

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 6A (Part One)

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 6A: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day One) *Knowing the Holy Spirit*

Lesson 5: *Leading by Example* was about modeling godly behavior. We can either be a good example of a Christ follower or a bad one. The apostle Paul's letter to the Romans addresses what happens when we say one thing and do another (Romans 2:17-24). He is speaking specifically to the Jews who had the law and bragged about their relationship with God but dishonored God by breaking the law. Paul's words not only applied to the Jews and Christians of his day, but they apply to anyone who knows Christ and does not practice what he professes.

Read Romans 2:24 and answer questions 1-2:

As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Romans 2:24

Definition: The Greek word blasphemeo (βλασφημέω), translated blaspheme in English, means to speak against God, blaspheme; speak against, slander, insult. The word blaspheme is defined in English as treating God disrespectfully through words or actions.

1. Have you ever considered how your example may either honor God or dishonor Him?
Yes No (Circle One)

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

When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may pass it on to another or discard.

2. Name one thing that you will do or think about differently now that you know the seriousness of your example?

Let us all think about what it means to blaspheme God the next time we want to engage in wrong behavior. Being a good example and doing what is right can be difficult, but by no means impossible. It means depending on the Holy Spirit to work through us and make us Christ-like with Christ-like behavior.

First, we need to recognize that the Holy Spirit of God is with us at all times and therefore treat Him as an honored guest. Second, we must strive to know Him. Third, we should follow His guidance and direction.

Picture this: A friend has invited you over for dinner. You arrive at your friend's home and ring the doorbell. No answer. The front door is ajar so you walk in and find the house dark and quiet.

You flip on the light switch and then make your way into the kitchen. There you find a note on the fridge that reads, “I was invited to a party that sounds like fun so go ahead and make your own dinner. Please wash the dishes when you are finished. As long as you are here, go ahead and clean the rest of the house. I would like everything neat and clean when I come home.”

What emotions might you experience? Most likely you would feel used, unappreciated, unloved and basically unwanted. These are the feelings that usually cause us to act out in anger toward ourselves and others. We want to be loved; it is a basic need in our lives.

God wants to be loved also (Matthew 22:36-40). When you invite Him to live in your heart and in your life, you are inviting a Holy Guest into your body, the temple (1 Corinthians 6:19). We do not just leave the door of our hearts cracked open for the Spirit to come in, entertain Himself and then clean up our mess while we are mentally engaged elsewhere. We must be there to welcome our Guest with all our minds, all our souls and all our hearts.

Just as we try to learn about our earthly guests in order to serve and interact with them properly, we need to know our Divine Guest so that we can serve and cooperate with Him correctly. The best way to know about the Holy Spirit is to study and read the Scriptures. As with all things, God’s Word places us on the right path.

God the Spirit is revealed throughout the Old and New Testaments. He is not a force, figurative expression or divine vapor. Like God the Father, He is spirit (John 4:24). The Spirit is a Supernatural Being without the limits of time, space or matter.

The Holy Spirit is a distinct “Person” of the Trinity to know, love and obey. We learned in Lesson One, *Building a Leadership Model* that God is three “Persons” and He is also one God. Complete understanding of God is not possible with our finite (limited) minds and therefore the Trinity will probably remain a mystery until we reach heaven’s gate. Nevertheless, each “Person” is fully God. This means that the Holy Spirit shares the same characteristics with the Father and Jesus. For example, the Holy Spirit does not change; He is immutable (Malachi 3:6). We can rest in His unchanging presence and counsel.

Pray: “Help us to know, love and submit to You O Holy Spirit of God!” Amen.

I. Recognize the Holy Spirit

Read Genesis 1:2 and answer questions 3-5:

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2

Definition: The English word hover means to float in the air without moving far from the same area or spot. The Hebrew word rachaph (רָחַף) which is translated hovering in the NIV English translation also means to move gently, cherish and brood. The English verb brood is used to describe a bird sitting on her eggs to hatch them and to cover the nestlings (baby birds) for warmth. The English word brood has other meanings but given the context (words surrounding) of this passage, these definitions are appropriate.

3. What is the first book of the Bible?
4. How soon are we introduced to the Spirit?
5. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit?

From the very beginning God the Spirit reveals His massive strength and enormous tenderness. In cooperation with God the Father and God the Son (John 1:1-3), He took great pleasure in making our world. The Spirit gives a powerful yet serene picture of this colossal event of creation.

Yes, the triune God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1); yet some find this fact difficult to accept. Although these folks have not identified a plausible (reasonable) alternative (option) to God, they keep plugging away in a desire to explain Him away. If God does not exist people can justify just about anything they want to do. There is no one to follow or answer to.

Scientists, whom God has greatly blessed with intellect, try to explain earth's beginnings in various ways. They are favored with intellect but not always wisdom. One of the ways they theorize (imagine) the world developed is called the *big bang* theory. According to the *big bang* theory, the universe was originally smaller than a dime and almost infinitely dense. A massive explosion, which kicked off the expansion, was the origin of all known space, matter, energy, and time. ¹

Of course this explanation begs the question, ² "Who created this tiny mass?" No one has ever been able to explain the origin of matter; no one can explain how something can be created out of nothing. Perhaps you have heard this expression by believers, "God spoke and *bang*, the universe was created." No matter the theory (speculation), it always comes back to God as the Creator.

God chose not to give us specific or detailed data as to what happened each time He spoke in the Genesis account. We do know that the Bible is true and it is not in conflict with true scientific facts. Again, God created the earth and it runs on His design, principles and plans.

Now God does act through supernatural events and may change the way things were designed to work (Joshua 10:13-14). However the Bible is careful to make this divine intervention obvious to the reader. There is always a distinction between the way the world scientifically works and when God decides to override His natural, created order. Miracles are evident (obvious, clear).

Read Job 33:4 and answer questions 6-7:

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

6. Who made you?
7. What is another name for the Spirit of God?

¹ www.thefreedictionary.com

² Begging the question means, "assuming the initial point".

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

8. Read John 6:63. Who gives you life?

II. Know the Holy Spirit

Read Nehemiah 9:20 and answer 9-10:

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them...Nehemiah 9:20

9. What adjective describes the Spirit?

10. What is one reason that God gave us His good Spirit?

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:10

11. Read Psalm 143:10. How else does the Spirit help you?

The Spirit is good. Your Holy Companion who resides within you is perfectly good; you can rely on Him to **instruct and lead** you in God's ways. You do not have to worry about doing the right thing when you listen and trust the good Spirit. He wants you to succeed in being a leader and doing good works. He will empower you to do so. In fact **He is so good**, He will even **convict and admonish**, in order to get you on the right path **of following Jesus** (John 16:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, Nehemiah 9:30).

Read John 16:13-14 and answer questions 12-14:

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all 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.¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. John 16:13-14

Definition: The Greek verb doxazo (δοξάζω) that English translates glorify means to render or to give praise and honor. It means to glorify and to exalt. When we glorify God we elevate and recognize Him as the most significant and important "Person" in the universe. Remember that we serve and therefore glorify a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus glorified God the Father (John 17:1-5) and as we follow after Him, we must also glorify God.

12. Why do you think it is important to know the Holy Spirit?

13. Who brings glory to Jesus?

14. How does the Spirit bring glory to Jesus?

Jesus is the truth. The Spirit takes or receives the truth of salvation, the truth of being born into God's family and His Kingdom and makes it known to believers. Everything that believers need to know and do in order to glorify God is made known to us by the Spirit. This includes all

power and authority to trample dominions of darkness and bring others into the Kingdom as true worshippers in spirit and truth.

It might be helpful to think in opposite terms of glorifying God. We do not glorify God when we make another person more significant or more important than He. This includes anyone: spouse, child, parent, friend, or even yourself. If we are not listening to the Spirit but putting ourselves or others before God, we are failing to honor Him.

Think of the martyrs who gave their life rather than deny the Lord Jesus. Their flesh or instinct was to put themselves first and survive the danger of death or torture (self-preservation). However, led by the Holy Spirit, they placed God's honor above their own. They listened to the Holy Spirit and glorified our triune God.

15. How do you think self-preservation and glorifying God are diametrically (totally) opposed?

Personal Application:

Pray for the strength and conviction to place God first and foremost in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a spirit of selflessness in order to be like the Lord Jesus who gave up His own life in order to glorify God. Rely on the *Breath of the Almighty* to praise God daily.

16. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to glorify God above yourself today. Share what happened:

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Two) *Ignorance of the Spirit*

In 1647, on the heels of the Protestant reformation, Scottish and English leaders wrote a doctrinal statement in the format of questions and answers for church members. It is called the "Westminster Shorter Catechism" and was used extensively by various Protestant denominations. The first question and answer is:

Question: *What is the chief end of man?*

Answer: *Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for man to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth. We cannot know God except through Christ (John 14:6) and we cannot know the truth of Christ apart from the Holy Spirit. He convicts the world of sin (John 16:8) and the truth of God's plan for salvation.

Our purity and power come from the Holy Spirit of God actively working in our lives. Christian leaders who attempt to serve God in ignorance of His Spirit will become easily frustrated, overwhelmed and entirely ineffective. The Spirit keeps us on the right track. That track is bringing God glory and honor. The wrong track is seeking after the Spirit for our own honor or worldly ambitions.

Read Acts 8:18-21 and answer questions 17-20:

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When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!"²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Acts 8:18-21

17. What did Simon the Sorcerer offer the apostles for the gift of the Spirit?

18. How did Peter reply to Simon?

19. Why do you think Peter replied to Simon that way?

20. Do you think Simon wanted to help others glorify God? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
Explain your answer:

Simon the Sorcerer did not have the right heart toward God and certainly was not interested in glorifying Him. The fact that he offered money is a clue to his motivation. Perhaps he thought he could make money or just cause a sensation wherever he traveled. From Peter's response to Simon it appears that Simon was ignorant of the Spirit and had no real interest in knowing Him. Simon wanted to use the Spirit's power for his own benefit and honor.

In addition, all of God's gifts are free. We do not pay for our salvation nor do we pay for the Holy Spirit to work through us. God extends His grace and good favor without cost.

Read Luke 11:13 and answer questions 21-22:

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

21. According to Jesus how do you receive the Holy Spirit?

22. Do you have to beg and plead with God for the Holy Spirit? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
(Consider the principle in James 4:2-3 regarding asking and receiving)

Jesus is speaking in general terms since most parents know how to give nice gifts to their children. He knows that not all parents have been good to their children. If you did not have the kind of parents that took adequate care of you, be encouraged! You now have an amazing Father who will give you the best and a far superior gift than any human parent could possibly provide.

God loves you more than any one in the world and wants to give you His Holy Spirit. However, always remember that the Holy Spirit cannot be used (exploited) in any way, especially for bad or evil. We know only God is good (Mark 10:18) and His Spirit inhabits human hearts for God's good and perfect will (Acts 2:4, John 14:26). No created being controls the Spirit. The Spirit is God and acts according to His good pleasure and purposes.

God's purposes are for our good also. However we can thwart (prevent) the good God has planned for us by disobedience. If we deliberately keep on sinning, we insult the Spirit of Grace and there is nothing left but judgment (Hebrews 10:25-39). This was true under the Old

Covenant (promises to God's people under Moses) and it is true under the New Covenant (promises fulfilled in Christ – Matthew 5:17, Hebrews 9:15).

III. Follow the Holy Spirit

Saul lived and reigned in about 1,000 B.C. He was the first anointed king of Israel and although he started out on the right track, he soon lost his focus. Saul was anointed to serve God and lead Israel according to God's plans and not his own. It was not his place to make decisions and rules but to obey the LORD.

Definition: Anoint means to apply or rub oil on a person or thing (Exodus 40:9) in the Old Testament. In the Bible anointing is used for consecration (setting apart), healing (James 5:14) and burial (John 19:39-40). God gave Moses a special formula for the oil that was to be used only for anointing the priests. The first priest Aaron (Exodus 30:30) and subsequent priests were anointed with this special oil. Saul and subsequent kings were also anointed with oil. This oil for the kings seems to have been a different mixture from what was used for the priests. Most likely it was a spiced or plain olive oil.³

The anointing ceremony revealed to others the anointed one's right to office and that God's power and favor rested upon him. God was with him through His Holy Spirit and would enable him to fulfill his duties. The Holy Spirit rested upon an individual for God's greater purposes of helping His people know and serve Him.

(**Note:** In Lesson 6b (Part Two), we address the Spirit's anointing in the New Testament).

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance?" 1 Samuel 10:1

(**Note:** Kiss: sign of allegiance here and remains a sign of respect in Near Eastern cultures. Inheritance: Israel is God's people and His inheritance)

23. Read 1 Samuel 10:1. Who does Samuel say has anointed Saul as leader?

Read 1 Samuel 10:6-7 and answer questions 24-25:

The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 1 Samuel 10:6-7

Definition: A sign is that which points to something else; an object, occurrence, or person through which one recognizes, remembers, or validates something. In the Old Testament signs may be classed according to seven somewhat overlapping functions: to impart knowledge, to protect, to motivate faith, to recall significant events, to witness to the covenant, to confirm and to illustrate by means of prophetic action.⁴ God is a God of order and intention. From creation to redemption, there is a plan in effect. God's ways are never haphazard or happenstance. As with all God does, He gives signs for a purpose.

³ Butler, Trent, Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1991, Dictionary, pg. 59.

⁴ Ibid., pg. 1277-78.

24. Name three of the signs that God used in Saul's life to confirm his appointment as leader:

25. Once the signs were fulfilled, what instruction did Samuel give the new king Saul?

The signs were fulfilled which led to Saul changing in three ways (1 Samuel 10:8-13). *First*, the Spirit of God came upon him as never before; *second*, he spoke God's words with prophets; and *third*, he became a different person in ways that were recognizable by the people. Before Saul had been anointed, he did not have the Spirit's power, he did not prophesy and he did not have great faith. He was small-minded in the ways of God (1 Samuel 9:21).

Saul became a different person with a different purpose in life. He was changed by God in an instant. One minute, little responsibility of importance and in the next, much responsibility of great significance. Now do not be discouraged if God works in your life differently. Remember Joseph (Genesis 37-50) went through long-term trials and tribulations before God brought Him into the responsibility that would save God's people from starvation.

God confirmed His choice of Saul as an earthly king by signs. The signs showed the Israelites that God was with Saul. However, God was with the king for His plans and purposes.

God would be with Saul as long as he was obedient to His commands. When Samuel told Saul to *do whatever your hand finds to do*, he was not saying you are free to do whatever you wish. He was giving this order in the context (framework) of Saul's position and authority as king and representative of God's command on earth. Saul was to use godly wisdom and good judgment to do whatever he thought best to keep God's people holy and save them from their enemies.

Definition: Context is defined in two ways. As the word context is used above, it means surrounding circumstances, conditions or events. Context also means the text (words) surrounding the word or passage in a body of writing or speech that clarifies its full meaning.

Make sure you understand the context of the passage or words when you are reading and studying the Bible. Here are some helpful questions to ask: What is this particular book of the Bible about? What was written before and after this particular verse? What is the point the author is trying to make here? What was the cultural situation at the time this passage was written? How does this verse line up with the rest of the Bible?

Personal Application:

Reflect on your own desire to know the Spirit (written answers not required):

1. Do you desire the Spirit for God's purposes or to impress others with His power?
2. Confess any ignorance, wrong thoughts or attitudes that you have regarding the Holy Spirit. Ask forgiveness and pray for a pure knowledge and understanding of the Spirit.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Three) *Grieving the Spirit*

Saul started out with God's Spirit and favor. He was promoted to king of his country and had the opportunity to be a great man of and for God. But sadly, Saul went astray. He sinned against the very One who had created him and made him king.

Read 1 Samuel 15:23 and answer questions 26-27:

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." 1 Samuel 15:23

26. What is rebellion compared to?

27. What is arrogance compared to?

Divination is seeking knowledge, especially future information, by supernatural means. It is an occult (witchcraft) activity that attempts to bypass or ignore God. Rebellion is refusing or resisting authority. Simply, it is being disobedient to the one in charge.

Idolatry is the worship of anything, including self, rather than God. In the Old Testament some people would make statues or carve images known as idols to be their gods. An arrogant person is a prideful person who thinks that he or she is superior to others. This kind of person would have contempt (disrespect) for God and other people.

God hates these sins in His people so much that they are compared to covenant violations (Leviticus 19:26, Exodus 20:1-4). The covenant (treaty, agreement) was the basis of God's relationship with His people and violations were grave and had extreme results. Jesus is the basis of our relationship with God today, however our rebellion and arrogance will still bring serious consequences.

28. Why do you think arrogance is like the evil of idolatry?

29. Do you struggle with either the sin of rebellion or arrogance? Y N (Circle one)

30. How may we pray for you in your struggle against rebellion, arrogance or both?

Read 1 Samuel 16:14 and answer questions 31-32:

Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14

31. Who left Saul and why (1 Samuel 13:13)?

32. Why do you think the LORD allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul? (Reference: 1 Samuel 16:23, 1 Kings 22:19-23, Job 1:12, 2:6-7, and Romans 1:24-32)?

Personal Application: *Sincerely pray the following prayer:*

Merciful LORD,

You are patient and longsuffering; I bow in humble submission to Your authority and rule in my life. You are good and all that You do is right and just. Please forgive me for all my rebellion and arrogance. These times in particular I remember (confess your sins). Thank You for continually forgiving me and changing me into Your obedient and humble servant. Thank You for giving me the grace to lead Your people in Your way.

Holy Spirit, guide and counsel me in right thinking so that I may never be rebellious or arrogant again. Convict me at once of my wrong doing so that I may always be set apart and in immediate readiness for my LORD's call. I live, love and pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Read 1 Samuel 13:13-15 and answer questions 33-36:

"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." 1 Samuel 13:13-14

33. According to Samuel, how did Saul act (v.13)?

A foolish person acts unwisely displaying a lack of good sense and judgment. A foolish person is the opposite of a wise person. The book of Proverbs has much to say about fools. *The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.* Proverbs 10:8

34. What did Saul fail to do (v.13)?

35. What was the consequence of Saul's failure to keep the LORD's command (v.14)?

36. What kind of person did the LORD seek, find and appoint to take Saul's place (v.14)?

A leader does not have tenure or a life-time claim on God's Spirit, His favor or blessing; no one does. A leader does not have a permanent position with no penalties for being disobedient. This was true in Saul's time and it is also true in our time. Christians can be forgiven in the blood of Christ, but there are still consequences to our wrong actions. Thinking on these things should give us a holy fear of the office to which God has called us so that we continually seek His face, grace and mercy.

Read 1 Samuel 16:13 and answer questions 37-38:

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13

37. What was the result of Saul's disobedience?

38. Who came upon David in power?

Read Acts 13:22 and answer questions 39-41:

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do. Acts 13:22

39. Why was David called *a man after God's own heart*?
40. What is one word that summarizes "he will do everything I want him to do"?
41. What do you have to do in order to be called a man/woman after God's own heart?

Read Ephesians 4:30-32 and answer questions 42-45:

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:30-32*

Definition: Grieve is a verb that describes someone experiencing deep sorrow, pain or sadness. To grieve another means that we have caused that person pain, hurt, sorrow, or distress. In this passage we are commanded not to grieve the Spirit, to remove all wickedness and to be kind.

42. Explain in your own words what happens when we grieve the Holy Spirit:
43. What behaviors (act in certain way) grieve the Holy Spirit?
44. What behaviors bring pleasure and joy to the Spirit of God?

King Saul had grieved the Holy Spirit of God with rebellion and disobedience. About 1,000 years later another Saul, perhaps named after this king, was also in rebellion and persecuting the Son of God (Acts 9:4). But this Saul did not follow in the footsteps of his namesake. After he met Jesus on the road to Damascus he became completely obedient to God. This New Testament saint is also known to us by his Hellenistic or Greek name Paul.

Paul's conversion (change) to Christianity was real and complete. He became extremely sensitive to the Holy Spirit and was used to write thirteen epistles (letters) or about 32% of the New Testament. This gives us hope to change no matter what we have done or whatever label someone tries to pin on us. It does not matter who you were named after, who your parents were or what you have done in the past. God is calling *you* now.

45. How will you cooperate and change any hateful actions in order to bring joy to the Spirit?

In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. Isaiah 63:9-10

46. Read Isaiah 63:9-10. God is loving and He is righteous. How does this verse bring together both of these attributes (characteristics) in the Holy Spirit?

Throughout the Bible, God reveals His great love and compassion in creating and providing for us. He deserves and expects loyalty, allegiance and fidelity as Creator and Ruler of the universe. When He does not receive our allegiance, He is right to punish and cast us out, just like He did in Adam and Eve's rebellion. The Spirit guides us with patience and kindness for God's honor and our good. Still loving, God will not tolerate wrong actions toward His Spirit.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Four) The Spirit's Sanctifying Work

All three Persons of the Trinity are involved in a believer's salvation (Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:9, John 1:11-13, John 3:8). The **Holy Spirit convicts** (John 16:8) sinners so that we may recognize our wrongdoing and desperate need for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit prepares our hearts so that we may place our faith in Christ.

Definition: The Greek word *elegcho* (ἐλέγχω) that is translated convict in English means to show someone his fault or error, to convince someone of his fault or error and also to prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove. Convict in English means to declare someone guilty or show someone that he is at fault.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Underlining by author of study)

Definition: The Greek verb *hagiasmo* (ἀγιάζω) that is translated sanctify or sanctifying in English means to set apart for sacred use. Other meanings of the Greek word include consecration, dedication, holiness and the state of purity. The English word sanctify is defined as making something holy or giving something a holy status.

47. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13. God chose people to be saved through the _____ work of the _____ and through belief in the _____

The Spirit helps us to be holy as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16). We do not know exactly how the Spirit accomplishes this feat but we know that it begins with our salvation, our union with Christ (Romans 6) and continues throughout our lives. Sanctification is not an option of the Christian life; it is an essential and necessary part of your salvation experience.

Sanctification is progressive. That means that you are continually making progress, moving forward and becoming more and more like Christ each day. Sometimes you may become discouraged and think that you really have not changed at all. However, if you will review your life since becoming a Christian, you should notice that there has been steady progress. There are many sinful things that you no longer take part in and there are many good things that you have done in His name. If you see absolutely no change in your life, pray sincerely and ask God for His perception (view) of your life in Christ.

In the Old Testament when priests were set apart (sanctified, made holy, pure) for God they were anointed with oil. The priests and the Levites worked for God in and around the sanctuary or temple. This was a *place* set apart as holy. It was sacred and revered not only by the priests but by the Israelites as well.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and answer questions 48-49:

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

48. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, where is the sanctuary today?

49. You are set apart as holy. You are set apart as a place of worship. You are living out your dedication and consecration to God in clear view of the world. However, you are not alone (1 Thessalonians 4:8). Who lives in you?

Esther Ahn Kim dedicated her life to the Lord Jesus and would not allow her body to be used as anything other than a temple of the Holy Spirit. Esther was a Korean living during the time of Japan's occupation of Korea. She was imprisoned for six years from 1939-1945 because she refused to bow to the idols set up on the streets of her city.

She was led by the Holy Spirit to begin preparing, both spiritually and physically, for the time she would spend in prison. Like most anyone, she was afraid of the extreme deprivation and torture that she might face in the Japanese prisons. She began by praying and fasting so that her heart would not falter but that she would stand firm in her faith.

Esther memorized over one hundred chapters of the Bible so that she would have God's Word hidden in her heart. There would be no Bibles where she was going. She also trained physically by eating decaying foods and other unappetizing things that she would be offered in prison.

“When she eventually was taken to prison, God used her in countless ways. One night a young Chinese woman convicted of killing her husband was brought in. She moaned incessantly and beat on the doors until the guards tied her hands behind her back. It was this woman that God called Esther to love and reach out to. Esther held the woman's feet at night to warm them, even though the woman was covered in her own excrement. Though food rations were small, Esther gave up her portions for three days to this woman. Over time, the Chinese woman began to respond, carrying on conversation and eventually accepting the good news of the gospel. The woman was later executed for her crime, but she went to her death alive in Christ.”

There are countless other stories of murderers, thieves and outcasts that God loved through Esther. They experienced firsthand what the love of Christ was like because of a woman who did not just endure her suffering like a good Christian but embraced it as God's calling on her life.

You cannot face the circumstances of life like that unless you understand that following Christ is not really about making your life comfortable. Following Christ is about exalting the Lord Jesus above everything. If you make the exaltation of Jesus your life's ambition, beware that it will not be easy. There are many dangers, toils and snares but at the end of that road you will find that heavenly city and to quote one of my favorite authors, “the sufferings of this present world cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us.” So let me ask you, friend, who does

God want to love through you today? And are you willing to endure anything and everything so that Christ is exalted? What about me, you ask? Well, I'm still a work in progress."⁵

Esther treated her body as the temple of God. No matter the extreme circumstances that she faced, she would not allow her body to bow to false gods. She relied on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide her and counsel her in the way she should go. The Spirit sanctified her, making her holy and pure so that she could deny herself and exalt Jesus. In doing this, the Spirit loved through her and revealed the Fathers' love to those imprisoned with her (Romans 5:5).

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

50. Read Philippians 3:12-14. Why do you think it is important for a Christian leader to understand sanctification? (Other references: Hebrews 10:26-31, 12:14-15)

Understanding sanctification brings a leader's life into balance with a proper perspective. First, we understand that we are not perfect but that we are being perfected each day by the Spirit's work in our lives. We are able to forget the imperfections and sins of the past and press on for the purpose for which God has called us. Each day is gloriously new.

Second, if we do not allow the Spirit to sanctify us by working in our lives and we deliberately keep on sinning, judgment awaits us. Without holiness no one will even see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). The Spirit keeps us holy and assures us that we will rejoice in seeing our God!

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

Read John 17:17 and answer questions 51-52:

51. What is truth?

52. What is one thing you must you do to be sanctified by God's word, the Bible?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 and answer questions 53-54:

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

53. How are you able to recognize and determine the truth of Scripture?

⁵ Chan, Francis, *The Forgotten God*, 2009 and Kim, Esther Ahn, *If I Perish*, 2001.

54. Can someone without the Holy Spirit understand the wisdom of the Bible? Yes No (Circle)

People without the Spirit may understand *some* of what the Bible is saying but they do not understand the wisdom of following its commands. The Spirit brings God's Word and the truth of it alive for the believer. The Spirit helps us to know, love and serve God through the truth of the Word. Of course the Spirit also uses God's Word to motivate sinners to seek Christ.

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

55. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. How might this verse be used as a warning against reading and studying Scripture without the Spirit's guidance?

Recall that the Pharisees knew the Law and the Prophets better than anyone else yet Jesus said they were like whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones (Matthew 23:27). Jesus had explained earlier (Matthew 22:36-40) that all the Law and the Prophets depend on loving God and your neighbor. The Spirit takes God's Word with its laws and commands and leads us in following what it says for the right reasons.

Paul is making the point that the Law, as an external standard, brought condemnation and death. The Holy Spirit, as a gift of the new covenant brings forgiveness and life. The Spirit helps us to serve in the way of Christ. He helps us understand what is required and stirs our hearts with the right motivation.

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Five) The Spirit, our Shepherd

The good Spirit shepherds God's flock with the same love and care as the Father and the Son. He assists us in many and varied ways so that in following God we may be good shepherds of His people. Good shepherds always lead others to God through Christ.

Read Romans 8:26 and answer questions 56-57:

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 with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

56. The Spirit _____ us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to _____ for, but the _____ himself _____ for us with _____ that _____ cannot express.

Intercede means to mediate or to intervene. The Spirit pleads your case or your situation before God. Jesus also intercedes for you (Hebrews 7:25). They deeply and earnestly talk to God the Father about you. God the Spirit and God the Son do not want you asking for things that are not good for you. They want you to pray and care about the things that God cares about; things with eternal significance.

**Remember to thank Jesus and the Spirit every day for interceding for you in God's will.*

57. How does it make you feel when you consider the good Spirit is interceding for you?

Ask the good Spirit to help you in your weakness and to give you the strength and fortitude (staying power, guts) to overcome in the name of Jesus. Jesus walked this earth in human flesh and can sympathize with your situation. Remember the Spirit takes from Jesus and makes it known to you.

Read Luke 10:21 and answer question 58-59:

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." Luke 10:21

58. Jesus was full of joy through the _____

59. Will the Spirit, our Shepherd, fill you with joy also? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Following God and seeing His will manifested (demonstrated) brings joy. The Spirit guides and leads us out of our own plans and into God's purposes. Jesus was full of joy seeing the wise and learned people confounded while the foolish (in world's eyes) and uneducated understood God's truth.

Personal Application:

60. Meditate and Memorize 2 Corinthians 3:17-18:

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

61. What do these verses mean to you personally?

Personal Application: 62. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for an opportunity to reflect the Lord's glory to someone in need. Ask that you may be used to show the love of Christ to someone and meet his or her need in a special way that is out of the ordinary. In other words, the Spirit uses you in a way that reveals God's love and care for that person. Write about the experience:

- End Lesson 6A -

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 6A: CLI Christian Leadership Study:
Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Part One)**

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 6A: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day One) *Knowing the Holy Spirit*

1. Have you ever considered how your example may either honor God or dishonor Him?
Yes No (Circle One)

2. Name one thing that you will do or think about differently now that you know the seriousness of your example? _____

3. What is the first book of the Bible? _____

4. How soon are we introduced to the Spirit? _____

5. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit? _____

6. Who made you? _____

7. What is another name for the Spirit of God? _____

8. Read John 6:63. Who gives you life? _____

9. What adjective describes the Spirit? _____

10. What is one reason that God gave us His good Spirit? _____

11. Read Psalm 143:10. How else does the Spirit help you? _____

12. Why do you think it is important to know the Holy Spirit? _____

13. Who brings glory to Jesus? _____

14. How does the Spirit bring glory to Jesus? _____

15. How do you think self-preservation and glorifying God are diametrically (totally) opposed?

Personal Application:

Pray for the strength and conviction to place God first and foremost in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a spirit of selflessness in order to be like the Lord Jesus who gave up His own life in order to glorify God. Rely on the *Breathe of the Almighty* to praise God daily.

16. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to glorify God above yourself today. Share what happened: _____

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Two) Ignorance of the Spirit

17. What did Simon the Sorcerer offer the apostles for the gift of the Spirit? _____

18. How did Peter reply to Simon? _____

19. Why do you think Peter replied to Simon that way? _____

20. Do you think Simon wanted to help others glorify God? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Explain your answer: _____

21. According to Jesus how do you receive the Holy Spirit? _____

22. Do you have to beg and plead with God for the Holy Spirit? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
(Consider the principle in James 4:2-3 regarding asking and receiving)

23. Read 1 Samuel 10:1. Who does Samuel say has anointed Saul as leader? _____

24. Name three of the signs that God used in Saul's life to confirm his appointment as leader:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

25. Once the signs were fulfilled, what instruction did Samuel give the new king Saul?

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Three) *Grieving the Spirit*

26. What is rebellion compared to? _____

27. What is arrogance compared to? _____

28. Why do you think arrogance is like the evil of idolatry? _____

29. Do you struggle with either the sin of rebellion or arrogance? Y N (Circle one)

30. How may we pray for you in your struggle against rebellion, arrogance or both?

31. Who left Saul and why (1 Samuel 13:13)? _____

32. Why do you think the LORD allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul? (Reference: 1 Samuel 16:23, 1 Kings 22:19-23, Job 1:12, 2:6-7, and Romans 1:24-32)?

33. According to Samuel, how did Saul act (v13)? _____

A foolish person acts unwisely displaying a lack of good sense and judgment. A foolish person is the opposite of a wise person. The book of Proverbs has much to say about fools. *The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.* Proverbs 10:8

34. What did Saul fail to do (v.13)? _____

35. What was the consequence of Saul's failure to keep the LORD's command (v.14)?

36. What kind of person did the LORD seek, find and appoint to take Saul's place (v.14)?

37. What was the result of Saul's disobedience? _____

38. Who came upon David in power? _____

39. Why was David called *a man after God's own heart*? _____

40. What is one word that summarizes "he will do everything I want him to do"? _____

41. What do you have to do in order to be called a man/woman after God's own heart? _____

42. Explain in your own words what happens when we grieve the Holy Spirit:

43. What behaviors (act in certain way) grieve the Holy Spirit? _____

44. What behaviors bring pleasure and joy to the Spirit of God? _____

45. How will you cooperate and change any hateful actions in order to bring joy to the Spirit?

46. Read Isaiah 63:9-10. God is loving and He is righteous. How does this verse bring together both of these attributes (characteristics) in the Holy Spirit? _____

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Four) The Spirit's Sanctifying Work

47. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13. God chose people to be saved through the _____
work of the _____ and through belief in the _____

48. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, where is the sanctuary today? _____

49. You are set apart as holy. You are set apart as a place of worship. You are living out your dedication and consecration to God in clear view of the world. However, you are not alone (1 Thessalonians 4:8). Who lives in you? _____

50. Read Philippians 3:12-14. Why do you think it is important for a Christian leader to understand sanctification? (Other references: Hebrews 10:26-31, 12:14-15)

51. What is truth? _____

52. What is one thing you must you do to be sanctified by God's word, the Bible?

53. How are you able to recognize and determine the truth of Scripture? _____

54. Can someone without the Holy Spirit understand the wisdom of the Bible? Yes No (Circle)

55. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6. How might this verse be used as a warning against reading and studying Scripture without the Spirit's guidance? _____

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Day Five) The Spirit, our Shepherd

The good Spirit shepherds God's flock with the same love and care as the Father and the Son. He assists us in many and varied ways so that in following God we may be good shepherds of His people. Good shepherds always lead others to God through Christ.

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 with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

56. The Spirit _____ us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to

_____ for, but the _____ himself _____
for us with _____ that _____ cannot express.

57. How does it make you feel when you consider the good Spirit is interceding for you?

58. Jesus was full of joy through the _____

59. Will the Spirit, our Shepherd, fill you with joy also? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Application:

60. Meditate and Memorize 2 Corinthians 3:17-18:

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

61. What do these verses mean to you personally? _____

Personal Application: 62. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for an opportunity to reflect the Lord's glory to someone in need. Ask that you may be used to show the love of Christ to someone and meet his or her need in a special way that is out of the ordinary. In other words, the Spirit uses you in a way that reveals God's love and care for that person. Write about the experience:

Next: Lesson 6B: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

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