

SeekingHim

Experiencing the Joy
of Personal Revival

A 12-Week Study for Individual and Group Use

"You who seek God, let your hearts revive."

PSALM 69:32b

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Lesson

The Spirit-Filled Life:

God's Power in You

Whether you realize it or not, the Holy Spirit is actively involved in every dimension of your Christian life, from before the point of your conversion until you get to heaven. We were never intended to live our lives apart from Him. In fact we *cannot* live the Christian life apart from Him!

Christian maturity cannot be attained by trying harder or doing more. God has not dangled the prospect of an abundant life before us then set us loose in a maze to try to find our way through. The Holy Spirit acts as our guide and our companion—the One sent from heaven to lead us home. He enables us to obey God, empowers us to become like Jesus, and fills us with supernatural power for work and for witness. We should, therefore, learn how to listen to Him, how to follow Him, how to rely on His power, and how to walk in His fullness.

MEMORY VERSE

“Walk in the Spirit,
and you shall not fulfill
the lust of the flesh.”
(Galatians 5:16 NKJV)

Going Deeper in the Word

Psalm 139:7–12
John 14:15–17
1 Corinthians 2:10–13
2 Corinthians 5:1–5



Day 5: Making It Personal

When we are filled with the Spirit and living under His control, He will produce in us what the Scripture calls “the fruit of the Spirit”:

²² The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22–23)

This fruit is really a description of the Lord Jesus Himself—the One the Spirit came to glorify! These graces or qualities will be evident in the life of a person who is living under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Take time to read and meditate on one or more of the Scriptures next to each quality below. Then prayerfully consider the questions that follow. As you do, ask the Spirit to reveal the true inclination of your heart; ask Him to produce His fruit in and through your life.

Love (1 Corinthians 13:4–8a; 1 John 4:7–12)

- Do people feel they have to gain my approval, or do they generally know that I love them and that I will help them in any way I can?
- Am I more driven to give love or to receive it?
- Do I genuinely love those people in my life who are unlovable or who do not love me in return?

Joy (Psalm 4:7; 16:11; 32:11; John 15:11; Philippians 4:4)

- Is my level of joy and happiness usually consistent, regardless of external circumstances or how others treat me?
- Do people see the joy of the Lord displayed in my life?
- Do I “serve the Lord with gladness”?

Peace (John 14:27; 16:33; Philippians 4:6–7; Colossians 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

- When I am under pressure, is my spirit generally calm, rather than frantic or turbulent?
- Do I exhibit an inner tranquility of mind and a quiet confidence that God is in control, regardless of what is going on around me?

Insight

Got joy? Five times in the New Testament—Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17; 15:13; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:6—joy is attributed to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Patience (Colossians 1:11–12; James 1:2–4; 5:8)

- Am I long-suffering when I am mistreated by others?
- Am I willing to accept and endure irritating and adverse circumstances?
- Am I willing to wait for God to vindicate me or to reward my labors?

Kindness (Ephesians 4:32; 2 Timothy 2:24)

- Do I treat others as I wish to be treated by them and as God has treated me?
- Do I demonstrate genuine concern for others?
- Am I thoughtful, considerate, and alert to the needs of others?

Goodness (Luke 6:27b; Romans 12:21; Galatians 6:10)

- Do I manifest kindness by doing good works for fellow believers?
- Do I seek to overcome evil by actively doing good to those who wrong or hate me?

Faithfulness (Matthew 24:45–46; Luke 16:10–13; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 15:58)

- Am I committed to making choices that please God, even when I know others aren't watching me?
- Do I stick with a job or task until it is completed in the manner it should be?
- Am I dependable? Trustworthy? Loyal?

Gentleness (Meekness) (Matthew 5:5; 11:29; Ephesians 4:1–2; Titus 3:2; James 3:17; 1 Peter 3:4)

- Am I easy to approach, even about difficult matters, or do others have legitimate reason to dread conversations with me?
- Do I endure misunderstanding and injustice without retaliating or being defensive?
- Do I have a yielded, teachable spirit?

Self-control (1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Titus 2:1–10)

- Am I temperate and disciplined in matters of food and drink? In the use of my tongue? In my use of time? In my reactions and responses to people and circumstances?
- Are my natural passions and appetites under the control of the Holy Spirit?

After working through an exercise like this one (or others in this study), you may feel concerned, even overwhelmed, by the spiritual progress you need to make. Remember that these are not *natural* qualities we can manufacture...they are the *supernatural* "fruit" that will be produced in our lives as we are filled with the Spirit of Christ. These are the qualities of His life flowing through us as we abide in Him and surrender to His control. God has not left you to do this on your own. By the Spirit He has taken up residence in you and is constantly at work sanctifying you.

¹ The Faith-Builder story in Lesson 11 is adapted from "Free Through Christ," *Spirit of Revival*, vol. 22, no. 1, March 1992, pp. 7–10, published by Life Action Ministries.