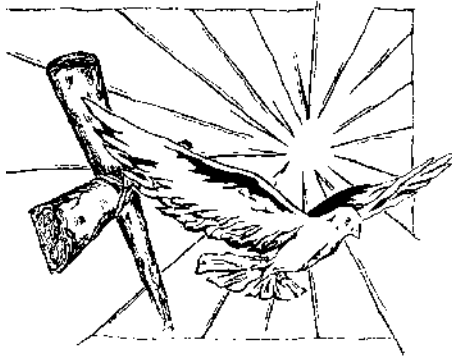


Lesson
1

You Have a Friend— the Holy Spirit

Today, more than ever before in the history of the world, people are talking about the Holy Spirit and His work. They have discovered that He is a Person, not just an influence. He has brought new life and power into thousands of churches. And millions of people today are discovering what the early Christians meant when they talked about being “filled with the Holy Spirit.”

In *The Pentecostal Evangel*, Robert C. Cunningham wrote about the question, “What does it mean to be filled with God?” He said this: “We know what it means for a person to be filled with fear, don’t we—or filled with envy, or anger! . . . It means that these strong forces urge him to actions which express the spirit that has gained control of him.”



“Here then is the real glory of Pentecost. God the Holy Spirit comes into the lives and bodies of men and women to such an extent that they are filled with His presence . . . The Lord suddenly comes and fills His temple! Human beings become temples of God—think of it! May we learn again the unutterable wonder of being filled with God.”

In this lesson you will study . . .

He Is a Special Friend
He Will Help You
He Will Teach You
He Will Make God Real to You
He Will Fill Your Life with Love

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain who the Holy Spirit is.
- Describe how the Holy Spirit can be your Friend.
- List seven specific titles of the Holy Spirit that show who He is and what He does.

HE IS A SPECIAL FRIEND

Objective 1. Name the “helper” that Jesus promised to send.

Someone asked a great man the secret of his success. He answered: “I had a friend.” He let everyone know that without the help of his friend his life would have been a failure. His friend had helped him, encouraged him, and stood by him. His friend loved him, had faith in him, and made his life worthwhile. Do you have a friend like that? You need one.

What kind of friend would you like to have? You would want him or her to love you, to care about you and your problems, to share in your happiness. You would want this friend to be perfectly frank with you, to tell you the truth even when it hurts, and to point out your faults with kindness in order to help you do better.

Maybe you would like your friend to be wiser, stronger, and better than you are. Then your friend would teach you, help you day by day, and answer your questions. He or she would help you with all of your problems. And the more time you would spend together, the more like your friend you would become—stronger, wiser, better than you are now.

Jesus Christ was this kind of friend to Peter, James, John, and the other disciples. He was a friend of sinners. He forgave their sins and gave them a clean new life. He was a friend to all who wanted His friendship: rich or poor, sinner or saint, ignorant or well educated of any race or nation. He gave them a richer, deeper, more unselfish love than they had ever known before—the love of God. He taught them the truth. He helped them with all of their problems.

But a human body limited Jesus. He could be in only one place at a time. He could not be with all of His friends who needed Him. So Jesus told His followers that He would go back to heaven and send them another Friend and Helper who could be with them all at the same time, wherever they were.

John 14:16,17. “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever . . . The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.”

This helper that Jesus promised to send is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. He is just like God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son in His nature, power, and purpose. He knows all things. He has all power. He does not have a body but can be everywhere at the same time. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, just as He promised to do, so that He could live in those who would receive Him. He has come to do for you what Jesus did for His followers.

John 16:7. “It is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you.”

Do you sometimes feel that no one understands you or cares about your problems? God does! He knows just what you need. He loves you so much that He has sent His Holy Spirit to be your special Friend and Helper. In this course you will learn about how the Holy Spirit came, what He did for the early Christians, and what He will do for you. With the Holy Spirit as your Friend, you never need to feel lonesome or helpless again.



For You To Do

In each of these *For You to Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have just studied. Follow the directions given for completing each one. When you are

directed to, write your answers in your notebook. If you need to, review the section entitled **How to Answer Study Questions** at the beginning of this study guide.

1 Memorize John 14:16,17. Think about what Jesus did for people and what the Holy Spirit will do for you.

2 The “Helper” Jesus promised to send is

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HE WILL HELP YOU

Objective 2. List the seven titles the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised to send another Helper. The word He used in Greek was *Paraclete*, which is sometimes translated Comforter. It means, “someone called alongside to help.” The other titles of the Paraclete show you what His powers and responsibilities are and how He will help you. He is called the Spirit of life, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of God. Whatever your problem may be, your Helper has the solution.

The Spirit of Life

Do you need healing for your body? In different parts of the world sick people are being healed miraculously today in answer to prayer. Deaf ears hear again. Blind eyes see. Paralyzed people throw away their crutches and walk once more by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of life who gives life to all living beings. He has worked through Jesus to heal the sick and still does the same work.

In the next lesson you will study more about how the Spirit of life gives you life and health for both body and soul—a joyful, satisfying life on earth, and glorious, everlasting life in the world to come. But in order to enjoy the life that the Spirit gives, you must let Him lead you.

Romans 8:5,6. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace.



For You To Do

3 In your notebook, list the seven titles the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit.

4 Would you like to have the Holy Spirit as your Friend and Helper?

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5 Do you want to know the Holy Spirit better?

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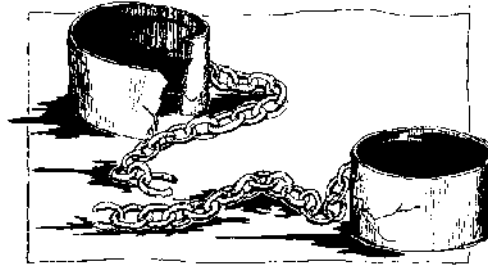
6 Read Romans 8:5,6 several times. Think about the changes the Holy Spirit can make in your life.

The Holy Spirit

Objective 3. *Describe specific areas in your life where the Holy Spirit can help you.*

Do you find it hard to live the right kind of life? Do you want to be a better Christian? Your Helper is the Holy Spirit, or Spirit of holiness. Holy means “separated from sin and given to God.” The Holy Spirit shows us how terrible our sins are and helps us get rid of them. As we let Him have His way, He leads us closer to God and away from such sins as pride, selfishness, stubbornness, bad temper, prejudice, hatred, resentment, laziness, self-pity, rebelliousness, greed, and immoral thoughts or actions.

Maybe you need help to get rid of some bad habit. If you are a Christian, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. He will help you get rid of any habits that would harm your body. The Holy Spirit has set thousands of drug addicts free. Medical science and social workers had been able to give them only temporary relief. In a last desperate effort to “kick the habit,” they turned to God for help. After accepting the Lord Jesus as their Savior they asked the Holy Spirit to fill them and give them power to live for God. When the Holy Spirit filled them, He delivered them from the drug habit. He filled them with the love of God and the desire to help others. Many are now preaching the gospel. Their lives are clean because of the Spirit of holiness in them.



1 Peter 1:2. You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by His Spirit.



For You To Do

7 Do you have any sins or bad habits from which you want the Holy Spirit to free you? Write them down just for you and Him to see. Ask Him to take control and deliver you from these things.

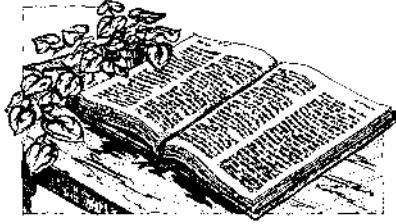
HE WILL TEACH YOU

Objective 4. *Identify the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth.*

The Spirit of Truth

Just as Jesus taught His disciples the truth and answered their questions, the Holy Spirit will teach you. He will answer your questions about God. He will show you the purpose of life. He will help you understand the Bible. Things that used to puzzle you will suddenly become clear. Jesus said:

John 16:13 (NIV). “But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.”



Recently some seminary students received the Holy Spirit. Bible truths suddenly “came alive” for them. Their teachers were amazed at their new understanding of spiritual things. The Spirit of truth had come.



For You To Do

- 8 Memorize John 16:13.
 - 9 Do you want the Spirit of truth to teach you?
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The Spirit of Wisdom

Objective 5. *Identify the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of wisdom.*

Do you wonder what you should do or how to solve your problems? The Spirit of wisdom has come to help you. He will lead you and show you what is best for you. In Lesson 4 you will study about how He will do it.

Do you want wisdom to work for God? In Acts you see that the deacons had to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to do their work, as they should. Maybe you teach in Sunday school, do personal evangelism, or preach. The Spirit of wisdom wants to fill you and help you just as He did the workers in the early church.

Acts 6:10. But the Spirit gave Stephen such wisdom that when he spoke, they could not refute him.



For You To Do

- 10 Do you need to be filled with the Spirit of wisdom?

HE WILL MAKE GOD REAL TO YOU

Objective 6. *State how God makes himself known to us.*

The Spirit of God

Does God seem real to you? Is He a far-off Ruler that you call on only in times of great crises? Or is He a loving heavenly Father who cares about every detail of your life? Are your prayers little speeches that you make because of a sense of duty? Or are they frank conversations with your Father? The Spirit of God has come to help you know God better.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12. God made known his secret by means of his Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God’s purposes . . . We have received the Spirit sent by God, so that we may know all that God has given us.

Your teacher will be praying for you as Paul prayed for the Christians at Ephesus:

Ephesians 1:16-19. I . . . ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him. I ask that your minds may be open to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how great is his power at work in us who believe.



For You To Do

11 Read Ephesians 1:16-19 several times. Make this prayer your own. Pray it for yourself and others.

12 According to 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, how does God make himself known to us?

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The Spirit of Christ

The Holy Spirit of Christ made Jesus real to you when He saved you. He let you know that Jesus is more than a great Teacher who lived long ago. He introduced you personally to Jesus, the Son of God, and helped you accept Him as your Savior, Lord, and King. He joined you to Christ and made you a member of His body, the church. This union is so real that Christ lives in you by His Spirit.

Romans 8:9. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

The Holy Spirit was with the followers of Jesus before the Day of Pentecost, but Jesus promised that He would come in a new way and fill them. Jesus himself would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. When he baptized them, the Holy Spirit taught them more about Jesus and gave them power to tell others about Christ.

In the same way today, all those who have been born again have the Spirit of Christ. But Jesus wants to baptize them in His Spirit so that they can be more effective witnesses for Him. You will study about this later.

John 15:26; 16:14. “The Helper will come—the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father, and he will speak about me. He will give me glory, because he will take what I say and tell it to you.”



For You To Do

13 Would you like for the Spirit to make Jesus more real to you? If so, ask Him to do it.

HE WILL FILL YOUR LIFE WITH LOVE

Objective 7. *State five aspects of God's love.*

What our world needs most today is unselfish love, the love that only God can give. God can use you to help meet that need if you let the Holy Spirit fill you with this kind of love.

In Old Testament times God talked with the prophets and showed them His love. They told the people about His love. But many people still thought of God only as a strict judge ready to punish them for their sins. They did not understand that He wanted to save them from their sins and be their Father.

Finally God sent His Son Jesus Christ to live among people and show them what God is really like. In Jesus' teachings you learn about the wonderful love of God for all mankind. In Jesus' life, you see this love in action. In His death and resurrection for you, you see the proof of God's love.

But what happened 2,000 years ago may seem far away. We get taken up with the problems of today—hunger, violence, crime, wars—and wonder if God really cares. We need to meet Him personally and find out for ourselves that He does love us.

So the Holy Spirit has come to give you a personal encounter with God. Just as Jesus came to reveal the love of the Father, the Holy Spirit has come to reveal the love of the Father and of the Son. He will pour into your life a love that you cannot describe. He begins to do this when you are converted. When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit you may seem to have even more capacity for God's love. And down through the years your life can overflow constantly with the love of God as you are filled again and again with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5. God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

A five-way love fills your life:

1. God's love for you
2. Your love for God
3. Love of other Christians for you
4. Your love for other Christians
5. Your love for everyone else

Persons who have been filled with the Spirit describe their experience this way:

“It was a baptism of love. I suddenly had a great love for God and for His Word.”

“The Holy Spirit gave me a new love for my family, friends, other Christians, and even for persons who had been my enemies.”

“The Holy Spirit made Calvary real to me. My heart was filled with gratitude to God. A great love for God welled up in me and burst from my lips in praise to Him.”

“Sobs shook my body as God's love for lost souls filled me and the Holy Spirit prayed through me for their salvation.”

Modern day experience follows the pattern in the early church: “See how they love one another!” Wherever you go you will appreciate the love of Spirit-filled brothers and sisters in the Lord. And you can enter into a life more joyful than you had dreamed possible as you let the Holy Spirit fill you with love.



For You To Do

14 Memorize Romans 5:5.

15 Draw the sketch of five-way love.

16 While studying this course, read at least a chapter a day from the Book of Acts in your Bible. Underline the name of the Holy Spirit wherever you find it. Later you will report on this.

17 If we want the Holy Spirit to help us, the first step is to recognize our need. Write an **N** after each of His titles where you have a definite need (help from the Helper, etc.).

Helper	.....	Spirit of Truth	.....
Comforter	.....	Spirit of Christ	.....
Spirit of God	.....	Spirit of Wisdom	.....
Spirit of Life	.....	Spirit of Holiness	.....

Now go back and write an **E** (for experience) by each title where you have already experienced the help of the Holy Spirit. Next, thank the Spirit for what He has done for you already. Then pray for your needs where you have written an **N**. Be definite. You may want to write these needs out on a separate piece of paper and keep it in your Bible to remind you to pray for them and to thank God as He answers.



Check Your Answers

We have given answers for those exercises where you were asked for a certain reply. We have also included comments on some of the other exercises. The answers are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

12 He makes himself known to us by means of His Holy Spirit.

2 the Holy Spirit.

15 Now, show your sketch or diagram for someone else and explain it.

3 The titles are (in any order): a) Comforter, b) Spirit of Life, c) Holy Spirit, d) Spirit of Truth, e) Spirit of Wisdom, f) Spirit of Christ, and g) Spirit of God.