

## **WEEK 4: HOW TO DRAW FROM THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Even though I became a Christian at a young age, I did not understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life until I was a junior in college. I had tried for all those years to live the Christian life in my own strength and found it very difficult. What a difference it made in my life once I understood that the "power source" for living the Christian life was not my own strength, but the Holy Spirit living within me.

Are you trying to live the Christian life on your own strength, or are you drawing from the "power source" He has given you? This week our study will focus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. Ask God to teach you from His Word and to reveal to you any areas in which you are not drawing from His power.

**Memory Verse for the Week: Ephesians 5:18** (Write it out below.)

### **DAY 1: WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHY DID HE COME?**

#### **LOOKING UPWARD**

1. What do you know about the Holy Spirit and His role in the life of the believer?

#### **LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD**

2. In John 16:7-14, Jesus gave us insight into who the Holy Spirit is and what His role is. As you look at this passage, answer the following questions concerning the Holy Spirit.

a. What had to happen first before the Holy Spirit could come to us and why?

b. What observations do you make about the Holy Spirit in this passage?

c. "He will not speak on His own initiative" (v. 13). What does that imply?

3. According to the following verses, what else does the Holy Spirit do?

**Luke 12:11-12**

**Acts 1:8**

**Romans 8:26**

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

**1 Corinthians 12:7, 11**

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

**Ephesians 4:30**

4. What does a "seal" imply?

5. What is the purpose of a pledge?

6. What additional observations do you make about the Holy Spirit and His role in the life of a believer from **John 14:16-17, 26**?

a. How long is the Holy Spirit with you?

b. Where is He today?

c. How is He characterized?

### **LOOKING REFLECTIVELY**

- What especially encourages you from today's verses?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit clearly at work in your life? How is He at work today?
- Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for how He is at work in your life.

## **DAY 2: THE COMMAND TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**

### **LOOKING UPWARD**

1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? How would you support that with Scripture?
2. How do you become filled with the Spirit?

### **LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **Ephesians 5:15-21**

3. What are some things we are NOT to do as Christians?
4. What are the positive commands and exhortations Paul gives to the Ephesians in verses 15-18?
5. Why would he contrast being foolish with understanding God's will in verse 17?
6. Why would he contrast being filled with the Spirit with being drunk with wine in verse 18? (What does "dissipation" in the NASB mean?)
7. What are the resulting characteristics of the person who is filled with the Holy Spirit according to verses 19-21?
8. How does John 15:4-5 relate to the Spirit-filled life?
9. What does it mean to abide in Christ? How does one go about abiding in Christ?

**Note:** When we say “filled with the Spirit,” this is not referring to charismatic speaking in tongues. The word “filled” actually means “to be directed and empowered by.” To be filled with the Spirit is the same as “abiding in Christ.” To be filled with the Spirit is to live in conscience dependence upon Him. Jesus Christ does not want you to try to live the Christian life. He wants to live the Christian life **through** you as you abide in Him.

### **LOOKING REFLECTIVELY**

Scripture commands us to “be filled with the Spirit.” It also makes it clear what the Spirit-filled life should look like in a believer.

- Are you edifying other believers with your words and actions or tearing them down?
- Are you making a joyful melody with your heart to the Lord or do you sound like a clanging cymbal?
- Are you always giving thanks for all things or do you tend to be negative?
- Are you willing to submit to one another in the fear of Christ or do you demand your own way? Are you teachable?
- Are you being obedient to God’s Word and living as a Spirit-filled believer? If not, what is hindering you? Write out your thoughts to the Lord. Be honest with Him.

**DAY 3: THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE****LOOKING UPWARD**

1. How do you define a carnal Christian?
2. Does a person become carnal every time he sins? Explain your answer.

**LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD****1 Corinthians 2:1-13**

3. What impact did the Holy Spirit have on Paul's life (verses 1-5)?
4. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from verses 10-13?

**1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3**

5. How does Paul characterize the natural man in verse 14?
6. Is the "natural man" a believer? Explain your answer.
7. How does Paul characterize the spiritual man in verses 15-16?
8. What does Paul mean in verse 15 when he says, "But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man"?

9. How does Paul describe the "men of flesh" in 3:1-3? (The men of flesh are often referred to as "carnal.")

10. Are the "men of flesh" Christians? Explain your answer.

11. How do these three "men" (the natural man, the spiritual man, men of flesh) differ?

12. How does someone become carnal or fleshly?

13. How do you become the "spiritual man"?

### **LOOKING REFLECTIVELY**

- As you look at these three types of people, which one best characterizes your life and why?
- Do you need to make any changes in your life in order to become the spiritual "man"? If so, what needs to change?

## DAY 4: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

### LOOKING UPWARD

1. Is being spirit-filled a one-time decision like salvation? Explain your answer.

### LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

2. The content of Colossians 3:12-17 is very similar to what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:18-21. What similarities do you see in the two passages concerning the Spirit-filled life? Mark any words that stand out or are repeated. Ask yourself, why does Paul emphasize these words?

#### **Colossians 3:12-17** (NASB 95)

"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

#### **Ephesians 5:18-21** (NASB 95)

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."





## **DAY 5: HOW TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT**

### **LOOKING UPWARD**

1. When you sin, how can you return to walking in the Spirit?
2. What is the difference between grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19)?

### **LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD**

3. Although there is not a step-by step formula in the Bible of how to walk in the Spirit, God gives us clear guidelines in His Word. What do these verses instruct us to do and **why** would they be necessary steps to walking in the Spirit?

**1 John 1:9**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**1 John 5:14-15**

4. According to Ephesians 5:18, why is it not optional for a Christian to be filled with the Spirit?
5. What does Galatians 2:20 have to do with walking in the Spirit and the Spirit-filled life?

**LOOKING REFLECTIVELY**

I caution you to not look for feelings or emotions to assure you that you are filled (controlled and empowered) with the Holy Spirit. It is by faith alone. He wants this for us, we ask it of Him, and we know, by faith, that He will accomplish His will.

- Are you completely surrendered to God? If not, what is hindering you from surrendering?
- Are you grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit? If so, confess it and yield to His control and draw from His power to live the Christian life.
- Write out Colossians 2:6 in your own words.

Once I understood the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life and how to walk in the Spirit, my life was transformed. I pray that yours will be too! Draw from His power, not your own.