

# Carnal and Spiritual man

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# Abraham and Lot

## Lesson 1

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### Introduction

To help us to understand the difference between a "carnal" and a "spiritual" man, God has given us examples in the Bible to look at. Let us start with Abraham, the friend of God, and Lot, his nephew.

### A. Abraham

#### 1. Abraham was looking for a city.

**Read Hebrews 11:8-10** (The teacher should read Genesis 11:27 to 12:7)

- a) He came from a city called Ur (Genesis 11:28). This was a big, well-developed city.
- b) He never found on earth the "city" he looked for (Acts 7:5). All his life he lived in a tent, on land that belonged to other people. He found no "roots" in this world. He was a stranger and a pilgrim on this earth (Hebrews 11:13). But he believed God and his eyes were on Him.
- c) He was one of those of whom "God is not ashamed to be their God, for He has prepared a city for them". Hebrews 11:16.

His faith pleased God. Without faith it is impossible to please God. See Hebrews 11:6. He was a spiritual man. The spiritual man lives for the things he cannot see now – but he knows that they are real.

#### 2. His faith was severely tested.

**Read Acts 7:2-5**

- a) He did not even own a piece of land on which to build a house. He had to buy a piece of land to bury his wife (Genesis 23), yet God had promised that his descendants would possess the land of Canaan. Genesis 17:8.
- b) He had no child, yet God had promised that he would be the father of a great nation. Genesis 17:5-6.

His wife passed the age of child-bearing. Ishmael, the child born through Hagar the slave-woman, was refused by God as heir of Abraham. Genesis 17:18-19. Lot was a disappointment. There was no chance of an "heir" there either.

Finally, after the birth of Isaac, the child of promise, God asked Abraham to offer him up as a sacrifice. Faith is obedience to the word of God. James 2:20-24. Abraham passed the test.

The man/woman of faith will be tested. True faith grows when tested. See 1 Peter 1:7; James 1:2-3; Romans 5:3-5.

**3. He looked for a city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

**Read Hebrews 11:10 and Genesis 11:3-9**

- a) Men like to organise and build and make a name for themselves. We are always trying, even in the church, to build up something for our own glory. It always ends in argument and confusion, just like the city of Babel.
- b) Abraham had been called out of that kind of effort. His eyes were on God and what God was building.

God had already laid His foundations for something wonderful. Abraham and other men of faith saw something of these things and welcomed them. Hebrews 11:13. Abraham rejoiced to see the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know this? Jesus, Himself, said so. See John 8:56.

**4. The city of the living God.**

**Read Hebrews 12:22**

It is called a "city" because it is the dwelling place of the people of God. If you are truly born of God, then you belong to this heavenly city. You do not belong to this passing world. You are a stranger here, like Abraham was.

The holy city of the Jews is Jerusalem in Israel. The "holy city" of Christians is the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ, the Church, which will come down from heaven. (See Teacher's notes)

**B. Lot, the nephew of Abraham**

**1. Lot also found a city.**

**Read Genesis 13:5-13**

He looked around and chose to go after the things he could see now. He wanted to enjoy this world and all it offers. So he pitched his tent near Sodom. But Sodom had no time for God. The people of Sodom were heading for destruction.

**2. Lot was a righteous man.**

**Read 2 Peter 2:7-8**

His righteous soul was tormented by seeing and hearing their filthy way of life. But he did not want to leave Sodom. Even when God sent His angels to save him and his family, Lot pleaded for another city like Sodom. He said, "Let me flee to it". Genesis 19:20.

**3. The soul of Lot was feeding on the life of a wicked city.**

**Read Revelation 18:14**

- a) The grass was lush around Sodom. Fat sheep means money. Money buys things. Lot had a city house. Genesis 19:1-2. He was honoured by the men – he

sat in the "gate", the place of the elders. He had a wife who loved the city life. He came from a godly family, but the life of Sodom corrupted him.

- b) Our soul, like our body, needs "food". Some people feed their souls on gaining money, some feed on secret lust or pride. The carnal man can feed on other people's sins even if he does not commit them.

What are you feeding on today? See Isaiah 55:1-2 and John 6:35.

### C. Lot was not a "wicked sinner", but a carnal man

1. Abraham listened to the voice of God. He heard and obeyed. Genesis 12:4. Lot "went with him".

The spiritual man reaches out to God for himself.  
The carnal man "goes to church" but lives without God.

2. Abraham allowed his nephew (the younger man) to choose land. Lot grabbed the opportunity to choose the best land. Genesis 13:8-11.

The spiritual man can afford to be generous.  
The carnal man fights for his "rights" and grabs the best.

3. Abraham fed his sheep in the bare hills, but had the promise of God that all the land was his. Genesis 13:14-17. Lot fed his sheep in the green grass, made money, "was tormented in his righteous soul" in Sodom, and lost everything.

4. Abraham rescued Lot when he was captured and taken as a slave. Genesis 14:14-16. Lot chose to go back with the cowardly king of Sodom (type of Satan) who did not care for him. Genesis 14:17-21.

5. Abraham inherited more than he could have asked for. Genesis 17:1-8. Lot ended in a cave, in shame. Genesis 19:30.

**Do you see the difference between the spiritual and the carnal man?**

#### Memory verse

Hebrews 13:13-14 *"Let us, then, go to Jesus outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come"*.

#### Teacher's notes

Study the story of Abraham in Genesis (chapter 11:27 to end of chapter 23). This seems a lot of reading but God will give understanding from His Word.

**Part A4 The holy city**, the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ, which is the Church. (Revelation 21:2-3 and 9-10). This is also a picture of the future glory of the Church of Jesus Christ, but we today share in that future glory, and know the reality of it in Christ.

See also Galatians 4:22-26. We **belong** to the "Jerusalem above" if we are truly born of the Spirit of God. We do not belong to this present evil world.

# Where are you looking?

## Lesson 2

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### Introduction

Our eyes are on whatever we hope for and trust in.

#### A. The eyes of the spiritual man

##### 1. His eyes are on God.

###### Read Psalm 123:1-2

- a) His trust is in God to provide for him and his family. Why should he worry and steal from others? He does his work and looks to God.
- b) When sickness comes, he turns to God, because His faith is in God Himself. God may *use* a man, but the healing comes from God.
- c) He "seeks first the kingdom of God **and His righteousness**, and **all these things are added to him**", just as our Lord promised. Matthew 6:33.

##### 2. His eyes are "good" (or clear).

###### Read Matthew 6:22-24

Many Christians are trying to look two ways. They have one eye on God and one eye on this world and its attractions. If you physically try that, you will end up cross-eyed! We cannot serve God and money, says Jesus (verse 24).

Make up your mind to put both eyes on God. He can look after your needs and responsibilities. Are you late for church because of "business"? Are you half-asleep in the prayer meeting, or is your mind wandering because you are worrying about your affairs?

##### 3. The spiritual man looks at the things which are eternal.

###### Read 2 Corinthians 4:18

- a) Life is too short and precious to waste on things that will pass away. This world will soon be gone and he will live for ever. His soul is eternal and precious. He keeps it for God.
- b) He is a stranger in this unrighteous world. He hungers and thirsts after righteousness, and he shall be filled. Matthew 5:6.
- c) He rejoices in suffering now, because he wants to share in the glory to come. Romans 8:17.
- d) He lays up treasure in heaven, not on this earth. Matthew 6:20-21.

**4. He looks to Jesus for his spiritual life.**

**Read Hebrews 12:2**

- a) His faith is not in his "church" or "elder" but in Jesus Himself, even though he may seek advice from his elders. Even our faith is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8.
- b) He looks to Jesus for cleansing and forgiveness for his sins.

**5. He is willing to go on alone – like His Lord.**

**Read Luke 9:62**

If no-one joins him, he keeps on following Jesus. He will not turn back because his eyes are firmly set on God.

**B. The eyes of the carnal man**

**1. His eyes look back.**

**Read Luke 9:62**

Oh yes, he repented and turned to God, but his eyes are not on God. He is like Judas, who was not looking at Jesus but at the money bag. Or like Demas who turned back because he loved this present world. 2 Timothy 4:10.

**2. He sets his mind on earthly things.**

- a) Honour that comes from men. John 5:44. (Jesus did not look for honour from men – see verse 41.) The carnal man likes people to respect him and greet him with reverence. He likes a prominent seat on the platform.
- b) Houses, land and money. He works hard to get these things, and he gives honour to the people who possess them. See James 2:1-4.
- c) Education. Is it wrong to want education? No, but the wisdom of this world cannot save us. Let us remember that. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 and 27-29.**
- d) High position. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble". James 4:6. Jesus left His high position to live as a humble man and to die on the cross for us. Let us be like Him. Philippians 2:3-4.

**3. He is double-minded.**

**Read James 4:3-4 and 8**

- a) He wants the best of this world *and* a place in eternity. You cannot have both. 2 Timothy 3:12.
- b) He is not willing to suffer for Christ, so he cannot share in His glory. Romans 8:17. Jesus said "He who does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me". Matthew 10:38.

4. **All his treasure is here on earth.**

**Read Luke 12:16-20**

This man had worked very hard to make sure he would live comfortably in this world, but he had neglected to store up anything for eternity. God called him a fool.

5. **He is ashamed to speak for the truth.**

**Read Mark 8:38; Romans 1:32 and 1:16**

When people speak badly about the Lord or His people, he keeps silent. When his friends plan an unrighteous deal, he says nothing. He is ashamed of the gospel when men laugh at it.

6. **Where is his security?**

- a) In his bank account? It is no use to him in eternity.
- b) In his health and strength? These things can fail.
- c) In his drinking partners and friends? They too will fail him.
- d) In his church? Only Jesus can save and he has not accepted Jesus.
- e) In the mercy of God to save him on his deathbed? He may not get that chance.

**C. The carnal man is not necessarily a heathen man**

Lot was a righteous man. 2 Peter 2:7.

**Question:** So where did he go wrong?

**Answer:** He set his mind on the wrong things.

- 1. Abraham set his mind on the promises of God. Lot set his mind on the green grass and riches.
- 2. Abraham set his mind on that "city" which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Lot set his mind on the city he could see, Sodom.

The spiritual man sets his mind on things above; he is dead to this world but alive to God for ever. The carnal man sets his mind on the things of the earth. When they fail, which they do, he loses all.

**Memory verse**

Colossians 3:2-4, *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”.*

## **Teacher's notes**

### **Education**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 and 27-29**

God has made foolish the wisdom of this world. It cannot save us. It scoffs at the gospel, which is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes.

A person full of God, even though he may be uneducated, is a blessing wherever he goes to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A person without God in his heart, even though he is educated and can talk a lot, can never lift even his own soul, much less his family and neighbours.

# Jacob and Esau

## Lesson 3

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### A. Esau

#### 1. The twins.

**Read Genesis 25:21-28**

God had promised Abraham that through Isaac he would make a nation, a people of God, through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed. Isaac's wife Rebekah was chosen by God, but strangely she was barren for nearly 20 years until Isaac pleaded with God for her.

Isaac now had two sons to start that godly "line". But according to custom it was the elder son who inherited all the promises made by God to Abraham. This was his birthright. Genesis 17:6-7.

#### 2. Esau despised his birthright.

**Read Genesis 25:29-34**

If you had asked Esau, he would have strongly denied despising his birthright. However, his actions showed the truth. His belly came first. So, he proved himself "not worthy". **Read Hebrews 12:16.** (See also Matthew 10:38-39)

#### 3. God rejected him.

**Read Hebrews 12:16-17**

We know the story of how Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac when he was old and almost blind, so that Jacob received the blessing that Isaac intended for Esau, his favourite son. Genesis 27:1-41.

But we also read in Hebrews 11:20 that "by **faith** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come".

**Question:** Can we do the will of God by deceit?

**Answer:** Of course not. God was there, using the mistakes of men for His own purposes. God had set his love on Jacob. He would deal with that old deceitful nature later.

**Notice this:** Isaac trembled. Genesis 27:33. He knew **by faith** that God had allowed the blessing to go to his younger son. He does not pretend (there is no pretence in Isaac) but must give his beloved Esau the lesser blessing – and it was right!

#### 4. No repentance for Esau.

**Read Hebrews 12:17**

Esau made his choice when he sold his birthright.

He wept – for the earthly blessing – but planned in his heart to kill his brother. Later he tried hard to please his father, Genesis 28:8-9, but had no understanding of the eternal things.

5. **We have a birthright.**

**Read John 1:12-13**

Did you know that we have a birthright? We have!

We are not born with the right to the promises given to Abraham's sons, **but** "to as many as received Him (Jesus), He gave the right...". We have the right to become sons of God! Jesus bought this birthright for us on the cross. See Ephesians 1:3-5.

Yet many do not choose to receive their birthright and instead choose fame or fortune, pretty girls, or peace with the family.

**B. Jacob**

1. **The deceiver.**

**Read Genesis 27:35-36**

The name Jacob means a “deceiver”.

**Question:** Why did God choose this deceiver?

**Answer:** Because God loved him.

**Read Romans 9:13**

Not one of us can claim that God loves us because there is any good in us. Romans 3:10-11.

2. **God spoke to Jacob in a dream.**

**Read Genesis 28:10-22**

a) Jacob did not know God. He appeared to Jacob as the God of Abraham and Isaac, so that Jacob knew who was speaking to him – verse 13.

b) In His grace God offered to bless Jacob, protect him and bring him back to his land – verses 13-15.

Jacob's deceitful mind struck a bargain! "If you will be with me, provide for me and bring me back in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and I will..." – verses 20-21. Poor Jacob! He could not understand the generous heart of God.

c) God allowed the trickster to be tricked – Genesis 29:15-30 and 31:6-7 – but He blessed him with children and cattle and brought him back.

## C. Jacob comes face to face with God

### 1. He was full of fear.

**Read Genesis 32:6-8**

Jacob was returning to Canaan with his wives and children, but he was full of fear because years ago Esau had vowed to kill him. He had the promise of God to protect him, but his faith was failing.

### 2. He prayed and put his own plans into action.

**Read verses 13-23**

He sent off droves of animals, goats, sheep, cows, camels and donkeys, with servants to herd them, as gifts for his brother. Then he sent his own wives and children ahead of him. There was nothing more he could do. Only God could help him now.

### 3. Alone with God at last.

**Read verse 24**

A "man" (God Himself – see verse 30) wrestled with him until dawn. Jacob encountered the living God – and still he fought on.

**Question:** Why did God come to wrestle with Jacob?

**Answer:** Because Jacob, like many of us, was too strong in himself for God to bless him.

The old, clever Jacob would not believe that God truly loved him. He was still trusting in his own strength and wisdom. He ruled his own life and only prayed at difficult times! Just like many of us.

God had to come, like a mother to a struggling child and put His arms around Jacob.

### 4. Jacob struggled on.

**Read verse 25**

Still he fought for his "independence", until God injured him. Sometimes God has to do that with us – for our own good. See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. He always does it in love.

**Illustration:** When a man is drowning in deep water, and his rescuer tries to save him, the drowning man will sometimes panic and fight the rescuer. So, the rescuer may have to "knock him out" before he can pull him to safety.

### 5. Now Jacob clung to God.

**Read verses 26-29**

He got the blessing, not by tricking his brother or his father, but from God Himself.

**6. A new man.**

**Read verses 30-31**

- a) No longer Jacob the deceiver, but Israel, prince with God, he limped as he travelled. No longer strong in his own strength, Israel was weak and dependent on God. See 1 Corinthians 1:27-29.
- b) **Now God could say**, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of **Jacob**". Matthew 22:31-32.

He was never "the God of Esau", even though Esau was a son of Isaac too. See Hebrews 11:9, "Abraham, Isaac and **Jacob**, the heirs of the promise".

**Question:** How did Jacob, the deceiver, the man of the flesh, become Israel, the spiritual man, prince with God?

**Answer:** He had a personal encounter with the living God. God was no longer just his father's God, but now his own God.

**D. Jacob and Pharaoh**

**Read Genesis 47:7-10**

**Question:** Who gives the blessing, the greater man or the lesser man?

**Answer:** The greater blesses the lesser. Hebrews 7:7.

Near the end of his life, Jacob was introduced by his son Joseph to the richest and most powerful man of his time, Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

The old sheep farmer blessed the king of Egypt. Pharaoh could give Jacob nothing. Jacob had God.

The spiritual man blesses the rich and powerful of this world, because he possesses the real treasures. See Ephesians 1:3-4.

**Memory verse**

2 Corinthians 12:9, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me"*.

# The problem and the answer

## Lesson 4

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### Introduction

Many people who want to please God go about it wrongly. They try very hard to live a good life, but find that they fail continually. God knows all about this and has provided the answer.

### A. The problem

#### 1. The man who tries to please God.

##### Read Romans 7:18-24

Paul wanted to please God, and he tried very hard. He was zealous. Acts 22:3; Galatians 1:14. He tried to obey all the laws of God. Philippians 3:6.

He "delighted in the law of God with his inward man" (verse 22). He wanted to do good, but he found himself doing evil (verse 19). The more he tried the more he failed (verses 8-11). The law seemed to "kill" him. He could not do it.

**Question:** If Paul wanted to do the will of God, what stopped him from doing it?

**Answer:** See verse 14, "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin". It was his own sinful flesh that stopped him doing what He knew was right.

#### 2. "I am carnal". What does that mean?

##### Read Romans 7:14

It means that I am a true son of Adam and have inherited his nature, which always leans towards sin. Romans 5:19. In my flesh (this inherited nature) dwells no good thing. Romans 7:18 and Galatians 5:17.

Those who are in the flesh (that is all who are born of Adam, but not of the Spirit) cannot please God. Romans 8:8. If I live to only please my body, I will reap destruction. Galatians 6:8.

#### 3. The Conclusion.

**Read Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am! Who will save me from this body of death?"**

I am a sinner. I cannot help myself. I am doomed to failure. I need someone to save me from my old rotten **self**, not just from my sins. I need a Saviour, to save me from **myself**.

## B. The answer

### 1. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Read Romans 7:25

Thank God there is an answer! It lies in our Lord Jesus.

**Question:** How does God save me from my old sinful nature?

**Answer:** [**Teacher:** Read Romans 8:1-11 in your preparation].

- a) When Jesus died on the cross, He did more than just take away my past sins. My old nature was crucified with Him. Romans 6:6 and Galatians 2:20.
- b) I was buried with Jesus through baptism into His death. He took my old sinful nature into the grave, and left it there. Hallelujah! Romans 6:4.

Then, something even more wonderful happened. Romans 8:11, *"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you"*. I am raised with Jesus to live a new life.

### 2. Two "laws".

#### Read Romans 8:1-2

- a) Paul writes about two laws:
  - 1) The law of sin and death – "the soul that sins, it shall die", and "the wages of sin is death". It is a law. It cannot be changed by man or God. God will not change His laws, but there is **another** law ....
  - 2) The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

**Illustration:** There is a law called the law of gravity. It makes any heavy thing fall to the earth. Throw up a stone, and it will come down. It must – it is governed by the law put there by God. If you walk along a high roof and keep on walking when you come to the edge, you will fall. This is the law of gravity.

Will a bird walking along the roof fall to the ground when it comes to the end of the roof? No, it will spread its wings and fly. Why? Because there is **another** law, and the bird was created to make use of it. It is called the law of aerodynamics. Men have studied this natural law, and have made use of it in the design of aeroplanes – which can be big and heavy and yet overcome the law of gravity and fly.

- b) The law of sin and death pulls me down. But, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from that law of sin and death.

Now, if I *choose* to live by the Spirit of life, I can rise above the old law of sin and death, and I will live the life of Christ. There is therefore now no condemnation of those who are in Christ Jesus.

## C. The war

### 1. Led by the Spirit.

#### Read Galatians 5:16-18

The Spirit of God in me and my old sinful nature can never agree. I have to choose. I can choose to be led by my old sinful nature, or I can choose to be led by the Spirit.

**Illustration:** A man tries hard to follow two leaders, but these leaders are not going in the same direction. He runs after one, and then he turns round and chases after the other. Soon he is weary and confused.

So it is with some Christians, who will not make up their mind to be led by the Spirit. We cannot follow two leaders.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. Romans 8:14.

### 2. A slave of sin or slave of righteousness.

#### Read Romans 6:17-18

I can choose to be a slave of sin, allowing my flesh to rule my life, or I can choose to be a slave of righteousness, allowing the Spirit to rule my life.

### 3. What am I sowing?

#### Read Galatians 6:8

If I sow to my old flesh, which is doomed to death and corruption, then I shall reap the death and corruption. If I sow to the Spirit of God, I shall reap everlasting life.

### 4. **Paul's advice is:** *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfil its lusts"*. No provision. No place for my old sinful self. Don't feed it. Keep your eyes on God.

## D. The flesh

**It is not wrong to have desires given to us by God.** Adam, however, turned a healthy appetite into lust when he ate the forbidden fruit. He lusted to be like God, to rule his own affairs, to decide for himself what was good or evil. Genesis 3.

### Examples of the "flesh":

1. Pride in my religion. The Pharisees were very religious men. They did not see themselves as sinners. Yet they crucified the Lord Jesus.
2. The wisdom of this world. Paul, the apostle, did not boast in his knowledge or wisdom, but in the crucified Lord Jesus. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2.

3. A proud worldly mind. *"Be not wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from evil"*, Proverbs 3:7.

Jacob the deceiver was as much a man of the flesh as Esau, until God got hold of him. Then, in his weakness, he found God and obtained the blessing for himself.

**Memory verse**

Romans 8:1-2, *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death"*.

# David and Saul

## Lesson 5

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### A. Saul – the man who disappointed God

1. **God gave Saul a great beginning.**

**Read 1 Samuel 10:1, 9 and 10**

The people wanted a king, so God gave them one. He chose Saul, a tall farmer from a poor family. (The teacher should read 1 Samuel 8, 9 and 10.)

Saul was anointed king by Samuel, and God gave him His Holy Spirit. When God chooses a man, He gives him the power to do the job. God also gave him a group of faithful men to stand with him. 1 Samuel 10:26.

2. **God established him through a great victory.**

**Read 1 Samuel 11:1-7**

Nahash, king of Ammon, attacked the city of Jabesh Gilead to make the inhabitants his slaves. The city called for help, but the people of Israel just wept.

When Saul heard this, the Spirit of God came upon him. The quiet farmer became, through the Holy Spirit, the king who would save his people. He called an army, and they chased Nahash from the land. Then the people acknowledged Saul as their king. 1 Samuel 11:12-15.

3. **But Saul consistently refused to obey God.**

**Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14**

The Philistines had come with a great army, and the people of Israel were starting to run away. Although Saul knew that it was Samuel who was appointed by God to offer the sacrifice, he was full of fear that his men would leave him. He finally disobeyed God and offered up the sacrifice himself. Samuel then arrived and spoke the word of God to him.

Saul showed by his foolish action that his faith was not in *God*, but in the *sacrifice*.

If we think we can help God by disobeying His commands, we act foolishly, like Saul.

4. **Disobedient again.**

**Read 1 Samuel 15:2-3 and 17-19**

The Amalekites had attacked and killed many of the people of Israel as they travelled to Canaan, but God had promised to judge them (verse 2).

Now the day had come, and Saul was commanded by God to destroy them, together with *all* their livestock (verse 3).

He destroyed the people and some of the livestock, *but not all*. He saved the best of the animals (verse 15).

God regretted that He had made Saul king (verse 11).

**5. Saul was rejected by God.**

**Read 1 Samuel 15:24-28**

Saul *said* "I have sinned", but begged Samuel to stay and honour him before the people. There was no sign of real repentance.

Samuel told Saul that God had taken the kingdom from him and given it to another man (verses 28-29).

The Spirit of God departed from Saul and he was troubled by an evil spirit from God.

**B. David – the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22)**

**1. God gave David a beginning.**

**Read 1 Samuel 16:1, 12 and 13**

- a) Samuel had to move carefully, because Saul was determined to remain king, even if it might mean having to kill Samuel (verse 2).
- b) David was only a shepherd boy, but God who sees everything, saw a man of faith – a man who could care for sheep well and who would make a good king.

Samuel anointed him king, in the village among his own brothers. The Spirit of God came on him from that day. He went back to his father's sheep. He was king, but would wait for God's time.

**2. He also was established by a great victory.**

**Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37** (The teacher should read 1 Samuel 17)

David was sent by his father to take food to his brothers who were fighting in Saul's army.

Goliath, the Philistines' champion, called for a man of Israel to fight him. He defied the armies of Israel and the God of Israel.

David offered to fight him. Saul (who should have answered the challenge himself) tried to dissuade him, but when he heard his story, he recognised a man of faith, and allowed him to go.

David killed Goliath by faith in God and became the hero of the moment. Saul refused to let him go home and took him into his employment.

3. **His faith was severely tested.**

**Read 1 Samuel 18:7-9**

David, the anointed king, was hunted by Saul who was jealous. He had to run into the wilderness, hiding in caves with a small group of men, as Saul came with his army to kill him.

One day, Saul actually entered the cave where David, unknown to Saul, was hiding. The tempter spoke, through David's men, "See, the Lord has put your enemy into your hands, Kill him!" David would not kill the man whom God had anointed. He looked to God for his orders, not his friends. 1 Samuel 24:1-7.

Another time David was again in a position to kill Saul, but again he refused. 1 Samuel 26. How tempting to take revenge into our own hands! But he did not. He was a spiritual man.

4. **David's sin and repentance.**

**Read Psalm 51:1-4 and 11-12**

This psalm is David's cry to God when he saw his own sin.

David had slept with the wife of one of his soldiers and she had become pregnant. To cover his sin he had sent for her husband to go home to her. But the man had been too faithful to his duty and refused to go home. So David had set him up to die in battle. 2 Samuel 11.

God sent Nathan, the prophet, to tell David of his sin and his punishment. 2 Samuel 12:1-14.

David was heartbroken. He said, "I have sinned against the Lord" (verse 4). *Against the Lord*. When a man sins, it is *God* who is grieved. God loves the man but He hates the sin.

David truly repented. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (verses 10 and 11). God did not take His Holy Spirit away from David, as He had with Saul.

God forgave David. David did not die but had to bear the punishment for his sin. He brought great trouble to his own family. Our sin always brings trouble to other people. God may forgive us, but the consequences remain.

**C. Saul – David**

1. **Saul** fought to keep his position. **David** trusted God. He did good towards Saul, his enemy, and wept at his death. The carnal man fights for his "position". The spiritual man can leave everything to God.

2. **Saul** feared to answer the challenge of Goliath (picture of Satan) because he did not rely on God. **David**, who was not a trained soldier but a giant in spirit, was not afraid to fight the enemies of God.
3. **Saul** started well. God put His Spirit on him and people followed him. But he never learned to trust and obey God. In the end he went to a woman sorcerer and died in defeat. **David** trusted and obeyed God. He reigned for a long time and died with the promise of God that his sons would reign after him. Jesus was a son of David.
4. **Saul** never really trusted and obeyed God. He never truly repented. His heart was not for God Himself. **David's** heart wanted God. Even though he slipped and sinned badly, when he saw his sin he was broken. He had a "broken and contrite heart". Psalm 51:17. God said he was a man after God's own heart.

The carnal man cares for the outward things that men see. The spiritual man cares for the inward heart that God sees.

### Memory verse

Psalm 51:10, *"Create in me a pure heart, o God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me"*.

### Teacher's notes

Our Bible has an Old Testament (or Covenant) and a New Testament (or Covenant).

#### **The Old Covenant – Genesis 17:19**

God made a covenant with Abraham and then renewed it with the descendants of Israel.

#### **Read Exodus 19:3-6**

1. Under this covenant God took Israel to be his own special people, a holy nation.
2. For their part, they would obey His voice and keep His laws. He gave them a way to come near to Him, through outward rituals, priests and animal sacrifices. Only the priests could offer the sacrifices and only the High Priest could enter into the presence of God.
3. Jesus had not yet come to die on the cross. Sin could not be taken away, only covered by the blood of animals. The Holy Spirit could not come to live inside a person, He just came upon certain people for specific tasks.
4. God gave them many laws which do not apply to us Christians today, but were for that nation and that time only.

#### **The New Covenant**

#### **Read Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13**

1. God had a much better plan in His heart. Jesus takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29.

2. Now, in this gospel age we can receive the Holy Spirit to change us sinners *from the inside*. Jesus brought a much higher standard of inward behaviour (Matthew 5) than God expected of people under the Old Covenant, because it was not possible for them to live it. We can live as Jesus lived. This is the good news! His law is in our heart because the Holy Spirit is there – if we have received Him.

### **God's judgements in the Old Testament.**

1. Saul was commanded by God to kill the whole nation of the Amalekites. This was not the “day of grace” (the “gospel age”) which we live in today. God is holding back the full judgement on nations while the gospel goes out to all the world, but there is a judgement to come. Christians are commanded to love their enemies and do good to those who hate and persecute them, but God will judge and avenge His people at the right time.
2. Do not think of these O.T. people as Christians, although there are many great men of God who found God and pleased Him. He is the same God but it was a different covenant.
3. Saul was anointed king. He was not anointed priest, so he sinned when he took onto himself that ministry. Today, all Christians are called to be priests unto God. 1 Peter 2:5 and 9.

### **The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.**

The Holy Spirit was not poured out until after Jesus died and rose again and went back to the Father. But, he came upon certain people for a special purpose, for example on Saul and David. The Holy Spirit, however, because He is a person and God, can be grieved and He left Saul when he sinned.

### **Saul was troubled by an evil spirit from God.**

1. Evil spirits fear God. They believe that He is. James 2:19.
2. They obey God – because they must. Even Satan must “report” to God. Job 1:6.
3. God does not send evil, but we allow evil to come to us. When the Holy Spirit left Saul, he was empty and this evil spirit, allowed by God, went into him. See Luke 11:24.

# Walking in the Spirit

## Lesson 6

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### A. Walking

#### 1. Why "walking"?

##### **Read Galatians 5:16**

We are not instructed to "fly" in the Spirit, or to leap or run, but to *walk*. Walking is a steady progress, not as fast as running, but it gets me where I need to go.

We have a purpose –to reach a certain goal – and we take one step after the other until we reach it.

The Christian has a goal, to be like Jesus, and if he is wise he will tread on all the circumstances of his life and reach that goal.

#### 2. Walking in darkness.

##### **Read 1 John 2:9-10**

"He who hates his brother is in darkness". If I hate a brother, hate will fill my eyes. It may be light all around, but I am blinded by that hate in my heart.

It is not good to walk in the dark. I may fall or lose my way. I cannot travel fast.

It is very important that we sort our relationships out and keep them right. We do not want to wander in darkness. Let us love our brother, and then we shall walk in the light.

#### 3. Walking in the light.

##### **Read John 8:12**

Jesus, not the sun or the moon, is the Light of the world. He is greater than the light of the sun. He created the sun. His light shines right down into our soul and spirit.

If we are following Jesus we are walking in the light.

**Illustration:** Ask someone to walk towards a light. Now, where is his shadow? Behind him. His feet walk in the light. Following Jesus, the light of the world, we leave darkness behind us. Now, tell him to turn around and walk away from the light. Where is his shadow? In front of him. He walks in darkness. If we walk away from Jesus we walk in darkness.

#### 4. Walking with Jesus.

##### **Read 1 John 1:5-7**

**In Him is no darkness at all.** There are no dark corners, no lies, nothing hidden, only light. He is what He says He is. Wonderful Jesus!

**His light will show up all my sin.** I can confess it and let Him take it away, or I can run and hide myself. Jesus said that many people will not come to the light, because their deeds are evil.

**Fellowship.** He has taken away all my sin so I can walk with Him! And when I walk with Him, I find that there are other people walking with us. We walk together. We have fellowship, one with another, we are saved sinners. We are walking in the light and there is no cause for stumbling. 1 John 2:10.

## **B. Rise up and walk**

**Read Acts 3:1-9**

### **1. Weakness.**

Many of us in our old state are just too weak to even start to walk, like the cripple. The word of God to him, through Peter, was "Rise up and walk!" His mind would tell him that it was impossible. The word of God said, "do it". He got up and walked.

At first he jumped about and praised God. That is natural, and so do we. But then comes the steady walking, the daily going on and growing.

Do you feel you are too weak for this Christian life? You cannot do it? It is good for some people, but not for you? The word of God to you is "Rise up and walk!"

### **2. Which is harder?**

**Read Matthew 9:5**

It is one thing to tell a man his sins are forgiven. This man was happy that his sins were forgiven. But he still lay there. Like some of us. There was no change in his way of life.

Then Jesus said to him, "Take up your bed and walk!" The man had to choose to obey Jesus, or stay in his weakness. He had to *do* something. The man rose, took up his bed and walked. It is wonderful to have our sins forgiven, but it is more wonderful to live the Christian life by faith in the word of Jesus.

## **C. Walking in the Spirit**

**Read Galatians 5:16 again**

### **1. Who is the Spirit?**

There are three persons in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One God – three Persons. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been together from eternity. They always agree, and they do everything together.

When I received the Holy Spirit, I received Jesus and I received the Father. John 14:16-18, 23. If I do not have the Spirit, I do not belong to God. Romans 8:9. So, when I walk in the Spirit, I am walking with Jesus. When I walk in the Spirit, I am walking with the Father.

2. **We walk by faith, not by sight.**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:7**

That does not mean that we walk with our eyes shut! Faith is something in our hearts that we know so strongly that we act upon it, even though we do not yet see it with our physical eyes.

**Illustration:** A father is on one side of a busy road; his child is on the other side. He tells his child, "Wait, and when I say come, you come". So the child waits. Then he hears his father shout, "Come now!" and he runs across the road into his father's arms. He has faith in his father.

If you have received the Holy Spirit, you will learn to hear His voice. Yes, He speaks to us. Jesus says that His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him. They do not follow others, because they do not know the voice of strangers. John 10:5, 16 and Revelation 3:20. Listen to His voice and obey Him, and you will be walking in the Spirit.

Do not harden your heart to the voice of God. Hebrews 3:15. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and not on the problems on the way.

"Walk in the fear of the Lord", Acts 9:31. That means that you live to please God, not man or yourself, in everything.

**D. Walking in His steps**

**Read 1 Peter 2:21-22**

Jesus left us an example. We are to follow Him. When you have a decision to make, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?", then do that. Read the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and see what Jesus did.

If you are tempted, remember that Jesus was tempted too and won over the temptation. Hebrews 4:15.

If you suffer, remember that Jesus suffered too but triumphed over it, and He is encouraging you on to glory.

**E. Walking in newness of life**

**Read Romans 6:4**

1. **You must learn to walk "anew"**. If you have been born again by the Spirit, you must learn to walk again. Not in the way you once walked, but in a new direction.

2. **Keep going.** A baby will learn to walk. He tries and falls, tries and falls, but he eventually succeeds. We must not be afraid of a few falls. Get up and try again. The Spirit of life in you will lift you up.
3. **Do not look back.** Jesus said, "He who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God". The old life is behind. "Let the dead bury the dead". He was not being unkind, but He knows how easily a Christian can be pulled back by unbelieving relations. Matthew 8:22.

If you try walking with your head turned back, you are heading for disaster! Walk in the Spirit in newness of life.

**Memory verse**

Romans 8:14, *"Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God"*.

# Elisha and Gehazi

## Lesson 7

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### Introduction

Elisha was the servant of Elijah. Gehazi was the servant of Elisha. Let us look at the difference between these two men.

#### A. Elisha

##### 1. The farmer chosen by God.

###### Read 1 Kings 19:16-21

The great prophet Elijah was told to go and to anoint Elisha as prophet in his place.

Elisha was ploughing his land when Elijah found him, and threw his coat over him. Elisha knew the meaning of this act, that God had appointed him to be the successor of Elijah.

Elisha did not need time to make his decision. He **wanted** to be a man of God. He **ran** after Elijah (verse 20).

There was to be **no turning back** for Elisha. He burned his equipment to cook his oxen as a farewell feast to his people, and then he followed Elijah.

**And served him** (verse 21). At that time Elisha was known, not as a prophet, but as "the man who poured water on the hands of Elijah". 2 Kings 3:11. God has called us to a high calling and we must serve one another. The way up is down. There is no room for pride. Elisha had a servant's heart, and he wanted to learn all he could from this great man of God.

##### 2. Elisha determined to receive the Spirit of God.

###### Read 2 Kings 2:1-15

Elijah knew that the time had come for him to go to be with God. Elisha and the sons of the prophets also knew. [The "sons of the prophets" were men who served God and heard His word.]

Elijah tried to discourage Elisha from following him, but Elisha was determined to receive the anointing which had been on Elijah.

The sons of the prophets also tried to discourage him. Sometimes, other Christians will try to hold back someone who is going after God's best.

Jesus often said to someone, "What do you **want**?" A little blessing? A house? To pass exams? Or do you **want** the Holy Spirit? **Elisha got what he asked for.** The same Spirit that was on Elijah, came upon him.

3. **Elisha was chosen, but he had to make his claim.**

**Illustration:** In America, years ago, people were offered new land. If they went to the Government office, they could get a paper saying that the land was in their name, but the land did not belong to them until they went out and **claimed** it by clearing it and building a house on it.

- a) Elisha made his claim when he refused to leave Elijah and went all the way with him.
- b) God promised the land of Canaan to His people, but He said that "every place where the sole of your foot shall tread upon I have given you". We have to claim our inheritance in Christ – by **walking** in it by faith.
- c) Paul said "*I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me*", Philippians 3:12.
- d) If you do not "lay hold" of God for the blessings He has died to gain for you, you will remain a carnal Christian.

4. **Elisha performed miracles after that time.**

He made the bad water of Jericho good and "healed" the land. People were healed and helped in many ways through Elisha. He fed 100 men with a few loaves.

These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus performed miracles by the same Spirit of God. As God's people today we can perform miracles by the same Spirit.

5. **Elisha was a shining light** in the darkness of his time, because he went after the Spirit of God. He was a **spiritual man**. (Even when he died his dead body gave life to another man – 2 Kings 13:21.)

## **B. Gehazi**

1. **Gehazi was a servant only.**

**Read 2 Kings 4:18-31**

He had watched many miracles, but he was powerless to help people.

2. **The woman knew that only one man could help her.**

- a) Her family could not help her. She laid the child on Elisha's bed, shut the door, took a servant and hurried to the man of God.
- b) Gehazi could not help her. Elisha sent Gehazi to lay his (Elisha's) stick on the child, but the woman did not follow Gehazi. Notice what she says to Elisha: "As the Lord lives and as your soul lives I will not leave you". The same words that Elisha had said to Elijah. She knew the anointing was in Elisha, not Gehazi.

Gehazi did as he was told. It did not work. "The child has not awakened", he said. He did not cry to God. He just accepted that nothing could be done. Following a ritual or using certain words do not give life. Only **life** can give life – the Spirit of Life.

Gehazi was just like that dead stick. The stick belonged to Elisha, but the spirit of Elisha was not in the stick. Nor was the spirit of Elisha in Gehazi.

**3. The man of God takes the responsibility.**

**Now read 2 Kings 4:32-37**

He shut the door. The matter was between him and God. He did not want a public show. See Matthew 9:25. He breathed his own life into the child and warmed him (verse 34). He did not give up until the life returned (verse 35).

**4. Gehazi shows what is in his heart.**

**Read 2 Kings 5:20** (The teacher should read verses 20-27)

Naaman, the army chief from Syria, had been healed by Elisha and wanted to reward him. But Elisha would take no reward. "As surely as the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will take nothing".

Gehazi was disappointed because Naaman was very rich. Gehazi lied to him and Naaman gave him money and clothes, which he hid. But Elisha knew and was grieved that Gehazi brought shame on the name of God.

Gehazi went out a leper. Lepers were cast out from among the people. He became useless and a shame in the flesh, just as he was in his spirit. A carnal man.

**C. A channel for God**

**1. Ezekiel sees a river.**

**Read Ezekiel 47:1-8**

- a) Ezekiel has this vision of the river of God. It is a picture of the Holy Spirit, coming out from the presence of God. As it flows out, it gets deeper and deeper on its way.

This teaches us how the Holy Spirit seems to start small in our lives – just a little stream, but as we go on it gets deeper and fuller, until we are quite out of our depth – a river to swim in! (verse 5). I lose control of my life and the river just carries me wherever it wishes. That is what the Holy Spirit wants to do.

- b) Wherever this river goes, it brings life and healing. It is the wonderful Spirit of God. We see this river again in Revelation 22:1. Here it flows through the Church, the New Jerusalem, again bringing life and healing to the nations.

## 2. Swamps and marshes.

### Now read verse 11

At the sides of the river are swamps and marshes. These are places where the river has at one time overflowed, but because of a blockage of dirt, grass and other obstacles, the water cannot flow through and has become stale.

This is like the person who was blessed at one time by the Spirit, but has allowed other things to block the channel so that the river can no longer pass through. He still speaks the right words and does some of the right things, but the life of the river has died.

"They will be given over to salt". Nothing grows in salt marshes. The blessings of the river will not grow here. It becomes a dead place. The carnal man cannot bless other people.

Elisha was a **channel** for the Spirit of God to flow through in healing and blessing. Gehazi was like a swamp. The swamp had known the overflowing of the river, but was not part of it and did not allow the waters to flow through it. No-one can drink from those bad waters.

### **Memory verse**

1 John 2:15, *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"*.

# Peter and Judas

## Lesson 8

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### Introduction

In this last lesson, let us look at two men in the New Testament. Both were disciples of Jesus, but their end was very different.

### A. Peter

#### 1. The impulsive fisherman.

##### Read Luke 5:8-11

- a) Peter was the kind of person who speaks before he thinks. That is one reason why we hear so much of him in the Bible.
- b) His name was Simon, but Jesus called him Peter ("Petros" in the Greek language, meaning "a stone"). John 1:42.
- c) Jesus called Peter and Andrew when they were washing their fishing nets. They left all and followed Him. Matthew 4:18-20.

When he first saw the power of Jesus on the day that they caught all the fish, he said to Jesus, "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord". But Jesus told him he would catch men now, not fish.

- d) Together with James and John, he was an especially close friend of Jesus. Mark 5:37, 9:2, 14:33.

He was the disciple who said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", a revelation given to him by God. Yet Jesus had to rebuke Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" when Peter tried to turn Jesus from going to the cross. Matthew 16:16-17 and 22-23.

- e) He told the Lord, "If I have to die with You, I will never deny You", but he did deny Jesus, three times, as Jesus said he would. Mark 14:30-31.

#### 2. He followed Jesus.

The disciples followed a **man**, Jesus, not a religion. They loved Him. They left everything to follow Him – jobs, family, houses. Matthew 19:27.

When other people turned away from Jesus they stayed, because "You have the words of eternal life", they said. John 6:66-69.

Peter thought he was willing to die for Jesus, but Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows we are weak and He loved Peter.

3. **Satan also wanted Peter.**

**Read Luke 22:31-32**

Jesus prayed for Peter, that his faith would not fail. It is only because of Jesus that any of us can stand.

Peter's faith, strengthened by the prayer of Jesus, kept him from the power of Satan.

4. **Peter eventually saw himself as he really was.**

**Read Matthew 26:69-75**

Peter loved Jesus and wanted, with all his heart, to follow Him, but God allowed him to see that he, in himself, was a **failure**. Peter in his own flesh, without the power of the Holy Spirit, tried but failed.

So it is with us all. "In me", says Paul, "that is in my flesh, dwells **no good thing**". Romans 7:18.

Peter went out and wept bitterly. We must all come to this place of knowing our own failure. It is essential. It is the beginnings of the spiritual man.

## **B. Judas**

1. **Judas was one of the twelve men chosen to be with Jesus.**

**Read John 12:4-5** (The teacher should read Matthew 6-9)

Why did Jesus choose Judas? No doubt it was because His Father chose him for Jesus. Jesus loved him.

Judas was the treasurer for the little band of disciples. Whatever money they had they put in one bag for their needs. Judas was a thief and took from the bag. John 12:6. The eyes of Judas were not on the Lord Jesus and His precious word, but on the money that might come into their hands.

Jesus tried to tell His disciples about His coming death, but they did not want to hear. A woman heard. She loved him so much that she came with expensive perfume and poured it on His head.

Judas said "What a waste! This perfume might have been sold for much and the money given to the poor" – but Judas did not care for the poor, only for the **money**.

2. **He did not learn anything from Jesus.**

He had once repented. He had followed Jesus. He was just like the others on the outside, but inside the love of money was killing him. He was with Jesus, but he did not learn anything. He was not **listening**.

He found a way to get easy money. If he took money from the priests to betray Jesus, then surely Jesus would just escape. "Jesus can do anything, and I will still

have the cash", he thought.

Jesus still loved Judas. He gave him a piece of bread dipped in wine at that last supper – a sign of favour. Judas did not respond to this last offer of love. He was a rebel even then, and Satan entered into him. John 13:26-27.

When he saw that Jesus did not escape and was condemned to die, Judas was sorry! Now he hated the money. The priests would not take it back, so he just threw it into the temple. **Read Matthew 27:3-5.**

**He went and hanged himself.** He never knew Jesus enough to know that if he had gone to Him he would have been forgiven and restored. The love of money had blinded his eyes to the truth. Satan took his opportunity.

### 3. **What a waste!**

Peter wept bitterly when he saw his own failure. This is that "godly sorrow that brings repentance to salvation" in Christ. 2 Corinthians 7:10.

But Judas lost his own soul. He had gathered no hope. He was lost for ever.

## C. **Peter finds hope**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:4-5**

### 1. **On that resurrection morning Jesus came to Peter first.**

To **Peter**, the man who had cursed and said he did not know Jesus. What a loving, forgiving Lord!

### 2. **Do you love Me?** (John 21:15-17)

Jesus walked with Peter and some other disciples near Lake Galilee after His resurrection. He asked Peter, "Simon, do you **love** Me?"

Peter was careful in his answer. He said, "Yes Lord, you know that I **like** you". He used a different word. No boasting now, because he knew what Jesus meant by love – He had shown it on the cross. Peter was honest. He could not love like Jesus.

"Feed my lambs". The Lord in His love gave Peter a job to do.

Again Jesus asked Peter. Again Peter gave the same answer.

The third time, Jesus asked, "Do you **like** Me?" Peter was grieved, but it was true. He could not say he loved Jesus as Jesus loved him.

Then Jesus told him that he too would die on a cross. Jesus showed Peter that he would love Jesus enough to die for Him. It was a promise.

### 3. **Jesus promises the baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

**Read Acts 1:4-5**

A few years before, John the Baptist had told them, "I baptise in water, but one is coming after me who will baptise you in the Holy Spirit and fire". The disciples must have wondered when Jesus was going to do this. Now the time was near. On the day that Jesus ascended to God, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

They waited. There were 120 men and women. They prayed. Not only Peter, but all of them knew that they needed the Holy Spirit. Without Him, they would fail.

## D. Peter changed

### 1. The Holy Spirit came.

**Read Acts 2:1-4**

They were all **filled**. Full of joy, and peace and love. Full of Jesus, full of the Father, full of the Spirit. Filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:19.

### 2. Peter stood up.

**Read Acts 2:14, 36-39**

Peter, this man who had been afraid to confess that he was a friend of Jesus, now stood up and preached to the crowd who had killed Jesus. He had not learned to preach - he was not an educated man – he **spoke by the Spirit** in him who gave him **boldness**.

He was moved by **compassion** like Jesus. Acts 3:1-6.

Peter and John faced death when the rulers threatened them, but they were **fearless** like Jesus.

They were born of God, men and women of the Spirit, walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

### 3. Peter's letters.

Peter became the leader of the church in Jerusalem.

He was not afraid but went on to become the man that Jesus had died to make him.

His two letters are full of advice to us to continue with God. Take time to read them carefully. He was a spiritual man.

It is said that most of the disciples died a violent death for their Lord, including Peter.

### **Memory verse**

1 Peter 1:14-15, *“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do”.*