

The Holy Spirit

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		Page
Lesson 1	Introduction to the Holy Spirit	1
Lesson 2	Our absolute need for God's Spirit	5
Lesson 3	Full salvation	9
Lesson 4	The greatest example and encouragement	12
Lesson 5	The early church experience	17
Lesson 6	How do we receive the fullness of the Spirit?	21
Lesson 7	The evidence of being filled with the Spirit	24
Lesson 8	The effect/result of the fullness of the Holy Spirit	28

Author:

Erling Rasmussen

SBCI, P.O. Box 324, Hillcrest 3650, South Africa
E-mail: sbc@absamail.co.za Tel. 031-7660284 Fax. 031-7660449

Introduction to the Holy Spirit

Lesson 1

A. The importance of knowing the Holy Spirit

Read Romans 8:14

The Holy Spirit expects to be invited to sit on the throne of your life – to lead and guide you, to be given control of all your thoughts, words and actions. This is why we need to know as much as possible about Him.

Illustration: If a village had to choose a new headman and hand over the leadership and control of all the affairs to him, they would surely want to know as much about him as possible.

B. Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. He is a Spirit.

Read John 3:8

- a) A spirit is a being without a physical body.
- b) The Hebrew word for spirit is "ruach" which means **wind**.
The Greek word for spirit is "pneuma" which also means **wind**.

It indicates the power, greatness and omnipresence (i.e. that He is everywhere) of the Spirit.

It also indicates that we cannot control the Spirit, "The wind blows wherever it pleases". We cannot predict the move of the Spirit, "You cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going". Also see Acts 2:2.

Illustration: When the wind blows, we can close doors and windows and the wind will not affect us at all. Many completely close their churches to the wonderful "wind of the Spirit", but that is not wise.

Read Ezekiel 37:9-10

- i) Here again the Spirit is compared to a mighty wind.
- ii) See what this "mighty wind" can do to a dead "congregation" when invited to blow upon it.
- iii) It can be raised up as a mighty army of God.

2. He is a Person.

Read John 14:16-17

- a) Jesus had no doubt that the Holy Spirit is a person and not just a powerful

influence. He always used personal pronouns ("He", "His", "Himself") when speaking about the Holy Spirit.

- b) The Holy Spirit also has the three characteristics of: a personality/intellect, emotions and will.
 - i) **Intellect:**
1 Corinthians 2:10-11 – He understands and thinks.
John 14:26 – He teaches.
 - ii) **Emotions:**
Ephesians 4:30 – He can be grieved.
Hebrews 10:29 – He can be insulted.
Romans 15:30 – He can love.
Acts 5:3 – He can be lied to.
 - iii) **Will:**
1 Corinthians 12:11 – He gives as He determines.
Acts 16:6 – He forbids.
Acts 13:2 – He commands.

That the Holy Spirit is a person is beyond doubt. He is a mighty unlimited person without a physical body – **but what kind of person is He?**

3. **He is God.**

- a) God is Triune.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14

Right throughout the Bible we have the concept of a triune God. God is one, but consists of three persons; **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** John 14:16.

- b) Other scriptural support for the divinity of the Holy Spirit.
 - i) **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16.**
Here we are called "the temple of God" because God's Spirit dwells in us.
 - ii) **Read Acts 5:3-4.**
The Apostle Peter says, "You have lied to the Holy Spirit" ..."you have not lied to man but to God".
 - iii) **Read Matthew 10:20.**
The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son.
Galatians 4:6.
- c) The Holy Spirit has God's character and nature.
 - i) He is eternal. Hebrews 9:14.
 - ii) He is absolutely holy. Romans 1:4.

- iii) He is present everywhere. Psalm 139:7-12.
- iv) He is all-knowing. 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.
- v) He is all-powerful. Ephesians 1:19.

C. What is the Holy Spirit like?

1. He is the Spirit of grace.

Read Hebrews 10:29

- a) The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals God's wonderful grace to us.
- b) He is the one who will transmit **all** God's gifts and blessings to us. John 16:13-15.

2. He is the Spirit of faith.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13

- a) Wherever the Spirit is in control, there is a strong, living faith.
- b) On the day of Pentecost when the Spirit filled them all, great faith became evident. Acts 2:4, 17, 18, 33, 38, 42.
- c) One of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit is the gift of faith. 1 Corinthians 12:9.

3. He is the Spirit of truth.

Read John 14:17

This wonderful Spirit who dwells in the believer holds and possesses all truth. 1 Corinthians 2:9-12. One of His works in us is to lead us into all truth. John 16:13.

4. He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Read Ephesians 1:17

- a) Jesus promised that the Spirit would take what is His and reveal it to us. John 16:14-15. He even added, "All things that the Father has are mine. Therefore I said that He will take of mine and declare it to you".
- b) The Apostle Paul also declares that the Spirit is the one who will reveal God's wonderful things to us. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.
- c) One of the nine gifts of the Spirit is the gift of wisdom. 1 Corinthians 12:8.

5. He is the Spirit of power and love.

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

- a) "You shall receive power when the Spirit comes upon you". Acts 1:8. That is a power which knows no limits. Ephesians 1:19-21.
- b) At the same time we know that His character is altogether love, so there is nothing to fear. This love is the wonderful divine "agape" love described in 1 Corinthians 13.
- c) The fruit of the Spirit in our lives is love, the "agape" love.

Memory Verse

John 3:8, *"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit".*

Teacher's Notes

What is the Holy Spirit likened to?

The scriptures give several illustrations:

He is like "living water"	John 7:37-38, Ezekiel 47:1-9
He is like "the mighty wind"	Acts 2:2, John 3:8, Ezekiel 37:9-10
He is like "the fire"	Luke 3:16, Acts 2:3
He is like "the oil of God"	Acts 10:38, 1 Samuel 16:13
He is like "a dove"	Matthew 3:16
He is like "a seal"	Ephesians 1:13 (an agreement that cannot be broken)
He is like "a pledge"	Ephesians 1:14 (a guarantee of our inheritance)

Our absolute need for God's Spirit

Lesson 2

A person will spare no effort to get hold of the things which keep him physically alive: air, food, water, etc.

For our spiritual life it is the Holy Spirit who is absolutely essential. Without Him we would be spiritually dead and lost forever.

A. The Spirit is God's life in us

1. A living relationship.

Read Genesis 2:7

- a) What makes man different to the animals is that God blew His Spirit into man "and man became a living being" (God's life in man).
- b) That meant that man walked in the closest, most wonderful fellowship with God before the Fall. Genesis 2:19, 3:8.

God had warned man saying, "The day you sin you will die", Genesis 2:17.

2. The awful fact of death.

Read Genesis 3:17-19

By sinning, man lost his wonderful fellowship with God, verse 24. Death became his lot – "to dust you shall return", verse 19.

Teacher's Notes

If necessary, explain the three stages of death:

1. Man died spiritually; he lost his living fellowship with God. Genesis 3:8-9, Ephesians 2:1.
2. The result of that was physical death. Romans 5:12.
3. The last death (for unbelievers) is eternal death, "the second death", hell, eternal separation from God. Revelation 20:14-15.

3. The only way back to God.

Read Romans 3:23-25

Only the redemptive work of Jesus on Calvary can atone for our sin. The question is, **how is it transmitted to our lives?**

Read John 3:5

It is done by the Word of God ("water" here stands for the Word, Ephesians 5:26 and Titus 3:5) and the Holy Spirit.

When somebody truly seeks God in repentance, the Holy Spirit will make the Word come alive in his heart, and he will be born again by the Word and the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will take residence in his spirit and bring him back into a living relationship with God.

B. The Spirit is God's means of leading us

1. A sign of "son-ship".

Read Romans 8:14-15

God's children are led by God's Spirit. He will lead us closer to the Father-heart of God. "Abba" means "Daddy".

2. He will lead us into God's "Promised Land".

Read John 16:13

- a) "All truth", means everything God has prepared for us.
- b) This Old Testament illustration is a wonderful pattern for us:

Read Exodus 12:21-42

Exodus 12 shows us how the people were slaves in Egypt (the world), but when they cried out to God, He brought them out by the blood of an innocent lamb. ("The lamb of God" is Jesus.) They walked through the water of the Red Sea, which separated them from Egypt (the water of baptism). God was right in the midst of them by His Spirit in the form of a pillar of cloud and fire.

The Spirit (pillar of cloud) did wonderful things for them, as He will do for us:

- i) He guided them from place to place. They were only allowed to move when the Spirit moved. His goal was to lead them to the Promised Land.
- ii) God spoke to them through the cloud (the Spirit).
- iii) He protected them.
- iv) He gave them light.

3. He will lead us in our daily walk and ministry.

Read Acts 16:6-10

- a) The Spirit showed Paul and Silas where to go, just like the pillar of cloud showed the Israelites the way. That is why they could have great confidence and peace even in the midst of trouble.
- b) The Bible speaks about works prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10. The Spirit wants to lead in them.

C. God's Spirit works through us

1. To do the work of the Lord.

Read John 14:12-18

- a) When Jesus was here on earth He did powerful deeds.

When He left He promised us another "helper" (the Holy Spirit) who would be in us and do His powerful deeds through us.

Demonstration: Call a person up, give him the instrument of the worship leader, and ask him to play as the worship leader plays. When he fails, say: "If the spirit of the worship leader could enter this man, he would have been able to play like him, but his spirit cannot enter this man. The Spirit of God can enter any of us, however, and we will be able to do His work".

- b) The Greek word "Parakletos" used in verse 16 for the Holy Spirit can be translated as:
- i) Helper.
 - ii) Advocate.
 - iii) Comforter.
 - iv) Counsellor.
 - v) Intercessor.

2. To be a living, burning witness.

Read Acts 1:8

We are not just to witness, but to *be* witnesses. We are to go to our "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth" – spreading the gospel further and further.

Right throughout the Bible ordinary human beings did mighty exploits for God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

D. God equips us by the Spirit

1. Equipped for life.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit (the character of Jesus) will transform our lives to the glory of God.

2. Equipped for ministry.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

The supernatural gifts of the Spirit are absolutely necessary for the church to fulfil her high calling. With the fruit and gifts of the Spirit, Jesus is revealed in all His fullness.

E. God assures us by the Spirit

1. Assurance of salvation.

Read Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself will witness in our spirits – "I am a child of God!"

2. Assurance of God's covenant.

Read Ephesians 1:13

The Holy Spirit is God's "seal" on our lives. This "seal" is His signature; His guarantee that He will never break His promises. He can be fully trusted.

Illustration: If a written promise is made, signed and sealed by the king, would it not carry great authority and power? Surely you would trust every word.

3. Assurance of our heavenly inheritance.

Read Ephesians 1:14

The Holy Spirit is our "pledge"; our guarantee of our inheritance.

Today we would call it the "title deeds" or a "will" – Something which is firm and secure.

Demonstration: Show the people the "title deed" of your church building. It proves without any doubt that this property is yours.

The Holy Spirit in our lives is a pledge, a guarantee, of the indescribable glory waiting for us.

Without the Holy Spirit there is no salvation, no Christian life, no ministry and no eternal glory for any of us. We really do need Him in all His fullness!

Memory Verse

John 3:5, *"Jesus answered, most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God".*

Full salvation

Lesson 3

A. Not just barely through the gate of salvation

1. The Father's wish for us all – abundant life.

Read Luke 15:18-24

- a) When the prodigal son returned, he only expected to be allowed inside the door and to become a servant. Many of us have the same expectations of God.
- b) However, the father of the prodigal son, in his love and mercy, led his son right into all his fullness of son-ship.

That is God's heart for all of us. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly", John 10:10.

2. The purpose of Jesus coming to earth.

Read John 1:29 and 33

If the question is asked, "Why did Jesus come to earth?" the most common answer would be, "To save us from sin and hell and bring us to heaven" or "To suffer, die and conquer Satan, in order to set us free".

That is absolutely right, but it is only part of His purpose.

The message of the forerunner: the two purposes of the coming of Jesus.

Read Matthew 3:11

God sent a special prophet to prepare the way for Jesus. His name was John the Baptist. God gave him a short, but clear message about Jesus. When he saw Jesus coming towards him at the river Jordan, John pointed to Jesus and said:

- a) "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".
and
- b) "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire".

The Apostle Paul confirms this double purpose.

Read Galatians 3:13-14

- a) Christ died that we might receive Abraham's blessing – righteousness by faith. We can now say, "My sin is forgiven and I am righteous in His sight".
- b) However Paul continues, "and that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith".

B. The cleansing of the "temple"

1. Our body is the sanctuary of God's Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

- a) What a glorious truth; the mighty Spirit of God wants to dwell in us and do His wonderful work through us!
- b) The Holy Spirit is absolutely holy and cannot operate in a filthy place.

Also read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Every time the Word mentions the human body as a "temple" of the Holy Spirit, it is always in connection with holiness and separation from sin and the world.

2. The blood of Jesus makes the "temple" fit for the Spirit.

Read 1 John 1:7

The blood of Jesus **takes away** our sin. It cleanses us from **all sin**. John 1:29.

Is it not wonderful that the word says **all sin**?

All that is required from our side is repentance and confession of our sin and Christ will forgive us and cleanse us.

The "temple" will be perfectly clean, and fit for the fullness of the Spirit of God.

Demonstration:

1. Take a very dirty glass and put all kinds of rubbish in it. Let this symbolize an unclean life. Surely no pure water can be poured into that glass.
2. Then empty it and wipe it clean. Now explain that if it is left standing like that, dust and dirt will soon fall into it again. This symbolizes a life that is saved, but not Spirit-filled.
3. Now fill it with clean water, and keep on pouring. Let the water run over and bless the surroundings. This symbolizes the Spirit-filled overflowing Christian life.

This is what Christ has planned for every believer!

3. Jesus cleanses the temple in Jerusalem.

Read Matthew 21:12-14

- a) This incident surely also had a much deeper meaning – referring to the "temple" of the body which must be clean for the Holy Spirit.
- b) When the temple was cleansed in Jerusalem, the glory of God came down and remarkable things happened; the blind and the lame were healed, verse 14.

There is no limit to what God can do in and through us when we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit and fully dedicated to Him. John 14:12-18.

C. Lead people through to full salvation

1. The Apostle Peter.

Read Acts 2:37-38

The 3000 people asked a very clear question, "What must we do to be saved"?

The Apostle Peter gives an equally clear answer:

- i) Repent.
- ii) Be baptized.
- iii) Receive the Holy Spirit.

When they followed these three steps, they had a glorious start in the kingdom of God.

2. Let us do the same today.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Our commission is to not withhold any part of the good news. "Teach them to obey *everything* I have commanded".

If people are led to repentance and perhaps baptism and no further, we are withholding the third and very important step in the beginning of their Christian life. Without the baptism in the Holy Spirit they are left to fight a very uneven battle with sin, self and Satan.

They need to be cleansed and released by the blood of Jesus, bury the old sinful life in the waters of baptism, but then they need to be baptized in the mighty Spirit of God.

Only then can they go on to an exciting victorious walk with God.

Memory Verse

John 10:10, "*I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly*".

The greatest example and encouragement

Lesson 4

A. The glorious miracle – God became man!

1. Jesus equal to the Father.

Read Hebrews 1:3

The expressions used here are, "equal with the Father", "He is the **exact image** of God's person".

John 1:1, "The Word (Jesus) was with God and **the Word was God**".

2. Jesus put this equality aside for a short time.

Read Philippians 2:6-7

- a) He put aside His royal deity.
- b) He made Himself of no reputation.
- c) He made Himself nothing.

3. Jesus became fully man.

Read Hebrews 2:17

- a) The Bible clearly says that He was made like us **in every way**. Yet Jesus was able to be completely without sin.
- b) Jesus became fully man in every way. As such He became our example. We should follow in His footsteps.

B. The perfect example

1. Jesus our example.

Read 1 Peter 2:21

What a wonderful call to all Christians, "To walk in the footsteps of Jesus". Again and again Jesus meets people with this challenge, "Follow Me", John 1:43.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to do exactly that.

2. Jesus went through water baptism as an example for us.

Read Matthew 3:13-17

John tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized, because it was actually not necessary for Jesus to be baptized, but Jesus did it to give us a clear example to follow.

3. **Jesus was filled with and anointed by the Spirit.**

Read Luke 3:22 and 4:18

- a) Notice that God's Spirit fell upon Jesus immediately after He was baptized. He was anointed by the Spirit for the wonderful ministry which lay ahead of Him.
- b) This is the clear pattern for every Christian: "Repent, be baptized and you shall receive the gift of the Spirit", Acts 2:38.

Like Jesus, our example, we also need the Holy Spirit's power for ministry. Acts 1:8.

4. **Jesus lived and ministered by the Holy Spirit.**

- a) **He was led by the Spirit in His daily walk.**

Read Luke 4:1

The gospels clearly portray how Jesus took care to walk under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He did not go anywhere, unless the Spirit prompted Him. John 7:6.

- b) **He was led by the Spirit in His talk.**

Read John 8:26

He had His ear tuned to hear what God wanted Him to speak. John 17:8. Never did an idle, empty word cross His lips.

We are called and empowered by the Spirit to use our tongue in exactly the same way. Ephesians 5:4, 18-19.

- c) **He was led by the Spirit in all His actions.**

Read John 5:19

Sometimes He only healed one person out of a big crowd of sick people; at other times He healed them all. Sometimes He deliberately allowed a person to die, before taking action. He was totally led by the Spirit.

- d) **Under the constant anointing of the Spirit.**

Read Acts 10:38

Jesus lived, worked and ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, exactly as He expects us to do. He did not use any power which is not available to us.

He lived as our example so that we should follow in His footsteps. 1 Peter 2:21. That is why He could say, "You shall do the works I do, yes, even greater works,

because I go to the Father ... and I will send you another helper ... even the Spirit of truth", John 14:12, 16.

C. Jesus commanded us to receive the Spirit

1. See where Jesus put the emphasis.

- a) Towards the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus, He clearly emphasized three important duties for His followers:
 - i) Love: John 13:34-35.
 - ii) Unity: John 17:20-23.
 - iii) Mission: Matthew 28:18-20.
- b) Woven in among these three commissions, we find that Jesus stresses the importance of the fullness of the Spirit in the life of every believer.

In fact, none of these important duties can be accomplished without the fullness of the Spirit.

Illustration: It would be like trying to run a motorcar without fuel.

2. Jesus gave the most wonderful promises concerning the Spirit.

- a) **Read John 14:16-18, 26.**
 - i) The Holy Spirit will dwell in us.
 - ii) He will comfort us.
 - iii) He will teach us **all things** – remember the Spirit is all-knowing.
 - iv) He will remind us of all that Jesus said.
 - v) He will be with us forever.
- b) **Read John 16:7-15.**
 - i) The Holy Spirit will convict the world in and through us, when we are filled with Him.

Illustration: A missionary worked in a foreign country for many years with absolutely no results. Then the Holy Spirit bestowed on him the gift of healing and wonderful healings took place that convicted the people and a revival broke out.

- ii) Jesus promised, "He shall take what is mine and give it to you".
 - iii) He will glorify Jesus in us and through us.
 - iv) He will tell us of the things to come.
- c) **Read Acts 1:4-8.**
 - i) They had received the great commission to go to the ends of the earth with the wonderful gospel.
 - ii) However Jesus commands them, "Don't leave Jerusalem before you have received the Spirit".
 - iii) "You will receive power to witness and to be witnesses. It will shine out of you when the Spirit comes upon you". These were the very last words

of Jesus before He left the earth.

Illustration: If a father calls his family together just before he is about to leave this world, the very last words he speaks will be of utmost importance and his family will go to great lengths to fulfil his last wish. The last words of Jesus were a clear command, "**Don't leave Jerusalem before**"

The last discussion Jesus had with His followers before He left for heaven was a strong encouragement not to do anything before they had been anointed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. He actually put it so strongly that he **commanded** them not to leave Jerusalem before they had received the Spirit, Acts 1:4.

The same encouragement – yes, even command – reaches us today from our beloved Saviour: Do not start your ministry before you have been anointed by the Holy Spirit.

D. Further encouragement, through the Apostles, concerning the Spirit

1. Our great Intercessor.

Read Romans 8:26-27

The One who knows the deepest parts of our being earnestly prays for us. His prayer is that God's will may be accomplished in our lives.

2. He is the Spirit of love.

Read Romans 5:5

He will pour God's love into our hearts. The dictionary tells us that "pour" means to flow in a stream or shower, to send out in large amounts.

3. He is the life-changing power.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

He will change us into the likeness of Jesus. The more the Spirit is given control in our lives, the more His lovely fruit will appear. Galatians 5:22-23.

4. He will equip us.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

These nine gifts are all supernatural and can only be worked in and through us by the Spirit. He distributes them to each one as He wills.

5. **He will reveal God's glory to us.**

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

This is greater than we could ever imagine. The Spirit wants to reveal more and more to us.

Do we need any more encouragement to step into a life under the anointing and in the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Memory Verse

Acts 1:4, "...He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father...."

The early church experience

Lesson 5

God Himself states that by two or three witnesses every word may be established. 2 Corinthians 13:1. So let us look for witnesses in the book of Acts who can testify about the fullness of the Spirit.

A. Powerful witnesses

1. The 120 on the day of Pentecost.

a) Who were they?

Read Acts 1:12-15

- i) A very mixed crowd, discouraged by their own failure and unsure about their future call and commission.
- ii) They were waiting and preparing themselves for the fulfilment of the promises Jesus had given them, "You shall be baptized with the Spirit, not many days from now", Acts 1:5.

b) How did they prepare themselves?

Read Acts 1:4 and 14

- i) **In prayer and supplication** and probably fasting.
- ii) **"In one accord"**. There was great **unity** amongst them. Every discord must have been sorted out during the days while they waited.
- iii) **In full obedience** to His word. He said, "Stay in Jerusalem until..." and they did exactly that, waited until... "God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him", Acts 5:32.

c) The fulfilment of the promise.

Read Acts 2:2-6

A sound of a mighty wind filled the whole house and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

This was not just witnessed by the 120 believers in the upper room, but also by a large crowd of unbelievers, Acts 2:5-6.

2. The thousands of believers in Jerusalem.

Read Acts 4:24, 31

"They were **all** filled with the Spirit". At that time there were at least 15,000 believers in Jerusalem.

3. **The believers in Samaria.**

Read Acts 8:12-19

- a) They were led through all three steps: they repented, were baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- b) There must also have been some powerful, visible evidence, since Simon came with money to try to buy that power.

4. **The believers in Caesarea.**

Read Acts 10:44-47

These were the first gentiles to receive Christ. The Holy Spirit fell on them all. It happened just as on the day of Pentecost. Peter says, "They have received the Holy Spirit, **just as we have**".

B. The fullness of the Holy Spirit

1. **They were all filled – "baptized"**.

Read Acts 1:5 and 2:2-4

- a) Jesus used the expression, "baptized" in the Spirit, which means, to be totally immersed in the Spirit.
- b) The believer gives the Holy Spirit full control so that the Holy Spirit has the free use of the person's hands, feet and mouth, etc., to do His wonderful work.

Illustration: An evil spirit will forcibly use a person's body to do terrible things (e.g. witchdoctors). The Holy Spirit waits for our permission to use us to do wonderful things to the glory of God.

2. **The acts of the Spirit.**

Read the title of the book of Acts.

- a) In many Bible translations this book is called "The Acts of the Apostles". Perhaps it should rather be called, "The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles".
- b) The book of Acts does not close with an "Amen", but the very last verse is an active statement. That is because the Spirit of God wants to continue these wonderful acts through us, Acts 28:31.

C. A wonderful experience after conversion

1. **Conversion is a mighty work of the Spirit.**

Read John 3:5

At conversion we get born-again by the Spirit. We receive the Spirit of God. It is God's Spirit which makes the human spirit come alive. Romans 8:9. So, true conversion takes place by the miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit.

2. There is more than just conversion.

a) Cornelius' household.

Read Acts 10:44-46

In this case we find conversion and baptism in the Spirit happening simultaneously. Other scriptures show that they are two distinct experiences.

b) In Paul's experience.

Read Acts 9:8-9 and 17

After Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus he spent three days fasting and praying. Then Ananias came, laid hands on him and healed his sight, and Paul was filled with the Spirit.

c) In Samaria.

Read Acts 8:5-17

Multitudes in Samaria received Christ and were baptized. Later the Apostles came down from Jerusalem, prayed for them, and they received the baptism of the Spirit.

d) In the church in Ephesus.

Read Acts 19:2-6

The church in Ephesus had already been functioning for a while. Lack of teaching meant that they did not understand this great truth of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Weeks, perhaps months later, Paul came and taught them. He laid hands on them and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and started to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

3. The baptism of the Spirit is for all believers.

Read Acts 2:2-4

It is clear from Scripture that this experience was not just for the day of Pentecost. It is for all believers – then and now.

Without it we cannot adequately do God's work on earth. Jesus needed the Holy Spirit. Peter, James, John and the other apostles needed the Holy Spirit. Paul needed the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit!

Memory Verse

John 7:37-39, "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, 'If anyone thirsts let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'. But this he spoke concerning the Spirit...."

Teacher's Notes

In the Old Testament, we read that the Spirit came "upon" the mighty men of God and gave them supernatural abilities. The Spirit remained over them as long as they fulfilled God's conditions.

The Spirit came:

Upon Moses	Numbers 11:25
Upon Samson	Judges 13:25 and 14:6
Upon Gideon	Judges 6:34
Upon Saul	1 Samuel 10:6
Upon David	1 Samuel 16:13
Upon Elisha	2 Kings 2:15
etc.	

The Spirit left:

Samson	Judges 16:20
Saul	1 Samuel 16:14
etc.	

The reason that the Spirit was only "over" them was that they had an imperfect sacrifice for sin – a lamb. When Jesus came, He was the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29; Hebrews 9:11-12.

Now:

Jesus came to "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire", Luke 3:16.

Jesus said, "He will be **in you**", John 14:17.

Your body is "... the temple of the Holy Spirit", 1 Corinthians 6:19.

How do we receive the fullness of the Spirit?

Lesson 6

Before speaking about "how to receive", let us first establish the beautiful truth that God is much more willing to give than we are to receive.

Illustration: If a father wants to give his son a gift, is it likely that the son will refuse it? Surely not! Unfortunately this often happens to our heavenly Father. His children are reluctant and indifferent towards the wonderful gift of the Spirit.

A. The whole Godhead longs to give us this gift

1. The Father.

Read Luke 11:9-13

We have this fact demonstrated before our eyes all the time – How parents love to give their children food and gifts! Jesus is saying, "How much more will your Father in heaven"

2. The Son.

Read John 16:7

"It is good for you that I go" Jesus said, "I will send the Spirit".

3. The Spirit.

Read James 4:5

The Spirit longs to take control of our lives. He longs with a holy jealousy. He is against all that is not of God and all that hinders His work in us.

The Father, the Son and the Spirit long to see us fully yielded to the Spirit's control.

B. How do we receive?

1. It is a free gift by God's grace.

Read Luke 11:13

Just as children do not earn their food or gifts from their parents, just so the gift of the Holy Spirit cannot be earned, it can only be received.

2. Remember whom you receive: The Holy Spirit.

He is absolutely holy. Do not try to let Him share your heart with any uncleanness or filthiness.

He is the third person in the Godhead.

Read Romans 8:13-14

Be willing to give Him the throne of your life. Let Him be your counsellor, guide and leader in everything.

3. The five steps to receive the Holy Spirit.

Read John 7:37-39

Here Jesus shows us the way to receive the fullness of the Spirit.

Notice that Jesus does not limit this experience to some "super-Christians". He says, "If anyone" It is for anyone who fulfils the conditions. Remember, Jesus shouted this out with a loud voice while standing in a temple area with thousands of religious people around Him.

Step 1 – "If anyone is thirsty".

- a) The one who will receive is the one who has a longing and a thirst for more of God – for the fullness of the Spirit.
- b) Some people have been so thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit that they have drawn aside from everything. They have had this attitude, "Lord, I will stay until ..." and they have returned mightily anointed by God.

Step 2 – "Let him come to me".

- a) Jesus is the baptizer.
- b) **The laying on of hands** by other Spirit-filled people is also a biblical way of receiving this gift. Acts 8:17 and 19:6.

Step 3 – "He who believes".

Read Acts 2:39

Believe that, "the promise is for you". This scripture is meant for you and me. The Apostle Peter said, "The promise is for you and your children ... for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call" – referring to us today who are far off from the day of Pentecost, and who are called by the Lord.

Believe it with your heart!

Step 4 – "Drink".

Read Luke 11:13 and Psalm 81:10

- a) Ask the Father for the Spirit.
- b) To drink is active participation.

The Psalm says, "Open your mouth wide".

- speak out your request by faith.
- praise God for His wonderful gift.
- "drink" in the mighty fullness and inspiration of the Spirit, and move straight into the next step.

Step 5 – "Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water".

Read John 7:38

Let your heart overflow with praise, joy, thankfulness, love and power. A stream of living water, which should never stop, will flow out of you.

This is the abundant life Jesus promised us, which will completely transform our lives.

C. "Don't depart before ..."

1. That was the word of Jesus to His followers.

Read Acts 1:4 and 8

They had received a great call. There was a dying world all around them. The needs were so great. What a ministry there was ahead of them! However, Jesus still commanded them, "Don't depart before" Jesus knew that they needed the Holy Spirit to help them.

2. What about us today?

- a) Have you departed into your ministry before you have received the fullness of the Spirit? If so, please return and receive!
- b) Or have you started the right way in your ministry, but discovered that the river has stopped flowing? If so, return and receive!

The promise is for you!

Memory Verse

Luke 11:13, *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

The evidence of being filled with the Spirit

Lesson 7

A. A wonderful change

1. The signs of being filled with the Spirit.

Read John 7:37-38

- a) Many wonderful things happen in and through the person who gets filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit. There will be a greater measure of boldness, love, joy, peace, etc., in our lives. The Holy Spirit will produce and develop His beautiful fruit in us. Galatians 5:22-23.
- b) The Spirit will also be seen in supernatural expressions, such as:
 - i) Divine power for ministry.
 - ii) The ability to speak in unknown tongues.
 - iii) Prophetic messages. Acts 19:6.

2. The evidence which is often rejected.

The most misunderstood sign of the fullness of the Spirit is speaking in unknown tongues.

The reason could be:

- a) It does not appeal to the carnal-minded Christian.
- b) It can easily be counterfeited.
- c) It has in some cases been used in a disorderly and uncontrolled manner, as was the case in the church of Corinth.

However, the Scriptures emphasise the importance of speaking in tongues.

B. It was a clear sign of the fullness of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost

Read Acts 2:4

1. Notice they **all** spoke in tongues – all those who were filled with the Spirit.
2. They glorified God and spoke about all His wonderful works in many different languages – languages that they had never learned.
3. They spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance.

C. It is seen again and again in the New Testament

1. The evidence in Samaria.

Read Acts 8:17

Here a great multitude of people received Christ and were baptized, verses 6 and 12. The Apostles from Jerusalem laid their hands upon them and they received the Holy Spirit.

We are not told what the outward manifestation was, but it must have been powerful and clear for all to see, because when Simon the sorcerer saw it, he came with money and tried to buy that power.

2. **The evidence in Cornelius' house.**

Read Acts 10:44-47

Again there is a crowd of people: Cornelius' household, relatives and close friends, verse 24. This time they were all Gentiles – other than Peter, there were no Jews present.

They spoke in tongues and magnified God when the Holy Spirit fell upon them. The Apostle Peter said, "They received the Holy Spirit **just as we did**, on the day of Pentecost".

3. **The evidence in Ephesus.**

Read Acts 19:1-6

The church in Ephesus was led to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. After teaching and correction, the Apostle Paul laid his hands upon them and they received the Spirit, **spoke in tongues and prophesied.**

D. Speaking in tongues – a sign of the fullness of the Spirit

1. **What is “speaking in tongues”?**

Read Acts 2:6

It means that a person, inspired by the Holy Spirit, speaks a new language which he has never learned. The person speaking does not understand what he is saying. 1 Corinthians 14:14.

2. **What kind of language?**

Read Acts 2:8-11

- a) It can be any earthly language from anywhere in the world. On the day of Pentecost 16 to 17 different languages were heard.
- b) It can also be a heavenly language, "with the tongues of angels", 1 Corinthians 13:1.

3. **What is the purpose of such a strange activity?**

- a) **For deep communication with God.**

Read 1 Corinthians 14:2 and 14:15

He who speaks in tongues speaks mysteries with God in the spirit. The human spirit, helped by the Holy Spirit, prays and sings to God.

- b) **For spiritual edification.**

Read 1 Corinthians 14:4

The person speaking in tongues builds himself up spiritually.

- c) **The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us.**

Read Romans 8:26-27

He knows the very depths of our being – He searches our heart and motives and makes intercession for us **according to the will of God.**

- d) **It is giving the Spirit control of our faculties.**

Read Romans 12:1-2

i) To give the Spirit control of ones mind and tongue is a major step for a human being. To "babble" like a baby, without understanding anything, is a major blow to our human pride.

ii) It is bringing my body as a living sacrifice to God.

4. **Speaking in tongues is for all believers.**

Read Mark 16:17

- a) Jesus clearly states, "Those who believe ... they will speak in new tongues".
- b) The Apostle Paul's wish is equally clear, "I wish you all spoke in tongues", 1 Corinthians 14:5.
- c) On the day of Pentecost all 120 spoke in new tongues.
- d) Remember the Apostle Peter's words, "This promise is for you and your children, and all those who are far off, as many as the Lord will call". The very same promise is for us!

Teacher's Notes

Is there a contradiction?

In 1 Corinthians 12:30 the Apostle Paul clearly indicates that it is not all believers who have the gift of speaking in tongues.

Explanation:

In this chapter, Paul is dealing with the nine gifts of the Spirit and one of them is the gift of speaking in tongues. This is a gift which enables a person to speak a message **from God to the church**. The message must always be interpreted. If nobody can interpret, the person must not speak. 1 Corinthians 14:27-28. This gift is given to certain believers according to the will of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:11. This seems to be clearly distinguished from the "prayer language" in tongues, which a person speaks **to God** in the spirit. It is not a message **from God to the church**.

The ability to speak **to God** in the spirit is for all Spirit-filled believers.

5. How does speaking in tongues work?

Read Acts 2:4

- a) The Holy Spirit will never take control and force our tongues to make strange sounds. He will only inspire, and then we must step out in faith.

Notice what happened at Pentecost, "They spoke in tongues – as the Spirit gave them utterance".

- b) A person can never learn to speak in tongues by copying another person who is speaking in tongues.

6. Conclusion.

It is a matter of being sensitive to the Spirit, listening to Him, and by faith speaking out the sounds He inspires.

Some people have a very stereotyped sentence which they always repeat over and over again. This is immaturity. (A sentence in any language repeated over and over again sounds stereotyped and strange, e.g. I praise you Lord ... I praise you Lord ... I praise you Lord ... etc.) Such people should be encouraged to go on and develop a natural, flowing language.

Memory Verse

Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance".

The effect/result of the fullness of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 8

Nothing else has a more powerful, life changing impact on a person's life than letting the Holy Spirit have full reign in him. Charles Finney so rightly said that in one week under the full anointing of the Spirit of God, you will accomplish much more for God than in ten years of so called "normal Christian living".

A. A powerful effect

1. Let the evidence grow into a lifestyle.

Read Galatians 5:16 and 22-23

- a) In the previous lesson we heard about the wonderful evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: greater measure of love, joy, peace, boldness, power, new tongues, etc.
- b) After a while, in many people's lives, these wonderful manifestations often slowly disappear, but that was never God's intention. He intends that we allow all these wonderful manifestations to grow into a lifestyle as we walk in the Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit gives power for victorious living.

Read Romans 8:11-14

The same power (spirit) which raised Christ from the dead dwells in us.

That is an amazing power. Remember the devil and his forces used all their power to keep Jesus in the grave but God's power triumphed over all the power of the evil one. It placed Jesus far above all principalities and power, might and dominion, and every name that is named. What a victory! Ephesians 1:19-21.

3. The Holy Spirit gives power for ministry and service.

- a) **To speak and testify.**

Read Acts 4:31-33

- i) In spite of great opposition they spoke with great boldness.
- ii) The Holy Spirit gave great power to their words. As Jesus promised, "He shall convict the world"

- b) **To do powerful acts.**

Read Acts 5:12-16

- i) Jesus promised that we would do the things He did and even greater things. John 14:12-17.
- ii) He also explained how it would happen. He said, "I go to my Father and will ask the Father to give you another helper, even the Spirit of Truth". That was wonderfully fulfilled throughout the book of Acts.
- iii) All who believe are invited to act in His name, under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Mark 16:17.

4. **The Holy Spirit wants to flow like a river, in and through us.**

Read John 7:37-39

- a) This invitation from Jesus holds the most wonderful and powerful possibilities. From your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water; life-giving water. Jesus promised that water to the Samaritan woman at the well. John 4:14. She received it, and allowed the river to flow. The result was a revival in her home town.
- b) **Illustration:** The prophet Ezekiel had a vision of a river flowing from the temple and bringing life wherever it went. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles the Jews would remember this prophetic word in a ceremony. While Ezekiel chapter 47 was being read, the priest would pour water out of a jar that he had brought from the inner temple.

We can imagine Jesus having watched the priest pouring water down the temple steps. In John 7:37-39 we find Jesus saying these words on that last great day of the feast when the ceremony was performed: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water", but this he spoke concerning the Spirit.

- c) 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. A river will also flow from each Spirit-filled believer. It will bring life wherever it goes.

That was exactly what happened in the book of Acts, and every time throughout church history when believers who were filled with the Spirit allowed it to overflow.

B. The work of the Spirit is to prepare the bride for the bridegroom

1. **An Old Testament illustration.**

Read Genesis 24

In that chapter we read how Abraham sent his servant out to find and prepare a bride for his son. See how Eliezer beautifies her with jewellery and gifts and prepares her for the bridegroom. He leads her through the wilderness, he guards and protects her. He eventually unites her with her bridegroom, Isaac.

This is a beautiful illustration of how God the Father sent the Spirit to find and prepare a bride for His Son.

2. **The Holy Spirit is doing the same thing.**

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Ephesians 5:27

- a) He will change us from glory to glory.
- b) He beautifies us with spiritual gifts.
- c) He will lead us in deeds of righteousness.
- d) He will purify us.

3. **See His final result.**

Read Revelation 19:7-8

"A beautiful bride" who has made herself ready by "dressing" herself in the clothes He has provided. Here we find the final result described in picture form. It is so glorious that the Apostle John struggles to find words to describe it. Revelation 21:9-27.

We must understand that the Holy Spirit has a very great purpose and goal for the life of each believer.

C. We need to co-operate with the Holy Spirit

1. **We have an enemy in the "temple".**

Read Galatians 5:17, 24-25

In our body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we find that there is an enemy at work against the work of the Spirit.

This enemy is called "the flesh" or "the carnal nature". We are constantly told to let our will co-operate with the Spirit and to deny and crucify "the flesh".

2. **Do not grieve the Spirit.**

Read Ephesians 4:30

- a) How do we grieve the Spirit? We do so by allowing the carnal nature to reign and not the Spirit, verses 22-32.
- b) It is a clear appeal to our will: "put off" the old nature and "put on" the new.

3. **Be filled with the Spirit.**

Read Ephesians 5:18

- a) The Greek word used in Ephesians 5:18 translated "be filled" means "be being filled", "fill up again", "new supply", "be continuously filled".
- b) "Don't get drunk with wine". There seems to be a comparison between being drunk and being filled with the Spirit. On the day of Pentecost we find the same

comparison, Acts 2:13.

Illustration: See how a drunk person allows alcohol to take control of his words, his actions and his whole personality.

Don't do that! Instead be filled with the Holy Spirit, let Him take control of your words, your actions, your whole personality. That will have a wonderful, powerful effect.

Read Acts 2:1-4

The baptism in the Spirit is a wonderful experience where a person is totally "immersed" in the Holy Spirit. The presence and glory of God surrounds him. The Holy Spirit will well up within him, flow over into his soul and body, and he will feel great joy.

The Holy Spirit will even flow out of the person and show Himself in many wonderful ways. John 7:37-39. This is meant to be a constantly flowing "river". Ephesians 5:18.

Memory Verse

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