very careful around this gift. Those who have this gift must be fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit, using wisdom as they walk in this gift. The Holy Spirit convicts not condemns, and so when the gift of prophecy is surrendered to the Holy Spirit, the prophetic words given will be either encouraging, challenging, or maybe a little of both.

The Holy Spirit doesn't desire that we personally receive glory, honor, and exaltation because we operate in one gift or another. The gifts of the Spirit are not to puff us up but to be used to build up the Body of Christ. In fact, if you operate in the gift of prophecy, it would be a good idea to find ways to communicate what the Holy Spirit is showing you directly to the person He wants to hear it, not for you to seek a platform to speak from. There's just too much temptation for pride in that. We hope this makes sense.

That being said, the Apostle Paul tells us to earnestly *desire* higher gifts, *especially* the gift of prophecy. Why? Because God knows the past, the present, and the future, and a directional idea from God can change our lives forever and save us from a lot of unnecessary heartaches. In fact, the gift of prophecy is the one most commonly mentioned in the New Testament. We just need wisdom and humility in using this gift (and every gift).

NEXT STEP

- WALK. What spiritual gift do you desire that you don't already operate in?
- RUN. Pray with your accountability partner about it.

Devotional 19 | INSPIRATIONAL GIFTS, PART 2

TONGUES (AND INTERPRETATION)

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately.

See AC 2:1-13; I COR 12:10, 14:1-14

There are two different manifestations of the gift of tongues which the Apostle Paul talks about in the New Testament. The first one, the one we commonly call a prayer language (or praying in the Spirit), is mentioned in 1 COR 14:1-25.

Please take a moment to read through this set of verses before continuing with today's devotional.

At first glance, it can be confusing what Paul means about this gift called *speaking in tongues*. He says that when we use it, we do not speak to people but to God and that it edifies *us*, not those *around* us. Then, using the same Greek word for “speaking” (Strong’s 2980, “*laleo*”) and “tongues” (Strong’s 1100, “*glossa*”), Paul implies that the gift is useless to others unless an interpretation follows.

Clarity comes in verses 14-15 when Paul distinguishes that the common use of this gift is within the context of our personal prayer life. This is where the term “prayer language” or “private prayer language” has come from.

The other use of tongues that Paul talks about in this same passage is for evangelism (see verses 21-22). Here is a real example of this gift in use in our church:

A few years ago, a team went on a short-term mission trip to Honduras. Two members of the team were temporarily separated from their translator on a side street of a small village. Suddenly, a Honduran woman who was greatly distressed approached one of the team members, begging for help. This team member quietly asked the Holy Spirit for some way to help the woman, as they could not speak Spanish, and then they began praying for her. As they prayed, a foreign language began pouring out of their

The Holy Spirit

mouth. Everyone around them could understand what was being said, and the woman gave her heart to Jesus that day, fully trusting in Him.

Later, the second team member exclaimed, “What do we need a translator for when we’ve got you?!?” The one who had prayed for the woman responded, “Oh, I barely know any Spanish. I’m just a beginner, but I asked God to give me something I could use to talk to her. Then, while I was praying and talking to her, I understood everything I was saying, but now I have no idea how to speak that language!”

This may not be the *best* example, but it is *one* example of the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues in use.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. There are two ways that you can receive the Inspirational gifts:
 - ◁ You can pray and ask Jesus to give you the gift that you desire (see MT 7:11), or
 - ◁ You can ask your pastor or ministry leader to pray over you to receive the gift that you desire (see ROM 1:11)

Keep in mind that just because you ask for a gift, that doesn’t necessarily mean you will receive it! Our God is a gracious, loving, kind, and merciful Father who gives us good gifts, but He is also not a candy machine that doles out whatever we want whenever we want it.

Devotional 20 | **POWER GIFTS**

FAITH: The gift of faith is the divine ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in any arena of life without any human doubt. For example, when Jesus told Peter to go fishing and take a coin out of the mouth of the fish he caught, this was the gift of faith in operation. (See AC 11:22-24; ROM 4:18-21; I COR 12:9; HEB 11).

HEALING: The gift of healing is the divine ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying on of hands for the healing of physical and mental illnesses, injuries, sickness, and disease. For example, when Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood, this was the gift of healing in operation. (See AC 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; I COR 12:9, 28).

MIRACLES: Similar to the gift of healing, the gift of miracles is the divine ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying on of hands where miracles happen. This can be miracles for protection, provision, or the regeneration of what is missing, dead, or nonexistent. For example, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, this was a miracle! (See AC 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; I COR 12:9, 28).

In order to use a spiritual gift, the person operating in this gift must first surrender their will, getting out of the way so that God can do what God wants to do through them. It takes deep humility to operate in these gifts, but the more surrendered you are to the Holy Spirit, the more He will be able to use you in others' lives. It's just the way He works. The Holy Spirit is the quintessential Gentleman. He will not operate through you if you resist Him, but He will not force you to obey. He embraces humility, but He runs from pride.

Remember when Jesus healed a man's eyesight by first stooping down, spitting in the dirt, and then rubbing it in the man's eyes? That's different! Some may even say it's weird! But Jesus Himself stated that He only said what He heard the Father saying, and He only did what He saw the Father doing (see JN 5:19, JN 12:49). So, if He rubbed dirt in a blind man's eyes, He was surrendering His will to the Father, obeying because the Father either showed Him or told Him to.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. There are two ways that you can receive the Power gifts:
 - ◁ You can pray and ask Jesus to give you the gift that you desire (see MT 7:11), or
 - ◁ You can ask your pastor or ministry leader to pray over you to receive the gift that you desire (see ROM 1:11)

Keep in mind that just because you ask for a gift, that doesn't necessarily mean you will receive it! Our God is a gracious, loving, kind, and merciful Father who gives us good gifts, but He is also not a candy machine that doles out whatever we want whenever we want it.

BIG IDEA

Sometimes, we can hesitate to invite the Holy Spirit into our space or pursue a move of God in our midst because of past experiences with spiritual abuse, strangeness, misunderstandings, or things just seeming very out of order. This session explores the biblical basis for moves of the Spirit that may or may not make sense to us in the natural realm.

NOTES

1 COR 1:10-31, 3:1-9; 1:27-31; 3:18-23; 1 THESS 5:19-22;
1 COR 12-14

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING!

1. _____.

- Contextually, it is an _____
_____ of something that has
been _____.



The Holy Spirit

- The _____ get _____.

- Those in _____ are
_____ from demonic strongholds!

2. _____ in the NT

JN 2:11; AC 2; 1 SAM 19:23-24; 2 CHRON 5:13-14; EZ 1:4-28, 3:23;
DAN 8:15-18; MT 17:1-6, 28:3-4; JN 18:4-6; AC 9:3-8; REV 1:12-18.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

1. Use _____.

- What appears to be the source? What's the fruit?

2. _____ to what the Holy Spirit is doing.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Meditate on, pray over, and even memorize any of the following verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Luke 10:19, and 2 Timothy 1:7.
- WALK. Remain humble and available to the Holy Spirit to use as He wishes for His Kingdom!
- RUN. Continue reading the devotionals and discussing any questions you may have with your life group leader or accountability partner.

The word “might” in Isaiah 11:2 implies unmatched power, enduring strength, resolve, and bravery. The Hebrew word is *geburah*. Think “intestinal fortitude!” You have to use a little intestinal fortitude—endurance, backbone!—to say this word, “Geh-voo-RAH!” Did the Marine Corps steal “Oorah” from this word? Most likely not, but *geburah* is similar, yet infinitely greater, deeper, and mightier than “Oorah.” Remember that what we are talking about here is the power and authority that comes directly from our eternal, almighty God!

When you are weak, discouraged, or confused, call out to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Might, the Spirit of *Geburah*! He shares his presence, his enduring strength in the midst of challenging times, and He shares his presence freely with those who ask! And He will be *Geburah* for you, giving you might, strength, and authority to endure. To win the battle you are facing. To finish your race.

NEXT STEP

- SIT. Do you need the Spirit of Might, of *Geburah*, to strengthen and empower you to stand firm in the midst of whatever challenge you’re facing, unwavering in your faith in God? Remind yourself that God is your Provider, your Healer, your Protector, your Deliverer, and your *Geburah*! Invite the Holy Spirit to be your might and strength when you have none. He is faithful. He hears our cries.

Devotional 22 | **SPEAKING GOD'S WORD OUT LOUD**

As we practice learning to walk in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, it's helpful to find declarations in scripture that you can speak out loud to strengthen your spirit. Saying God's Word out loud effectively reminds your soul of what is true, and when the Word comes out of your mouth, it builds your faith.

So, memorize truth and promises from the Word so that you can speak specific scripture over specific situations. For example, use a verse like 1 John 4:4 when you are battling the enemy:

Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world.

If the passage is not in the first person, make it personal. For example, you could read Luke 10:19 like this:

God has given me "authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm me."

NEXT STEP

- SIT. When your circumstances appear overwhelming, remind yourself, out loud, of the truth. Take a moment and write out Psalm 103:3 in first person, making it personal to you. Then say it out loud.

BIG IDEA

We do not use the *world's* weapons, strategies, or armor to fight spiritual battles. Instead, we learn to use *God's* weapons, strategies, and armor, we stay submitted under His authority, and we lean on the power of the name of His Son, Jesus.

READ

1 TIM 1:18-20; 2 COR 10:1-5; EPH 6:10-20; HEB 11

THREE PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the PROPHECIES previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good WARFARE, holding faith and a good conscience...”

— 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19

1. _____ (weapons)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

- We use the _____ of the Spirit as supernatural _____ to defeat _____.
- Our _____ are not of this _____:
 - ◁ The *power* of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the primary weapon against the enemy.
 - ◁ **Weapon 1: The** _____.

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. — PROVERBS 18:21

The Holy Spirit

« Use _____ as a mighty sword.

« Words have _____.

◁ **Weapon 2:** _____ *and* _____
_____.

◁ **Weapon 3:** _____ .

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, —EPHESIANS 2:6

2. _____ (strategy)

- Our strategy is _____.
- Warfare is the patient, systematic removal of Satan's kingdom.

“There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.”

—2 SAMUEL 3:1

- Focus on the _____.

“The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little.” —DEUTERONOMY 7:22

- Our strategy is _____.
- People are not your enemy.

“We are not ignorant of his devices.”

—2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

ASK YOURSELF: Where have you given access to the enemy?

3. _____ (armor)

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. —1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19

The Holy Spirit

- Vulnerable areas that need protection are _____ and _____.
 - ◁ The opposite of faith is fear.
 - ◁ The opposite of a good conscience includes guilt, shame, and condemnation.
 - « Guilt, shame, and condemnation like to live in your conscience, but these things have no place in your heart because you've been bought by the blood of Jesus.

 - Our protection is _____ and a _____.
-
-
-

“Who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions....

— HEBREWS 11:33

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. — 1 JOHN 3:21

DISCUSSION

- Q1: What impacted you the most in this week's teaching?
- Q2: This week's teaching reminds us to focus on the daily battle. The war may take a while, but are you winning the daily battle? Explain.
- Q3: What is your next step in your journey with Christ?

Appendix A | HOW TO PRAY, by Larry Stockstill

The following prayer guide is designed to support you as you grow in your relationship with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER PATTERN

1. "Our Father...hallowed be Your Name"

- Worship His HOLY names.
 - ◁ "Forgives all our iniquities"
 - « **Jehovah-Tsidkenu:** God is our Righteousness, who placed our iniquities on Christ.
 - ◁ "Heals all our diseases"
 - « **Jehovah-Rapha:** God is our Doctor who placed our diseases on Christ.
 - ◁ "Redeems our life from destruction"
 - « **Jehovah-Nissi:** God is our Protector who defeated all the forces of darkness in Christ.
 - ◁ "Crowns us with lovingkindness"
 - « **Jehovah-Shammah:** God is our Presence who sent us the Holy Spirit in Christ.
 - ◁ "Satisfies us with good things"
 - « **Jehovah-Jireh:** God is our Provider who supplied all our needs in Christ.

2. "Your kingdom come, your will be done"

- Surrender to His WILL.
- His Kingdom is the fruit of the Spirit, His divine character in control of your thoughts, words, and actions.
- His Will is the leading of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit directing you into God's perfect plan for your life.

3. "Give us this day our daily bread"

- Let your NEEDS be made known to Him.
 - ◁ Be specific about your needs. The more specific, the more answerable.

The Holy Spirit

- ◁ Release those needs into the Father's care.

“Casting all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you.”

—1 PETER 5:7

4. “Forgive us our debts”

- FORGIVE others in advance who will or have offended you.
 - ◁ Pray for those relationships in your life that have challenged you.

I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. — EZEKIEL 22:30

- “Stand in the gap” before God for mercy for your family, city, state, and nation.

5. “Lead us not into temptation...”

- Do SPIRITUAL WARFARE against the powers of darkness.
 - ◁ Put on the whole armor of God, piece by piece (helmet, breastplate, waistband, shoes, sword, shield).
 - ◁ Take authority in resisting every demonic attack on your health, finances, family, ministry, or nation.

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ PATTERN

Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!” And God granted what he asked. — 1 CHRONICLES 4:10

1. ABUNDANCE: “Bless me indeed”

- This is to pray, “Give me the abundance I need to have all my needs met and an excess with which to bless others.”
- You cannot bless others if you have not been blessed. It is not unscriptural to pray for a financial blessing, as long as it is in the context of blessing others as well.

2. INFLUENCE “Enlarge my territory”

- This is to pray, “Continually stretch my boundaries of influence so that I may bring more and more people to Christ.”
- God has determined our office and gifts. However, He has not “predetermined” all of our accomplishments for Him.
 - ◁ We must pray for those gifts to be fully maximized and for our potential to grow continually and extend for Christ’s sake.

3. PRESENCE “Let your hand be with me”

- This is to pray, “I refuse to move forward without your Spirit guiding me, empowering me, and anointing me.”

Moses said, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.” — EXODUS 33:15

4. PROTECTION “Keep me from evil”

- This is to pray, “I believe I dwell under your wings with divine, angelic protection from the assignments of Satan to destroy me.”
- Satan never stops in his assignment against your life. We must discern his thoughts and take them captive to the obedience of Christ.

THE TRINITY PRAYER PATTERN

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

—2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

1. The “love of God the Father”

- “Love” in Hebrew is *hesed*. The most important phrase in Old Testament prayer and worship was, “His love (*hesed*) endures forever.”
- Found in most of the Psalms, *hesed* is a covenant love, the love of a superior for an inferior. It is merciful love that is loyal and strong and is coupled with *emet* (faithfulness). God’s love for us is seen in His Divine Name given to Moses in Exodus 34:6.
 - ◁ “The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (*hesed*) and faithfulness (*emet*), keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.”
- The first part of the “Trinity prayer” is to receive and enjoy God’s immense *hesed* love for you. His *hesed* is seen in the five primary Divine names in Ps. 103:1-5: salvation, healing, protection, infilling, and blessings.

2. The “grace of Jesus Christ”

- God’s love (*hesed*) is in the heavens for us in an infinite way. It fills the entire universe.

*For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies. — PSALM 108:4*

- It needed GRACE to come into this corrupted earth we live in.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. — JOHN 1:14

- Jesus is God's Grace incarnate. He left the glories of heaven to come down and live in the body the Spirit prepared for Him in the womb of Mary.

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. —JOHN 1:16

- We encourage you every day to walk with Christ in your prayer time for each step of His grace:
 - ◁ ...to humble Himself to come to earth;
 - ◁ ...to live 30 years in a humble life, submitted to His parents;
 - ◁ ...to submit Himself to be water-baptized in the Jordan River and be filled with the Spirit;
 - ◁ ...to heal "all who were oppressed by the devil" for 3½ years;
 - ◁ ...to walk into the face of death in Jerusalem;
 - ◁ ...to wash the feet of His disciples;
 - ◁ ...to agonize three hours in Gethsemane sweating great drops of blood as the sin of mankind overshadowed Him;
 - ◁ ...to receive blows while blindfolded in the Sanhedrin instead of calling 12 legions of angels;
 - ◁ ...to stand quietly before Pilate and Herod instead of defending Himself;
 - ◁ ...to be tied to a whipping post, stripped, and assaulted with our diseases;
 - ◁ ...to receive the crown of thorns and be spit upon by 600 soldiers;
 - ◁ ...to carry our heavy cross of sin, iniquity, and transgression up the hill of Calvary;
 - ◁ ...to be nailed to the cross, made sin for us, and redeem us from the curse of the Law;
 - ◁ ...to be buried for three days and descend into the lower parts of the earth; defeating all powers of darkness and rising triumphantly;
 - ◁ ...to ascend to heaven and make us a place next to Him at His Father's throne;
 - ◁ ...to pray for the Father to send us the Holy Spirit;
 - ◁ ...to intercede continually for us at the right hand of the Father.

3. The “fellowship of the Holy Spirit.”

- After receiving the love of the Father and the grace of Jesus, we invite the Holy Spirit to a time of “fellowship and intimate friendship...”.
 - ◁ INVITE the Holy Spirit to come and fill you (as He did the believers in the upper room) with fire and supernatural power.
 - ◁ SURRENDER every part of your body to Him (eyes, ears, hands, feet, mouth). Take your thoughts captive to Him (pride, greed, and lust). Receive the fruit of the Spirit into your spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

—GALATIANS 5:22-23

- RELIGHTING the seven lamps of the Holy Spirit in your spirit

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.*

—ISAIAH 11:2

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. —2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7, NKJV

- Every day, we need “fresh oil,” to “stir up the gifts that are within us.”
 - ◁ INTIMACY—**The Lamp of Freedom:** Pray for your spirit to be set free in worship, prayer, the gifts of the Spirit, and anointing upon your office. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM.” (See 2 COR 3:17)
 - ◁ ORDER—**The Lamp of Wisdom:** Pray for the Spirit to give you the wisdom to make things simple and organized in leadership.

- ◁ **CLARITY—The Lamp of Understanding:** Pray for the Spirit to help you understand the perfect will of God for your life and ministry.
- ◁ **DECISIONS—The Lamp of Counsel:** Pray for the Spirit to make accurate, long-term decisions about every opportunity.
- ◁ **AUTHORITY—The Lamp of Might:** Pray for the Spirit to remove discouragement, weakness, and confusion and give you boldness and authority to challenge the enemy.
- ◁ **REVELATION—The Lamp of Knowledge:** Pray for the ability to create and manage in areas you have no training or ability in, for a “word of knowledge” about present issues.
- ◁ **INTEGRITY—The Lamp of The Fear of the Lord:** Wholeness, innocence, purity, and example in your body, mind, and spirit.

Appendix B | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **FOR FURTHER STUDY** on the Holy Spirit, see *The God I Never Knew*, by Robert Morris.
- **PERSONALITY:** The following assessments may help further your understanding of how God has uniquely created you—whether you are a team leader or a team player, a coach or a cheerleader, an analyst or an activator! Every person is uniquely *and wonderfully* made!
 - ◁ DiSC: <https://www.123test.com/disc-personality-test/>
 - « Simple Disc Test: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n3SAtT2gxz-uvNn2oNqMZ0FGgFAT-iNKlrzpeTAvTHvY/edit?usp=sharing>
 - ◁ MBTI: <https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test>
- **ABILITIES:** Assessing your abilities will help you appreciate the natural talents, skills, and passions that are unique to you. If you are interested in an assessment to help you further understand your natural strengths, check out the following online assessment.
 - ◁ StrengthsFinder 2.0 www.gallupstrengthscenter.com
- **LIFE EXPERIENCES:** Taking an inventory of your life experiences will help determine how the Lord can partner with you to bring freedom, healing, insight, and maturity to others who are currently facing what you may have gone through before.
- For further study, see *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*, by Erik Rees & Rick Warren.
- **SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY:** <https://giftstest.com/>

ANSWER KEY

- **Session 1:** 1. Empowers; 2. Influence; Fill you.
- **Session 2:** 1. God's Word; 2. Prayer; 3. Holy Spirit.
- **Session 3:** Part 1: 1. Taking; 2. Continuous motion; 3. Dependence. Part 2: 1. Atmosphere; 2. Attitude; 3. Action.
- **Session 4:** 1. Water, Holy Spirit; 2. Holy Spirit, Power; 3. Helper; 4. Gives; 5. Wait; 6. Pentecost; 7. Saved, Gift; 8. Continues; 9. Gifts, Tongues, Praying; 10. Purpose, When.
- **Session 5:** 1. One; 2. Earn, Work for; 3. Determines; 4. Discover, Develop; 5. Waste.
- **Session 6:** 1. Revelation, 2. Inspirational, 3. Power.
- **Session 7:** 1. Awareness, Intelligence; 2. Personal, Person, Say; Hygiene; Feedback, Tentatively, Questions, Know-it-all, Thus saith the Lord, Tentative, Questions, Command, Ask, Think, Love, Compassion, Emotionally healthy, Thinker, Feeler; 3. Holy Spirit, Rush, Process, Confident, Tentative. 4. Scriptural, Weigh, Despise, Fast, Every, Evil.
- **Session 8:** 1. Manifestations, Outward appearance, Radically changed, Sick, Healed, Bondage, Set free; 2. Miracles; Page 77: 1. Wisdom; 2. Yield; 3. Underestimate, Power.
- **Session 9:** 1. Prophecies. Gifts, Weapons, Demonic principalities, Weapons, World, Prophetic spoken word, Power, Prayer, Fasting, Revelation knowledge. 2. Warfare, patience, Daily battle, Discernment; 3. Protection, Fear, Guilt, Faith, Good conscience.

