

Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 13 The Holy Spirit

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day One) *Fear, Sin and God's Glory*

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord helped us to place God in a high position of respect, reverence and wonder. We learned from the Old Testament that fearing the Lord required men, women and children to walk in all His ways, love Him, serve Him with all their hearts, and to obey all His commands and decrees. Fearing God was for the Israelites' own good (Deuteronomy 10:12-13). In our day and age, fearing God is tantamount (equal) to following God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus leads us to God, makes us righteous and gives us His Spirit to help us fear God properly. Fearing God is a universal and timeless principle. It will always be the law of heaven, earth and the new heaven and earth. The last book of the Bible, Revelation, makes this truth clear.

Read Revelation 15:4 and answer questions 1-3:

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:4

1. Fill in the blank. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring _____ to your name?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

2. Who will come and worship before the triune God?

3. In the end times, what will God reveal?

Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" Revelation 19:5

4. Read Revelation 19:5. This verse describes saints who will be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. How are these servants of God described?

How well we fear the LORD and serve Him is not measured by worldly standards. Jesus, nailed to a cross, would seem a failure, and in fact, the crowds at His execution thought so. However, Jesus was living according to His Father's standards.

The book of Malachi reminds us that God is watching and listening to His people to see what kind of standards they are living by. He sees and hears when He is dishonored and disrespected. He knows when He receives the leftovers in time, money and affection. He is aware of sin and faithlessness. God is wearied or worn out from complaints against His goodness and character.

Read Malachi 3:16-17a and answer questions 5-6:

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. Malachi 3:16-17a

5. When you speak to others in a way that honors God and shows that you fear Him, where will your name be written (v. 16)?

6. Who will you belong to in the day that the LORD Almighty makes up His treasured possession (17a)?

7. Time for another status report of those you are teaching and discipling:

(1. How is their relationship with God growing in the *fear of the Lord*? (List each person's name separately with a short explanation; use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

(2. What lesson number are they working on in the CLI Leadership Study?

(3. When your learner finishes the CLI Leadership Study, would you be interested in leading him or her through the CLI Disciple of Christ Study? Yes No (Circle One)

(4. What have you learned recently in teaching, discipling and leading others?

8. If you no longer have anyone that you are teaching or discipling, please list each person's name and a short explanation as to why not:

(1. What will you do to engage or recruit others who you can teach and disciple?

Do not be discouraged if you are continually finding yourself *without* "learners." Continue to pray for God to bring you those who need your help. However, it is wise to ask God to show you anything you may be doing wrong. We are studying about the Holy Spirit in this lesson and remember, He is your counselor. Ask Him to help you in relating to and teaching others. Be open to any area in your life that Christ's Spirit may convict (convince of error or sin) you.

It is honoring to Jesus when we are determined and committed to change error or sin in our life. We may call it an addiction, bad habit, or some kind of defect in our character but no matter the issue, it boils down to missing the target that God requires of us. God wants us to make moral choices that reflect Christ's character. He desires us to trust Him and His power to help make the right choices and glorify His name. He is committed to our best interests, are we?

You might be thinking: “I have tried to break this sin cycle, but I just can’t. You don’t know what I am dealing with. I was so badly abused and rejected that I feel worthless. I’ve been abandoned by everyone, and absolutely no one loves me or cares for me. I don’t even like myself. In fact, I don’t know what is wrong with me. Why can’t I stop thinking of the past?”

Besides the mental anguish (suffering, torment), you might have real physical handicaps. You might be paralyzed, or missing limbs. You might feel ugly or have facial or body deformities. Perhaps you have learning disabilities or are mentally disadvantaged in some way. You might feel justified in your “little” sin because you think you deserve some pleasure in life.

Lasting and ultimate joy and pleasure only come from God. The seeming satisfaction that comes from our sin is short-lived. Plus, we will be accountable to Jesus when we appear before His judgment seat for what we have done while in the body (2 Corinthians 5:10).

God has allowed the defect or abandonment in your life, but He did not cause it. You must realize that you were never abandoned by your heavenly Father. You are in Christ and God is your real and loving Parent. He looks on your spirit and your body and finds you exquisite. He delights in you! He desires that you rise above your circumstances and glorify His name.

David Ring rose above his circumstances and God has used him in mighty ways. He was born in 1953 with complications that kept his brain from receiving oxygen for eighteen minutes. This lack of oxygen was responsible for damaging his brain permanently by cerebral palsy. This condition is marked by lack of muscle control including speech impediment (impairment). In David’s case, his motor disorder includes stiffness of arms and legs with difficult movements due to tightness of muscle groups. He is plagued with pain due to arthritis and other joint problems.

David was 11 when his father died of cancer. When David was 14, his mother became ill. He prayed, "God, please don’t take my momma. God, please don’t take my momma. God, my momma is the only thing I have. God, don’t take my momma, please."

He was placed in a large school where everywhere he went somebody would point a finger and say, “Look, that boy walks funny,” or, "Look, that boy can’t do anything right." I hated people, because I was really hurt," David said.

When David’s mother died within months, he was devastated. He was hurt and then angry. He just wanted life to stop. He did not have Jesus in his life and lost all hope. After a year or so of self pity and misery, he attended a church service where he asked Jesus to come into his life. He was fifteen.

He still had many questions centered around God’s love for him. Among them was, *if God loves me, why did he take away my parents and give me a crippled body?* But he decided to put those questions aside about God’s motives and accept God’s offer of salvation and a new life.

Today when speaking to an audience he says:

"Look at me, people. Look at me! I still walk with a limp. I still talk funny. But, Oh, the joy that floods my soul, because Jesus touched me and made me whole. I'm not the same anymore. I don't want to die anymore. I want to live!

I don't have a daddy.

I don't have a momma.

I don't even have a healthy body.

But let me tell you what I do have. I have the grace of God, and the Bible says that God's grace is sufficient for you and for me."

Yes, God's grace is sufficient. In July 1971, God called David to preach:

"I said, 'Who me? Lord, I can't preach. I talk funny. Lord, people can't understand me. Lord, I have cerebral palsy. Can you imagine me telling God I have C.P.? I have a feeling He looked down and said, 'Really? You have to be kidding! Tell me something I don't know! David, I want you to preach.'"

But it was not an easy road. He was told many times by others that he could not be an evangelist because of his condition. Sometimes he would get discouraged but he kept working hard at his calling and going through the doors that the Lord opened for him. Today, David travels weekly to speak in churches of all sizes and denominations as well as schools, companies, and civic organizations. Thousands upon thousands have been blessed and affected by David's ministry with salvation, encouragement or both.

In one of his message, he tells the audience:

"I'm amazed today, everywhere I go, every time I get up to speak. I'm amazed by how many hurting people I speak to. I'm not talking about the worldly bunch. I'm talking about the family of God. I'm talking about the children of the family of God. I'm talking about the saints of God. I'm talking about the people whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. I'm talking about the people whose sin has been washed away by the blood of the Lamb. Everywhere I go, people come up to me and say, 'I'm hurting, I'm hurting!'"

"If I could open up your life, I would find some dark corner that nobody knows about. They don't know about the pain you're going through. I'm not talking about the body's pain. I'm talking about the pain that goes deeper than the body. I'm talking about the pain that nobody knows about but you and God."

"You might walk OK. You might talk OK. But down deep in your heart, you're saying, 'I'm in pain.' We all hurt today folks, but we are asking the wrong questions. We are asking, 'Why, why, why?' Don't ask why, ask what! 'What can I become because of the situation? How can I glorify God?'"¹

9. Like David Ring, what will you become because of your painful situation? How can you glorify God?

¹ Ring, David and Gilbert, Lela, "Just As I Am," Moody Press, Chicago, 1996.

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." John 9:3

10. Read John 9:3. Jesus healed this man of his blindness, but chose not to heal David Ring of his cerebral palsy. What lesson do you learn from this?

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Two) *Dry Bones Revived*

Read Jeremiah 32:39-40 and answer questions 11-12:

I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them.⁴⁰ I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. Jeremiah 32:39-40

11. God gives us a singleness of heart and action, so that we will always _____ Him (v. 39).

12. What is the everlasting covenant that God is referring to (v. 40a)?

13. Through the New Covenant in Christ, God inspires believers to _____ Him. (v. 40.b).

Our God is amazing! He calls us to fear Him and then inspires us to do so. In Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, who not only urges us to fear God but gives us the ability to do so. We keep referring you back to *Lesson 6, The New Covenant* (especially pages 15-16), because it is important to understand and claim the benefits and promises we have in Christ Jesus.

We are going to look at Ezekiel 37:1-14 in light of Jesus and the New Covenant. God speaks to us, Jesus enables us to hear, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to obey. The Holy Spirit does not live within us to do our bidding (commands), but God's. We must remain faithful in order for the Spirit to carry us beyond our natural self to become the instrument and power of God.

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:6

14. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. The letter refers to the law as an external standard of judgment. Who gives life and makes it possible for believers to obey God?

This Ezekiel passage is "visionary-prophetic literature, consisting of visions whose events are recorded exactly as they were seen by the author and are explained through a divine interpreter. The theological content is primarily eschatological.² It is equally interesting that this type of biblical literature was normally composed during the time when its recipients experienced oppressive conditions."³

² (1. The branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind. (2. A belief or a doctrine concerning the ultimate or final things, such as death, the destiny of humanity, the Second Coming, or the Last Judgment. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/eschatological>

You may be living in circumstances whereby you are dominated by a harsh and cruel regime. It could be an organization, a government, a system of management or even one person. Even highly stressful situations can be oppressive such as family quarrels or an insensitive working environment.

Your oppression also comes from within. You may be stifling yourself with your addictions or sinful behavior. No matter whether you are dominated from within or from without, your oppression has only one source: Satan.

The devil is in charge of the fallen angels or spirits who do his bidding. They seek to steal the word of life and control others. Know the real enemy and do not be captured by his tricks and deceptions. (*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* 1 John 4:4)

Ezekiel, born of a priestly family, lived and prophesied (593- 571 B.C.) during the Babylonian exile. God had warned Israel that her disobedience and especially her idolatry would bring covenant curses.⁴ God is righteous and upholds His word. Therefore, He disciplined the Israelites through dispersion (act of moving to other lands).

In Babylon (near today's Baghdad, Iraq), they were separated from the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. The temple, with its sacrifices, offerings and celebrations, was the center of their relationship with God. God wanted His people back in holy relationship and called Ezekiel to remind the people of His faithfulness and sovereignty as well as their responsibility to the covenant.

The covenant between God and man was based on human treaties that were common in the Ancient Near East at that time. In this way the people could understand their relationship with God and what was required of them. Recall, a covenant is a "pact, treaty, alliance, or agreement between two parties of equal or of unequal authority."⁵ God, unequaled in any respect including authority, initiated all covenants with mankind.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 from your Bible and answer questions 15-23. The following is the last verse from this passage:

I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD. Ezekiel 37:14

15. Who set Ezekiel in the middle of a valley filled with dry, dead bones (vs. 1-2)?

16. What did God tell Ezekiel to do (v. 4)?

17. What happened as a result of God's command and Ezekiel's' obedience (v. 10)?

³ Gaebelien, Frank E., "The Expositor's Bible Commentary," Volume 6 (Isaiah-Ezekiel), Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1986. P 924.

⁴ For covenant curses see Leviticus 26:1-46; for dispersion see verses 33-36.

⁵ Holman Bible Dictionary, p. 308.

18. Who did the dry bones represent in Ezekiel's vision (v. 11a)?
19. What does the house of Israel (the dry bones) (v. 11b) say?
20. What does the LORD tell Ezekiel to prophesy in response to the people (vs. 12-14)?
21. What will be the result of the LORD putting His Spirit in the dead bones (v. 14)?
22. Do you ever have times when you feel like dry bones scattered on the battlefield of life?
Yes No (Circle One) If so, how do you overcome these feelings?
23. Have you ever met someone who seemed like dry bones scattered on the battlefield of life?
Yes No (Circle One) If so, how did you help him or her overcome these feelings?

The Spirit brings life and hope from the grave. The LORD does the impossible and transforms the dead into the living. Israel was spiritually dead in their exile. They had sinned greatly against the LORD and were suffering the consequences. Nevertheless, Yahweh is a God of grace. His Spirit brings endless hope, boundless energy and invincible power. The Holy Spirit will bring the same to you.

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Once again I will yield to the plea of the house of Israel and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep. Ezekiel 36:37

24. Read Ezekiel 36:37. Right before the Spirit set Ezekiel in the valley of the bones, the LORD says that He will yield to the plea of the house of Israel. What does this mean?

When I think of yield, I think of the triangular traffic sign that means I must give way to the other driver. I can even envision the word "YIELD" written on the sign. Perhaps you can too. Yield also means to give way to arguments or demands. In Ezekiel 36:37, it means that God will listen or give way to Israel's prayer.

God wants to hear our prayers (plea, petition) and answer them. Talk to God about your condition. Ask Him for healing as needed. Plead your case and petition Him to revive any dead bones or any ineffective limbs you may be dragging around. He will make you an effective warrior in His Kingdom so that Satan is vanquished (beaten, bested) in the name of Christ.

25. Pray for God to use you in making disciples of Christ. Pray that disciples of Christ become as numerous as sheep. I have prayed: Yes No (Circle One)
26. Do you ever despair or lose hope of things changing for the better? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain:

Preach the following message to yourself: "The Spirit brings life and hope from the grave. The LORD does the impossible and transforms the dead into the living. Israel was spiritually dead in their exile. They had sinned greatly against the LORD and were suffering the consequences.

Nevertheless, Yahweh is a God of grace. His Spirit brings invincible hope, boundless energy, and limitless power. The Spirit will bring the same to me.”

27. How did you feel after preaching the above message of hope to yourself?

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Three) *Comfort*

Even Christians go through times of trouble or tribulation when we need to be comforted. Christians can also go through times of imagining things are problems when they are not. Whether real or imagined, it is not wrong to seek comfort. In fact, God has provided a *Comforter* to be with us at all times.

Definition: Comfort is a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint. It is also the easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress. Comfort is helping someone feel less worried, upset, frightened, etc. On the positive side, comfort is giving strength and hope.

Read John 14:16-18 and answer questions 28-30:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18

28. As a believer and follower of Christ, who lives with you and is in you (v. 17)?

29. After Jesus tells His disciples that the Holy Spirit lives in them, what does Jesus say (v. 18)?

30. What do you think Jesus means when He says, *I will not leave you as orphans*?

At the time, "orphan" was used to describe disciples left without their teacher or master. Jesus is saying that they will not be alone and without help. Jesus will be with them through His Spirit.

Jesus is present in the person of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God existing in three persons. They are co-equal partners composed of the same nature and substance. This is the divine mystery of the *Trinity* that is beyond our human comprehension.

Although the word trinity does not appear in the Bible, the truth and structure of God's trinitarian nature appears throughout the New Testament. It also confirms the oneness of the God of Israel while giving further and deeper revelation to those in Christ Jesus. You may recall learning about the *Trinity* in the *CLI Leadership Study, Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out*.

I believe when Jesus says, *I will not leave you as orphans*, He is also using the word in its traditional sense of a child without parents or one deprived of protection or advantage. Earlier, Jesus called His disciples, *my children* (John 13:33). Perhaps you are an orphan and have no earthly relatives. Or maybe you have been abandoned by family and friends. Jesus is giving you, giving us, a real, loving and powerful family: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We are not alone. Our spiritual family protects and provides for us. Like any earthly family, we also have responsibilities, but the Holy Spirit gives us the strength and stamina to carry them out.

When tragedy and heartache strike, the Holy Spirit will soothe and console. Pain is part of living in a fallen world. People, including friends and relatives, disappoint us. We disappoint them. And we disappoint ourselves. Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort and alleviate your pain. Remember Jesus' words and accept comfort. "...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." Matthew 23:37b

Read John 14:26-27 and answer questions 31-34:

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:26-27

31. Who will teach us all things and remind us of Jesus' words (v. 26)?
32. What is our guidebook for learning that contain Jesus' words?
33. What kind of peace does Jesus give believers (v. 27a)?
34. "Do not let your _____ be _____ and do not be _____ (v. 27b).

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand the Bible. Whenever I come across a difficult passage, I ask the Holy Spirit to give me insight. I may not be enlightened at that very moment, but sooner or later, He will give me understanding. The explanation may come through a different passage of Scripture, a book, a person or in some other way.

Jesus gives believers the peace of knowing God and being part of His family. We have the peace of having our sins forgiven and being in relationship with a Holy God. We have the peace of not facing His righteous wrath and we have the hope of eternal life.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 and answer questions 35-37:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

35. How does the apostle Paul begin his writing on comfort and suffering (v. 3)?
36. Who is the Father of compassion?
37. What are we supposed to do with the comfort we receive from God (v. 4)?

38. Ask God to show you someone who needs godly comfort. With the Holy Spirit's help, reach out to that person with the comfort that you have received from God. What happened?

39. As a disciple of Christ, can you expect suffering (v. 5)? Yes No (Circle One)

40. As a disciple of Christ, can you expect comfort in your suffering (v. 5)? Yes No (Circle One)

Led by the Holy Spirit, Paul begins his letter with praise (Philippians 3:3). No matter the situation, whether we are suffering through "fallen world" conditions or for the sake of Christ, our first response is worship. God is in control of all circumstances and we can trust that He will use them for His glory and our eternal good (Romans 8:28-29).

There are examples throughout the Bible of God's people praising Him in dire (grim) situations. Job is the prime example. God allowed Satan to incite enemy raiding parties to kill his servants and livestock and a mighty wind to strike the home killing all his children.

Job's response: *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."*²² *In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.* Job 1:21

41. Pray: Holy Spirit, Please give me a heart of worship and praise in all circumstances. Thank You. Amen. (*I have prayed.* Yes No Circle One)

We need to be open to how the Holy Spirit may lead in our comfort and praise. He may use other people to help us in our time of need. Recall Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas because the name means Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36). The Holy Spirit used Barnabas to comfort many saints during his lifetime, including Paul and Mark. In the same way, we are called to comfort, strengthen and give hope to others.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1

42. Read Psalm 91:1. Who do *you* trust?

Trust and rest in the Lord so that others will see the worthiness and purity of God's character through you. Follow Jesus and depend on the Holy Spirit each day to praise God and be strengthened for the tasks and circumstances of life. *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Four) *Living in the Spirit*

Read Romans 8:5-6 and answer questions 43-44:

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; Romans 8:5-6

43. Do you keep at your tasks or assignments from God even when there is little or no outward sign of success? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

44. How can you discern if God wants you to continue with an assignment or He wants you to move on to another mission?

When we live in accordance with the Holy Spirit, we have our minds set on what the Spirit wants for us *and those around us*. The third Person of the Trinity wants us to fear the LORD (Isaiah 11:2 and Acts 9:31). When we are led by the Spirit and fear the triune God, we (male and female) are His sons, His heirs and coheirs with Christ, our Lord (Romans 8:13-17). Recall from DOC *Lesson 12, Fear the Lord*, fearing God means walking in all His ways, loving Him, serving Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and observing His commands and decrees (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

Read Acts 2:1-4 and answer questions 45-46:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4

Definition: Pentecost was a Jewish festival, also known as the Feast of Weeks, celebrated 50 days after the Feast of Passover. Pentecost was also called the Feast of Harvest or the Day of Firstfruits. After the events recorded in Acts 2:1-4, Christians began to celebrate Pentecost in order to commemorate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

45. Why were the disciples all together (See Acts 1:4-5)?

46. The disciples were all together in one place. What was one thing they were doing (See Acts 1:14)?

47. How many were filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 4a)?

48. What did the Spirit enable the disciples to do (v. 4b)?

49. Why did the Spirit make it possible for the disciples to speak in other languages (See also Acts 2:5-40)?

The disciples gathered together in obedience to Christ's command to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. They joined together constantly in prayer and worship. They were committed followers and ready for whatever assignment God had for them.

The Holy Spirit comforts us in times of pain or trouble, but He also gives us power to overcome sin in our lives so we can serve God fully. We all have stumbling blocks in our lives and are susceptible to the devil's ploys at sometime or another. I know in my own life things may be going along pretty well when something happens and I fall into the sin of self-pity or some other

transgression. Can you relate? Your sins may be different from mine, but our Christian journey is not always smooth sailing.

50. Why do you think the Spirit is interested in your overcoming any addiction or sinful habit?

51. Are you prepared to ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome your addiction or sinful habit?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Why or why not?

When you commit to something you promised, you are dedicated to achieving that particular purpose. You are devoted to keeping your word and make a mental note in your mind. That is, you make up your mind and decide upon a plan action. It is helpful to write down your commitments so that they are always before you and you are regularly reminded of your pledge.

52. What addiction, sinful habit or activity will you commit to stop doing?

Telling another person about your plan to work on your sin (with the Holy Spirit) helps with your accountability. You might already have an accountability partner who keeps you responsible for your actions. When saints pair up for this purpose, it gives incentive for follow through. You are encouraged and motivated to succeed. If you feel led to engage your CLI Disciple or another person of the same gender to hold you accountable, please do. Your Disciple will be praying for you.

Caution: Your enthusiasm to overcome your addiction/habit is not enough. To be successful, you **must** rely on the Holy Spirit. You must do everything that God tells you to do that is in accordance with His Word. You must read the Bible and pray fervently without stopping. Remind God of His New Covenant promises. Ask other godly saints to pray for and with you.

53. What godly saint will you ask to pray for you to overcome this sin?

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. John 15:26 (underlining by author)

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: John 16:7

Read John 15:26 and 16:7 above. In Greek, the name Jesus uses in referring to the Holy Spirit is *parakletos* (παράκλητος), and the NIV translates it Counselor. Other Bible translations use the English word *Helper*, *Comforter* or *Advocate*. I personally like *Helper* because the Holy Spirit assists us in all kinds of ways. He helps us recognize Jesus and follow Him. He helps us recognize our sin and overcome it. He helps with encouragement and lifts our spirits. He comes in power to heal and produce miracles through us for God's glory.

54. How will you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your addiction or sinful habit ? (See John 14:16-17, 14:26-27, 15:26-27 and 16:7-15 to think through your answer.)

The Greek word *parakletos* (παράκλητος) has the general sense of one who appears in another's behalf, a mediator, intercessor and helper.⁶ Christ is called our *parakletos* (παράκλητος) in 1 John 2:1. God the Father is also called our helper in the Old Testament (Exodus 18:4 and Psalm 10:14, 27:9). This is the reality of our merciful triune God working in our lives to embolden us for holy, loving, courageous and victorious service.

Read Acts 7:51 and answer questions 55-58:

You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Acts 7:51 (First Christian martyr, Stephen, is speaking.)

Definition: Stiff-necked is a term used to describe a person or their behavior as haughty, stubborn and unyielding. A haughty person is proud, arrogant and conceited.

Definition: Circumcision is the act of removing the foreskin of the male genital and in ancient Israel was a sign of God's covenant with His people (Genesis 17:11-14). Circumcision is used metaphorically (symbolically) to mean total devotion to God (Deuteronomy 10:16 and Jeremiah 4:4). Uncircumcised is used figuratively to define people closed and resistant to God.

55. Is it possible to fight against (resist, oppose) the Holy Spirit? Yes No (Circle one)

56. How does Stephen describe people who resist the Holy Spirit?

57. What does uncircumcised hearts and ears mean?

58. Are you resisting the Spirit's help in any fashion or form? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

59. If you answered "yes" or "sometimes" above, what will you do to stop resisting the Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God. We do not dictate how He will work in our lives. Yes, most certainly we may ask, but we must yield to His control. The Spirit has the same characteristics as God and is sovereign in our lives. Submitting to the Spirit and doing all that He asks and directs, is the true definition of being filled with the Spirit.

He always directs us for our own good and the good of others. Nevertheless, we have our free will to obey or not to obey. We can yield to His authority or defy it. He will not help us very much if we do not surrender our will to Him. This does not mean that our actions prohibit the Spirit in any way, it just means that the Spirit is not interested in rebellious agents.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Galatians 5:16

60. Read Galatians 5:16. Will you pray and surrender your entire will to the Holy Spirit of God? Yes No (Circle One) If you circled yes, pray and surrender your entire will to the Holy Spirit of God. Write and share your prayer:

⁶ Danker, p. 766.

61. If you circled "no" in question 60, why will you not surrender and live by the Holy Spirit?

Our submission is not just a sometime activity either. We need to rely and defer to the Holy Spirit every minute of the day. Learn to ask Him what He wants you to do this day and this hour and this minute. This is being filled with the Spirit and this is dependence and reliance on God Almighty. This is the way of life that brings fruit and joy (Galatians 5:22-23).

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Five) *Final Spirit Thoughts*

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. Acts 5:32

62. Now it's your turn. Write two questions and answers based on Acts 5:32:

Peter and the other apostles tell us plainly in Acts 5:32 that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. If we desire the Holy Spirit's help to live powerful, productive and God-honoring lives, we must obey God. You and I know when we are giving in to our own wants and wishes. We know when we have our own interests in mind instead of God's. We all need to look long and hard at the decisions we are making and the time we are spending on trivial and unimportant matters. God's Kingdom is at hand, we need to actively engage and connect fully with the good and perfect Spirit.

63. Read Mark 15:1-41. Meditate on what Jesus experienced for you in order that your sins can be forgiven and you can be filled with the Holy Spirit. Share your thoughts:

Read 1 John 4:4, follow instructions and answer questions 64-66:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

64. Who is the one who is in you?

65. Who is the one who is in the world?

66. Memorize 1 John 4:4.

The apostle John was telling the church how to recognize false teachers and prophets. The ones with the spirit of the antichrist do not acknowledge Jesus Christ is from God. Satan is the one who is in the world directing the spirits of the antichrists. However, he has no power to direct believers. We have the greater one, the Holy Spirit of God, instructing and leading us.

There is the inner work of Holy Spirit and then there is the outer work. The inner work has to do with our heart and who we are when no one is watching. It is about being, rather than seeming to be. Think fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26). This inward work of the Spirit is the most important in a disciple's life, but not always recognized as such. We are more anxious to do the outer work that brings accolades (honor, tribute), self-satisfaction or both.

The outer work of the Holy Spirit proceeds from the inner work. For example, God's Spirit may direct us to give to the poor, witness, teach or help a neighbor in some way. He may also work signs, wonders and miracles through us or our ministries.

Disciples are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that He prepared for us in advance (Ephesians 2:10). Works prove our faith in Jesus is real (James 2:26). But again, our hearts and attitudes should be the same as Christ Jesus so that our deeds pour forth praise to God (Philippians 2:3-8). Seek the Spirit and His power to be like Jesus! In fact, when good works come from a circumcised heart and glorify God, all believers have reason to celebrate.

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.
Romans 8:11

---End Lesson 13---

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 13
CLI Disciple of Christ Study: The Holy Spirit

Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review. Include a personal letter with your answers. This study is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Even short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: _____ Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day One) *Fear, Glory and Christ*

1. Fill in the blank. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring _____ to your name?
2. Who will come and worship before the triune God? _____
3. In the end times, what will God reveal? _____
4. Read Revelation 19:5. This verse describes saints who will be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. How are these servants of God described? _____
5. When you speak to others in a way that honors God and shows that you fear Him, where will your name be written (v. 16)? _____

6. Who will you belong to in the day that the LORD Almighty makes up His treasured possession (17a)? _____

7. Time for another status report of those you are teaching and discipling:

(1. How is their relationship with God growing in the *fear of the Lord*? (List each person's name separately with a short explanation; use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

(2. What lesson number are they working on in the CLI Leadership Study? _____

(3. When your learner finishes the CLI Leadership Study, would you be interested in leading him or her through the CLI Disciple of Christ Study? Yes No (Circle One)

(4. What have you learned recently in teaching, discipling and leading others?

8. If you no longer have anyone that you are teaching or discipling, please list each person's name and a short explanation as to why not: _____

(1. What will you do to engage or recruit others who you can teach and disciple?

9. Like David Ring, what will you become because of your painful situation? How can you glorify God?_____

10. Read John 9:3. Jesus healed this man of his blindness, but chose not to heal David Ring of his cerebral palsy. What lesson do you learn from this?_____

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Two) *Dry Bones Revived*

11. God gives us a singleness of heart and action, so that we will always_____ Him (v. 39).

12. What is the everlasting covenant that God is referring to (v. 40a)?_____

13. Through the New Covenant in Christ, God inspires believers to _____ Him. (v. 40.b).

14. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. The letter refers to the law as an external standard of judgment. Who gives life and makes it possible for believers to obey God?_____

15. Who set Ezekiel in the middle of a valley filled with dry, dead bones (vs. 1-2)?_____

16. What did God tell Ezekiel to do (v. 4)?_____

17. What happened as a result of God's command and Ezekiel's' obedience (v. 10)?

18. Who did the dry bones represent in Ezekiel's vision (v. 11a)?_____

19. What does the house of Israel (the dry bones) (v. 11b) say?_____

20. What does the LORD tell Ezekiel to prophesy in response to the people (vs. 12-14)?

21. What will be the result of the LORD putting His Spirit in the dead bones (v. 14)?

22. Do you ever have times when you feel like dry bones scattered on the battlefield of life?
Yes No (Circle One) If so, how do you overcome these feelings?

23. Have you ever met someone who seemed like dry bones scattered on the battlefield of life?
Yes No (Circle One) If so, how did you help him or her overcome these feelings?

24. Read Ezekiel 36:37. Right before the Spirit set Ezekiel in the valley of the bones, the LORD says that He will yield to the plea of the house of Israel. What does this mean?

25. Pray for God to use you in making disciples of Christ. Pray that disciples of Christ become as numerous as sheep. I have prayed: Yes No (Circle One)

26. Do you ever despair or lose hope of things changing for the better? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain:

27. How did you feel after preaching the above message of hope to yourself?

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Three) *Comfort*

28. As a believer and follower of Christ, who lives with you and is in you (v. 17)?_____

29. After Jesus tells His disciples that the Holy Spirit lives in them, what does Jesus say (v. 18)?

30. What do you think Jesus means when He says, *I will not leave you as orphans?*

31. Who will teach us all things and remind us of Jesus' words (v. 26)?_____

32. What is our guidebook for learning that contain Jesus' words?_____

33. What kind of peace does Jesus give believers (v. 27a)?_____

34. "Do not let your _____ be _____ and do not be _____ (v. 27b).

35. How does the apostle Paul begin his writing on comfort and suffering (v. 3)?_____

36. Who is the Father of compassion?_____

37. What are we supposed to do with the comfort we receive from God (v. 4)?_____

38. Ask God to show you someone who needs godly comfort. With the Holy Spirit's help, reach out to that person with the comfort that you have received from God. What happened?

39. As a disciple of Christ, can you expect suffering (v. 5)? Yes No (Circle One)
40. As a disciple of Christ, can you expect comfort in your suffering (v. 5)? Yes No (Circle One)
41. **Pray:** Holy Spirit, Please give me a heart of worship and praise in all circumstances. Thank You. Amen. (*I have prayed.* Yes No Circle One)
42. Read Psalm 91:1. Who do *you* trust? _____

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Four) *Living in the Spirit*

43. Do you keep at your tasks or assignments from God even when there is little or no outward sign of success? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)
44. How can you discern if God wants you to continue with an assignment or He wants you to move on to another mission? _____

45. Why were the disciples all together (See Acts 1:4-5)? _____

46. The disciples were all together in one place. What was one thing they were doing (See Acts 1:14)? _____
47. How many were filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 4a)? _____
48. What did the Spirit enable the disciples to do (v. 4b)? _____
49. Why did the Spirit make it possible for the disciples to speak in other languages (See also Acts 2:5-40)? _____
50. Why do you think the Spirit is interested in your overcoming any addiction or sinful habit? _____

51. Are you prepared to ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome your addiction or sinful habit? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Why or why not? _____

52. What addiction, sinful habit or activity will you commit to stop doing?

53. What godly saint will you ask to pray for you to overcome this sin? _____

54. How will you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you in your addiction or sinful habit ? (See John 14:16-17, 14:26-27, 15:26-27 and 16:7-15 to think through your answer.)

55. Is it possible to fight against (resist, oppose) the Holy Spirit? Yes No (Circle one)

56. How does Stephen describe people who resist the Holy Spirit? _____

57. What does uncircumcised hearts and ears mean? _____

58. Are you resisting the Spirit's help in any fashion or form? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

59. If you answered "yes" or "sometimes" above, what will you do to stop resisting the Spirit?

60. Read Galatians 5:16. Will you pray and surrender your entire will to the Holy Spirit of God?

Yes No (Circle One) If you circled yes, pray and surrender your entire will to the Holy Spirit of God. Write and share your prayer: _____

61. If you circled "no" in question 60, what is keeping you from fully surrendering and living by and in the Holy Spirit? _____

Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit (Day Five) *Final Spirit Thoughts*

62. Now it's your turn. Write two questions and answers based on Acts 5:32:

(1. Question: _____

Answer: _____

(2. Question: _____

Answer: _____

63. Read Mark 15:1-41. Meditate on what Jesus experienced for you in order that your sins can be forgiven and you can be filled with the Holy Spirit. Share your thoughts:

64. Memorize 1 John 4:4. Write it here without looking at notes or scripture verse:

Dear Disciple, We pray that you and your local body of believers are strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit. May your congregation grow in numbers living in the fear of the Lord. Amen.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. Acts 9:31

Next: Lesson 14: Faith and Confession

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