

---

## The Beginning of The Church & The Holy Spirit

### How it all began:

- What happened was the **CHURCH**.
- How it happened was the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- Why it happened was for **US**.

### What's the deal with the Holy Spirit?

Romans 5:6-10, Romans 7, 8 & 12, John 14-17, Galatians 2:20, 2 Timothy 1:7, John 10:10

- The Holy Spirit is a **WHO**, not a **WHAT**.
- The Holy Spirit's role is to make us **SPIRITUALLY MATURE**.
- The Holy Spirit's role is to **GLORIFY GOD** through us.
- Our choice is to either **WALK IN** the Spirit, or **SILENCE** the Spirit in our lives.
- The Holy Spirit is not an **EXPERIENCE**, He is a **NEW LIFE**.

### Something to remember:

- The Spirit is **LIVING**, the church is **MOVING**, and we are invited to **PLAY OUR PART** in it.

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of February 2, 2020

(NIV – New International Version)

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. We have all had different experiences and influences that affect our view of how God's Spirit works. As you look back in years past, how would you describe your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Has it changed over time? If so, explain.

2. Can you think of a place or situation where you typically seem most tuned-in to God's Spirit guiding, speaking or encouraging you? (Examples: time alone, listening to a sermon, personal study, talking or processing with others, etc.)

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard how the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives to mature and grow us. Galatians 5:13-26 adds to this picture of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of Galatia and in our lives. **As you read the passage in regard to the Holy Spirit at work ...**

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

*13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

Looking back at the fruit of the Spirit, which one is most challenging for you to put into action? Is there a specific environment or relationship that makes it more challenging?

Is there one area you have grown in more than the others?

Is there one area that comes more easily than the others?

What's your response to this quote?

"I believe there is a reason Paul listed these virtues and moved on. They aren't given to us as goals to pursue. Why? Because you and I cannot produce fruit...That's not our responsibility. The Holy Spirit is the producer. We are merely the bearers. The fruit of the Spirit was never intended to be a demonstration of our dedication and resolve. It is the evidence of our dependency on and sensitivity to the promptings of the Spirit."  
*Charles Stanley in The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*

2. Since God's Spirit is at work in our lives, we want to make sure we are staying in tune with how He wants to work. As you read the passages below, how do they help you understand and remind you of how the Holy Spirit works in your life?

**John 16:12-15** - "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13** - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. -- <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. <sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by <sup>[a]</sup> one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18** - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**Acts 9:31** - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

**Romans 8:26-27** - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Is there one of these verses you need to be more aware of than others when it comes to understanding the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life?

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Sin or lack of paying attention to how the Spirit is leading can cause us to misread, not be aware of, or even blatantly reject the Spirit's guidance. Is there anything in the following verses you want to put extra focus on in order to ensure you're following the Spirit as He leads?

**Acts 17:11** – Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** – Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

**Psalms 139:23-24** – Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

2. Is there anything specific you sense the Holy Spirit wanting you to grow in, guide you toward or people you hope to reach? If so, explain.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

→

→

→

→

→

→

→

**THE ACTS CHALLENGE:** Do you want to get more out of Acts than just hearing it during the weekend services? There are 28 chapters in Acts. Try reading or listening to a chapter a day for 28 days and see how it will grow your understanding in our Acts series.

