

# LESSON 5 Rely on the Holy Spirit

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The sound as of a mighty wind swept through the house where the people were sitting. Fire appeared, dividing into separate flames that rested on the heads of those present. Then, each one started praising God in a language he or she had never learned.

Jesus had ascended into heaven. Now, 120 of His followers had met for prayer and to wait on the Lord. Among them were Jesus' brothers, the apostles, and a number of women—including Mary, Jesus' mother. They had heard the wind, they had seen the fire, and then, as they yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit, He used their tongues to speak in other languages the wonders of God. It was the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1).

A huge crowd gathered, amazed and confused. Some mocked Jesus' followers. Then, Peter stood up and with a loud voice preached the meaning of Pentecost to the people. Three thousand accepted his message about Christ. The church started to grow when Peter preached in the power of the Spirit.

The Pentecostal event has this message for you: you, too, may receive and rely on the Holy Spirit!

## ***lesson outline***

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The Holy Spirit Helps You Pray Effectively

The Holy Spirit Leads You in Soul-Winning

The Holy Spirit Empowers You to Evangelize

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson, you should be able to:

1. Recognize the need of the Holy Spirit's ministry in effective prayer.
2. Identify various kinds of prayer.
3. State how the Holy Spirit leads in soul-winning.
4. Name ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers and aids believers in evangelizing.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read the lesson in this independent-study textbook and do the exercises in the lesson development.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers carefully.

## ***key words***

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discerning

immersion

scroll

frustrated

intercede

vigil

## ***lesson development***

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The Holy Spirit can be called the “Great Evangelist.” After the ascension of Jesus, the Spirit was sent as “another advocate,” revealing the truth about God (John 14:16–17). He anoints the preaching and teaching of God’s Word, opening hearts and making Christ real to them. He works in believers’ lives, helping them grow to Christian maturity and to glorify the Lord.

But He needs instruments through which to do His work. He needs each one of us! When we yield ourselves to Him, He works through us to do this great task of evangelizing. We can trust the Holy Spirit to be our faithful helper. He helps us pray effectively and will lead us into adventures in soul winning.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS YOU PRAY EFFECTIVELY**

### **Pray In the Spirit**

**Objective 1.** *Recognize the need of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in effective prayer.*

An elderly missionary in South Africa was seated one evening with his grandchildren enjoying a fine television program. In Pretoria, a city 70 miles away, his son Geoff lay in a hospital after undergoing major surgery. The report had been received that he was out of intensive care and doing well.

Suddenly, the missionary said, “I think we must turn off the television and pray for Geoff.” After they had all prayed together, he went into his bedroom and began praying in another language given him by the Holy Spirit. He prayed until the burden for his son lifted.

Unknown to him, Geoff had developed a high fever and was delirious. He was rushed back into the intensive care unit, his hands tied down, and lifesaving equipment applied. His condition was listed as critical.

After hours of constant vigil, a nurse suddenly heard him say, “Why are my hands tied? Could you please loosen them?”

Alarmed, the nurse ran for the doctor, but Geoff was all right. A few days later his wife brought him home.

He told the family, “You know, a strange thing happened. I seemed to be out of my mind and in great pain. Then, I heard Dad’s voice praying in tongues. As I listened, everything began to clear up. I realized I was still in bed, but my hands were tied, so I asked the nurse to untie my hands. When she and the doctor saw me, they were amazed that I had made such a speedy recovery! I experienced a miracle of healing from the Lord.”

What if the missionary had been too absorbed in other matters to heed the Holy Spirit’s prompting?

## ***Application***

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**1** Read Romans 8:26–27 and then draw a circle around each correct completion to the sentence: To pray effectively, we need the Holy Spirit’s help because

- a)** we are weak in ourselves.
  - b)** we do not always know how to pray as we ought.
  - c)** the Spirit moves in accordance with God’s will.
  - d)** the Spirit pleads in behalf of God’s people.
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**Objective 2.** *Identify various kinds of prayer.*

The apostle Paul, in his teaching on gifts of the Spirit, wrote about two kinds of prayer. He said that sometimes he would pray with his spirit. At other times he would pray with his mind (1 Corinthians 14:15).

After you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you can pray in your “prayer language.” Praying in the Spirit means that you surrender your own spirit to Him and He speaks through you in another language. It is the gift of tongues in one of its operations—speaking to God (1 Corinthians 14:2). In this way, the Holy Spirit can bypass the mind and use the yielded tongue

to pray according to God's will. In that way, the mind cannot hinder God's will with thoughts of doubt.

We can also pray with our understanding, and God can give us understanding as we pray. When we know of a need or realize an emergency we can call on God and know that He hears us. Often, when we are leading others in prayer, the Holy Spirit will anoint us so that we pray with confidence and authority that is not of ourselves.

## Prayer and Fasting

Sometimes it may be necessary to fast, to abstain either completely or in part, from food. Fasting in itself doesn't make one more holy, but it helps bring the body into subjection and remind one that the kingdom of God is more important than the needs of the body. It helps a person get closer to the Lord and increases faith in His Word. God has chosen to honor this method of prayer in a way we do not fully understand, but if done in the right attitude, fasting and praying bring results.

"Why couldn't we drive the demon out?" the frustrated disciples asked Jesus one day in private. They had tried without success to bring deliverance to a boy who suffered terrible seizures. When they could do nothing, the boy's father had turned to Jesus, who immediately commanded the demon to leave, and the child was healed.

In answer to their question, Jesus told them it was because they had so little faith. He added that only by prayer and fasting could the demon be cast out (Matthew 17:20–21, King James Version).

## Intercede for Souls

There is a deeper kind of prayer you should learn about and experience—intercessory prayer. This is an anointed praying for others' salvation and deliverance. It is a ministry of the Holy Spirit through one who is fully yielded to Him. One may feel a great burden to pray at any time of day or night. One

may or may not know what it is for, but one stops what one is doing and cries out to God, even “through wordless groans” (Romans 8:26). It is comparable to a mother’s labor pains before her child is born. The believer continues to pray until he or she feels the burden lift. This special kind of intercession has resulted in some great miracles in the kingdom of God! You can ask the Lord to give you this kind of ministry. It is not easy; it carries a heavy responsibility. But it brings forth spiritual births.

To pray alone is good; to pray with others is also necessary. Join Spirit-filled friends in prayer for the salvation of souls. Collective prayer brings results. Great things have been accomplished through the Holy Spirit when a group of people have given themselves to earnest praying together. There is greater strength and victory in numbers: “Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword” (Leviticus 26:8). I look at it this way:

GOD’S PEOPLE	PROSPECTIVE CONVERTS
5 believers praying	100 converts
100 believers praying	10,000 converts
20 times more people praying—100 times greater the results!	

### Application

**2** For the descriptions (left column), write the number that represents the type of prayer described (right column).

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> In tongues                            | 1) Intercessory       |
| ... <b>b</b> Together with others                  | 2) Collective         |
| ... <b>c</b> Abstaining from food                  | 3) In the Spirit      |
| ... <b>d</b> With knowledge of what is needed      | 4) With fasting       |
| ... <b>e</b> Birth pangs for spiritual deliverance | 5) With understanding |

**3** What kind of prayer was Paul referring to in Galatians 4:19?

.....

**4** When Nehemiah prayed for his nation, what did he also do? (See Nehemiah 1:4–6.)

.....

**5** Have you been earnestly praying for those whom you hope to win to Christ? If not, start praying for them now.

.....



## THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU IN SOUL-WINNING

**Objective 3.** *State how the Holy Spirit leads in soul-winning.*

As you reach up to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit will help you reach out to win souls.

### He Gives Us an Example

Following is how I picture the story told in Acts 8:26–39.

A caravan was wending its way southward to Gaza in desert country. A richly clothed man sat in his chariot, carefully reading a scroll.

Suddenly, a man named Philip appeared. He came running alongside the chariot and listened to what the traveler was reading. Somewhat out of breath, Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?” replied the traveler. This man was chief treasurer to the Queen of Ethiopia. Though we don’t know his name, we do know that he was hungry for spiritual reality. He had come a long way from his home country to worship God in Jerusalem. He had somehow heard of its great temple dedicated to the worship of the one true God. He had purchased an Old Testament scroll,

one that recorded the writings of Isaiah the prophet over 700 years before. Now he was reading the Scripture aloud.

Philip, one of the seven helpers in the church at Jerusalem, had been in one of the principal cities of Samaria. There, he had preached Jesus Christ the Messiah to the people. Many Samaritans were converted, and others were healed by the power of God. Evil spirits were cast out. There was great rejoicing in the city (Acts 8:5–8).

The Holy Spirit, however, knew the need of one lone man. An angel sent by the Lord visited Philip and said, “Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza.” It was a direction to the *right place*. Philip obeyed. Coming into the area, he saw a chariot in the distance—he was there at the *right time*.

Then, the Holy Spirit said to him, “Go over to that chariot and stay close to it!”

When the Ethiopian invited Philip to climb up and sit in the chariot with him, Philip knew that all this was arranged by the Lord. And when the official questioned further, “Tell me, of whom is the prophet saying this? Of himself or of someone else?”, Philip knew beyond all doubt that the Holy Spirit was directing everything. It was easy then for him to introduce Jesus, the suffering Savior and Messiah, to the traveler.

Philip explained the whole story, beginning with the words of Isaiah. He did what every soul-winner should do—he told the good news about Jesus. The man listened intently. His heart was ready, and he received the message immediately.

They journeyed until they came to a pond. “Here is water,” the official said. “What is to keep me from being baptized?”

“You may be baptized if you believe with all your heart,” Philip replied.

“I do,” said the official eagerly. “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”



The caravan stopped. Philip the Jew and the dark-skinned Ethiopian went down into the water. It was baptism by immersion—an outward sign of an inner change. The Bible tells us then that the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away and the official did not see him again, but he “went on his way rejoicing.”

Not only was Philip in the right place at the right time, but the Holy Spirit gave him the *right words*. He led the official from what he knew (prophecies of Isaiah) to what he did not know.

## Application

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6 What was it that the official did not know?

.....  
 .....



## He Provides Opportunities

After a busy day’s work, a man in Australia was walking home. The Holy Spirit whispered to him to stop at a certain house. Here he was, tired and hungry. Why should he stop now?

But he obeyed the Spirit’s leading and knocked at the door. There was no immediate answer. He knocked again. Finally, a man opened it. The lay Christian asked, “May I help you in some way? The Holy Spirit whispered to me to come to your house.”

“Ah,” said the man with a sigh of relief, “you have come just in time! We’re at our wit’s end.” In his hand he held a barber’s razor. He then explained how depressed and frustrated with life he and his wife were. In terrible desperation, he was about to take his wife’s life and then his own.

The lay Christian, seizing these tremendous moments of opportunity, quietly explained the way of salvation. He

prayed with the elderly couple and won them to the Lord. Instead of gruesome suicide, they found living hope through faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit knew their need and provided opportunity for a yielded servant of the Lord to lead them to the Savior.

**Application**

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**7** List three “right” things you can depend upon when being led by the Holy Spirit.

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**8** Besides giving us examples of witnessing, the Lord will give us both ..... and ..... to witness for Him.

**9** The Holy Spirit does not lead in the same way every time, nor does He give us the same words every time. In your notebook, write what you feel to be the reason for this.

**10**  *Fingertip Text*

<i>Title: Power to Be Witnesses</i>	<i>Reference: Acts 1:8</i>
<b><i>Text: You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.</i></b>	



**THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS YOU TO EVANGELIZE**

**Objective 4.** *Name ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers and aids believers in evangelizing.*

You must be filled with the Holy Spirit before you can fully experience His power in your life and work. Jesus meant this when He said that His followers were to be witnesses. He encouraged them by saying, “I am going to send you what my Father has promised” (Luke 24:49).

You will realize more and more that the dynamic power for effective evangelizing is in the person of the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of power, and the purpose of His power is to make us witnesses of the living Christ. The last words of our Lord before He ascended into heaven were that “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). He told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ followers obeyed Him. They waited in prayer and worship, then the Holy Spirit came. Power from above descended upon them. They were filled to overflowing and gladly spoke of God’s wonders as the Holy Spirit gave them languages to speak (Acts 2).

## He Gives Boldness and Love

Every time you read in the book of Acts of a group of individuals being filled with the Holy Spirit, you also read about an outreach. Believers evangelized, and people were converted.

The Holy Spirit gives boldness. A lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the temple was marvelously healed. When Peter and John preached to the crowd that gathered, temple guards arrested them. Later, when Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, gave his defense before the Jewish leaders, they were amazed to see how bold the apostles were (Acts 4:13). You, too, can receive boldness from the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit also imparts love. Through Him, the Spirit of love, comes the fruit of love (Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22). Through Him, God pours His love into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

It is not in the human heart to care about strangers in the same way that we care about our own family members. Remember the story of the mother who thought her little girls were lost? (See Lesson 1.) She realized she cared more about her children’s safety than she did about lost souls, so she asked

God to fill her heart with more love for the souls for whom Christ died. She remembered this when praying for two young people who were kneeling at the altar at church. As she knelt and laid her hands on them, she silently asked the Lord to help her let her whole heart go out to them just as it would to her own daughters. The young people began to weep. They testified later that they felt something warm going through them that drew them close to the Lord. It was more than a mother's love—it was God's love.

## He Convicts of Sin

In the great work of sharing the good news, the Holy Spirit goes before us. He moves upon the heart of the prospective convert, making the person uneasy and uncomfortable until he or she repents of his or her wrongdoing and yields to the Lord.

A policeman in Jamaica gave this testimony: "I arrest people who disobey the laws of the land. One day the Holy Spirit came to me, tapped me on the shoulder, and said, 'Sir, you are under arrest!'

"'What for?' I asked. 'What have I done?'

"He said, 'You have failed to keep God's holy laws. You have been rebellious. Your heart is not right with the Lord!' And with that He arrested me. I was frightened. Then I realized that Jesus had paid the penalty for my sins and I could be free! Praise God! Now I am a Christian policeman serving my Lord."

The Holy Spirit does convict of sin. He shows nonbelievers what is wrong in their lives. He makes them uneasy about rejecting Jesus, who is the only means of salvation (John 16:8–9).

## He Gives Gifts to Aid in Evangelizing

The Holy Spirit gives gifts, beautiful gifts, for the work of evangelizing the unconverted and for edifying the local congregation.

The gifts of the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, the discerning of spirits, and faith are greatly needed in

sharing the good news with others. You can read about these in 1 Corinthians 12:1–11.

The *word of knowledge* is a little bit of divine knowledge, information about someone or something that the Spirit gives you. You wouldn't know it otherwise. In the same way, *the word of wisdom* is divine wisdom to say or do the right thing in the right way. It is far more than natural wisdom because it is given by the Holy Spirit.

The gift of *discerning of spirits* is special ability given by the Spirit to help us recognize spirits of the unseen world—the Spirit of God, the spirit of man, and even evil spirits—when this is needful for your protection or for someone's deliverance. The *gift of faith* is supernatural faith in God to meet a certain need or situation.

The story of Saul and Ananias in Acts 9:1–18 illustrates how the Holy Spirit gives gifts to aid in evangelizing. Saul (later known as Paul) was a terrible persecutor of the church until the Lord “arrested” him. While Paul was experiencing a marvelous conversion, Ananias, a believer, was praying alone.

The Lord revealed facts about Saul to Ananias in a vision. Through the word of knowledge, Ananias knew:

1. Where Saul was staying and the name of the street (v. 11).
2. That he was praying (v. 11).
3. That he too had seen a vision of Ananias himself (v. 12).
4. That Saul was chosen of God to serve Him and suffer for Him (vv. 15–16).

Ananias wouldn't have known these details if the Lord had not revealed them to him. The Lord not only gave Ananias knowledge but instruction as well. In obedience, Ananias went to see Saul, prayed for him, and encouraged him. Saul recovered from his blindness and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul said later that he was the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). But the power of the Holy Spirit transformed him into a great evangelist, church-planter, and teacher.

### ***Application***

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**11** In what ways did the Holy Spirit help Ananias assist Saul?

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.....

**12** What two words did Ananias use to let Saul know that he believed in his conversion and accepted him with love? (See Acts 9:17.)

.....

**13** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** The Holy Spirit gives us both love and boldness.
- b** We are also given power to convict people of their sins.
- c** The gift of discerning of spirits is given for our protection or to help someone.
- d** God's love is stronger than human love.



**self-test**

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TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space if the statement is true. Write **F** if it is false.

- .... **1** The gift of faith is more than mental assent; it is a supernatural gift.
- .... **2** The Holy Spirit convicts nonbelievers of sin.
- .... **3** We can pray with our understanding; we can also pray in the Spirit.
- .... **4** If we love someone as much as is humanly possible, we have fulfilled God's commandment to love others.

YES-NO. Write **Y** in the blank space for yes. Write **N** for no.

- .... **5** Did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit as a helper?
- .... **6** Do we always know how to pray as we ought?
- .... **7** If one feels the need to pray, is it important that one obeys the urge immediately?
- .... **8** Can the Holy Spirit pray through us as well as guide us in soul-winning?

MATCHING. Offset the hindrance or limitation (left column) with that which you may have through the power of the Holy Spirit (right column).

- |                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| .... <b>9</b> Fear                  | a) Knowledge    |
| .... <b>10</b> Ignorance            | b) Love         |
| .... <b>11</b> Hate or indifference | c) Boldness     |
| .... <b>12</b> Natural wisdom       | d) God's wisdom |

SHORT ANSWER. Write the answer to the question on the lines provided.

**13** According to Leviticus 26:8, five will be able to defeat a hundred and a hundred will be able to defeat .....

**14** When the Holy Spirit told Philip to go south, he found himself in the ..... place at the ..... time, and the Holy Spirit gave him the ..... words to speak.

**15** Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us we would be .....

FINGERTIP TEXT.

**16** From memory, write in your notebook or quote to someone else the *Fingertip Text* you learned. Include the title, reference, and text.



## answers to study questions

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- 1** You should have circled all of them because all are correct.
- 8** opportunities, power
- 2 a** 3) In the Spirit.  
**b** 2) Collective.  
**c** 4) With fasting.  
**d** 5) With the understanding.  
**e** 1) Intercessory.
- 9** Your own answer. One reason is that each situation is unique and no two needs are exactly alike.
- 3** Intercessory prayer.
- 10** Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, Acts 1:8.
- 4** He fasted.
- 11** He convicted Saul of sin, then He gave Ananias love and boldness and a word of knowledge and used him in the area of faith.
- 5** Your answer.
- 12** Brother Saul.
- 6** He did not know about Jesus, who came to fulfill the prophecies given in Isaiah.
- 13 a** True.  
**b** False. To convict of sin is the work of the Holy Spirit.  
**c** True.  
**d** True.
- 7** Right time, place, and words.

