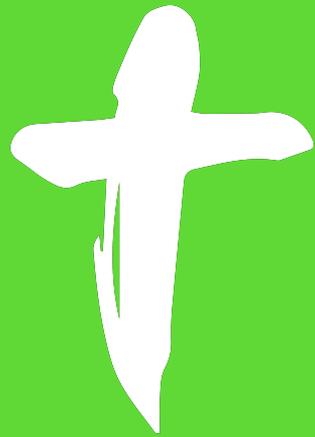


**THE
HOLY
SPIRIT**



CONTENTS

Lesson One	The Reality of the Holy Spirit
Lesson Two	Meeting the Holy Spirit
Lesson Three	Praying in the Spirit
Lesson Four	He Will Baptise You with Fire
Lesson Five	Speaking in Tongues
Lesson Six	The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Lessons Seven	Holy Spirit Power to Witness
Lesson Eight	The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson One

The Reality of the Holy Spirit

Let's together discover PERSONALTY and POWER of Holy Spirit

It is possible to believe in Jesus without knowing the

SCINTILLATING VIBRANCY OF THE SPIRITS PRESENCE

It is one thing to

- have Holy Spirit introduce us to Jesus
- convict of us sin
- quite another to open oneself to INDWELLING FULLNESS OF THE DIVINE GUEST

1 Corinthians 6:19

Paul says 'Do you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit'

What does he mean by that?

When Jesus went back to heaven he sent the Holy Spirit onto the earth.

He came not just to influence us but to take up His residence as a person in the body of all believers.

God our father possesses all things.

God wants to gift good things to us.

We receive from God his

- Salvation et. al. through faith
- Baptism
- Deliverance
- Fullness of the Holy Spirit
- Healing etc.

God forces nothing on us - it is a gift

The Holy Spirit - difficult to define.

God the father and Jesus Christ his son we can identify The Holy Spirit is a little more different. Why?

- 1) His work is not to disclose himself
BUT
 - 1) Reveal Jesus to us.
 - 2) Make the work of God complete in our lives.
- 2) The Bible speaks about him as a definite and indefinite article.

A PERSON 1) John 14: 26 "But the helper, the Holy Spirit...He will teach you all things"

AN ARTICLE 2) Matthew 3: 11 'He will baptise you with Holy Spirit and fire"

Sometimes he is expressed as a "he" other times an "it".

- 3) Both our experience and the scripture make it clear there is much more to him and his activity than we can ever adequately explain.

Why would he come as tongues of fire and sit on people's heads?

Why would he make it impossible for people to speak or speak certain words?

Zachariah - 9months
Philip - Holy Spirit one day

Two Witnesses

1) Bringing us internally to an awareness of God through the work of an inner conviction.

John 16: 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement.

John 3: 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the spirit.

If you are truly a believer it is by NECESSITY THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is therefore an INNER TESTIMONY of the Holy Spirit

1 John 5: 11 'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his son'

Romans 8:16 'The spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children'

1st job of Holy Spirit

- 1) Bring us to a place of faith
- 2) Show us the need for God
- 3) Reveal to us the love of God for us in Jesus.

2) Helping each one of us externally to live the Christian life by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit

2ND job of Holy Spirit Just as we could not come to God apart from Holy Spirit neither can we live a Christian life apart from his ongoing help.

It is clear there are many believers who.

- Believe in God
- Made a confession of faith
- Concerned for truth and upright living
- Concerned for constancy in the things of God.

Yet they have never known the personal infilling of the Holy Spirit

The anointing of Jesus

Ephesians 3:16-17 Out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith.

CHRIST is not Jesus' surname
CHRIST means 'THE ANOINTED ONE'

Jesus is the one with Gods power.

In his own life and ministry he brought the POWER of GODS RULE and KINGDOM into the lives of SICK, DEFEATED men and women.

And Jesus is the one who 'ANOINTS' those who believe in him.

John 7: 38streams of living water will flow from within him

Jesus has ascended to the father

How then are we to experience the reality of his power?

ONLY THROUGH THE INDWELLING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Signs of the Spirit

For all the mystery of the Holy Spirit there is a simplicity and exuberance.

The first experience of the infilling produces: -

Surprise, Joy, Relief, Sense of anticipation, Freshness, Knowledge of God in a different way.

As the years pass we become sophisticated and lose that first vital spark

Some, narrow the work of the Holy Spirit to speaking in tongues or other phenomenon.

These things certainly happen when somebody is touched by the Holy Spirit in this way.

BUT the issue is much WIDER and DEEPER

The Holy Spirit brings us into

- the depth of God
- the holiness of God
- the power of God

Six important elements to consider

1). A new sense of God

That same awareness that overtook Isaiah chapter 6: 1-8

Our focus is not on the gift or any particular emotion WE BECAME AWARE OF GOD.

2) The dynamic reality of Gods power

Philippians 4: 3 I can do everything through him who gives me strength

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God.

3) The immediacy of Gods Kingdom

Luke 17: 21 ...the kingdom of God is within you.

4) A fresh experience of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

When the spirit comes so do the gifts – shoes with tongues.

5) An upsurge in praise and worship

Hebrews 13: 15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.

6) A new unity of heart and spirit

Ephesians 5: 18be filled with the spirit. Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...submit to one another out of reverence to Christ

Let's first meet him PERSON TO PERSON

Ephesians 3: 14-15 For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

God is a person, we are persons – something very important we have in common

The Holy Spirit is a person – that means he can make himself real to us.

Have you noticed how some Christians have, what appears, to be a very personal and intimate relationship with God?

For others it is more remote even 'indirect'

The Holy Spirit does not make himself VISIBLE

BUT he is very real
he can make a great impression on our lives
he connects with our human spirit

Meeting the people we like

As people we have a capacity for OPENING or CLOSING our INNER BEINGS – SPIRITS to each other.

We do this every day

Meeting people
Watching T.V.
Responding to circumstances

We OPEN or CLOSE ourselves as feels appropriate

Eg 1. Walk down the street – meet somebody you do not take to – you do not let that person penetrate behind your mask

No personal encounter has been allowed to happen BECAUSE in advance you decide to keep yourself closed.

Eg 2. Walk down the street – meet someone you admire – one minute in their company you feel good

Same greeting etc. BUT you opened yourself up to that person

A personal encounter has taken place

Each party moves away with a piece of the other person.

Now consider this!

God is a person - made present by the Holy Spirit

He has the same capacity to open himself or close

The Holy Spirit wants to open himself to us – revealing more of God to our spirits

And he wants us to be open to him in response

What is it that you open up to other people?

Seemingly small things - a fleeting glance
- a warm word

- a smile in our direction
- a look back
- a hand on the arm

All these open up our body language to a deeper encounter.

So it is with God

- he whispers a quiet word
- he speaks a special word
- he proves his love to us
 - In circumstances
 - In provision
 - In protection

He is personal and speaks to us personally.

Now let's meet with him PERSON to POWER

Bible often uses imagery of LIVING WATER describing the Holy Spirit

John 7: 38 Whoever believes in me....streams of living water will flow from within him.

What did he mean?

- Every believer should know the power and reality of the Holy Spirit in them and flowing out of them.
- Without this Holy Spirit we would find it impossible to live in the power of God or know his strength in our daily lives.
- In fact this great gift from God is absolutely necessary for the full enjoyment and fulfilment of human existence

E.g. Our lives are like drinking glasses

A glass is made for the specific use of holding drinking water.

THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES IS TO HOLD GOD

GOD MADE US TO BE THE CHANNEL AND EXPRESSION OF HIS LIFE HERE ON EARTH

Because of ORIGINAL SIN in the Garden of Eden

We leak
 We can no longer hold the power
 We are spoilt vessels.

God can't refill us with the living power of the Holy Spirit until three things happen to us.

3 stages of restoration

1) The glass is dirty on the inside

Jesus has cleansed our dirty glasses through the cross.

2) The glass is often cracked

We would throw such glasses away

Jesus teaches us and makes us whole

He sends his word, his love, his deliverance, his healing power.

3) The glass is often upside-down

You can't fill a glass that's upside-down

We need to be right side up and willing to be filled

Just as we invite other people into our lives at a deeper level, so we also need to invite the Holy Spirit into our lives at the same level.

The unlimited power of the Holy Spirit

Four important reasons why we need the power of the Holy Spirit

1) Power to become

Isaiah 53: 6 We all like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.

BUT GOD HAS MADE A WAY BACK FOR US.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God. AV

Your new birth was not just a choice of a suitable religion BUT the power of God was released into your spirit.

2) Power to be

Great to be born again by Gods power

Now we need more of that power to live the life

God knows that and has opened to us a channel of divine power.

GOD HIMSELF WANTS TO DWELL IN OUR HEARTS

Corinth was a STRUGGLING church - struggling with sin.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God.

3) Power to overcome

Every Christian lives in a war zone

Choosing to follow Jesus is changing sides

Satan is dedicated to stopping us following Jesus

BUT God makes his power available to us

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

4) Power to Share

Now this is the goal of our salvation

Acts 1: 8 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.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit to leave: -

- Our comfort zones
- Our fear zones
- Our I don't care zones

To witness the gospel is to show by actions

To testify the gospel is to speak in words.

This is what Jesus himself promised would happen

John 14: 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to my father.

MERE MORTALS & GOD ALMIGHTY

When the Holy Spirit joins us: -

- We speak in tongues
- He speaks between the crack of our thoughts
- We receive pictures in our minds
- We start speaking out scriptures
- We pray prayers of faith
- We start binding and loosing
- We speak words of knowledge
- We speak words of wisdom
- We start to groan
- We cry
- We are impressed to fast
- We interpret tongues
- We discern the demons at work
- We see visions
- We dream dreams

Some simple steps to help you pray in the Holy Spirit

- 1) When you pray don't limit yourself to only praying with your understanding. Use tongues, groans, tears, fasting, "Your spirit acted upon by the Holy Spirit will pray the will of God"
- 2) Quiet your mind and use some of your time in prayer listening to the Holy Spirit.
Even with a list ask God how you should pray
- 3) Stop being a know it all - it limits the Holy Spirit to showing you new things. Chapter and verse is not always the answer.
- 4) When you believe God has spoken move off in faith and speak it out.
- 5) Ask God questions in prayer - Where would you have me go?
- What would you have me do?
- What should I say?
- To whom should I say it?

God of scripture was always sending his people on missions.

- 6) Don't seek to answer your questions on a rational level.

Wait to hear God speak

- 7) Get out of your own way - Don't ask what should I do

Pray in secret he will reward you openly

Watch yourself living out the answer

- 8) Listen to the whispers that come to you.

Books fall off shelves, Billboard, Film, TV

9) Take action on these intuitive thoughts.

Call a friend . Send money . Go a different way

10) Learn the value of procrastination

Don't act out of: fear, impulse, anger or any other negative emotion - wait for God.

11) Learn to go with the flow - trust God to work things out once you have prayed.

12) Don't analyse - act on inner trust

13) Think big thoughts - "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles".
Seeing things from above and not beneath.

14) Be flexible - your rigidity will hinder God opening doors for you.

15) Practice - Practice - Practice

Live by the Holy Spirit every day

God wants to take us to new and exciting places

LEARN TO PRAY AND WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Lesson Four

He Will Baptise You with Fire

The Holy Spirit has come to reveal God to us.

To see God is impossible - what we see is GLORY

Time and again this is illustrated for us in the Bible.

Exodus 24: 15-17 When Moses went up on the mountain the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Leviticus 9: 23-24 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell face down.

Just two verses in the New Testament

Luke 3: 16 John answered them all, "I will baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

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

To comprehend Gods nature we have to see his glory

To see his glory which is Gods nature we have to see his glory

To see his glory which is Gods plan for all of us is to be touched by the CONSUMING FIRE OF GOD.

Paul says in

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

WE CANNOT SHARE IN THE HOLINESS OF GOD UNLESS WE SEE THE GLORY OF GOD
An encounter with God

The most powerful testimony to the holiness of God and the impact it can, make on a persons experience and life is Isaiah 6: 1-8 read.

Isaiah was touched by God's fire

He barely escaped death

This is what the church needs today

Isaiah trying to express his experience

Words are inadequate

God's heart's desire is that we all enter into a depth of experience and understanding of himself.

This experience of the holiness and power of God is open to all.

It is not for the exclusive or secret experience of a few.

We all need to be taken into the depths of Gods heart

We need to see the purity of his heart

We need to know the love of his heart

We need to be aware of the jealousy of his heart

We need to feel his heart beat - so ours beats with his

We need to feel the size of his heart - for hurting humanity.

We need to know his consuming fire

For Isaiah this was not a dream - but a profound inward experience.

The reality of God in all his awesome power left the prophet almost dead.

It burnt the dross out of him

This is what we need in our discipleship

Much of what we call an experience with God leaves us SELF - CENTRED.

We seem to need hours of ministry that does little

Those who touch the alter of God are consumed by his fire - the dross is burnt off in an instant

The Holy Spirit comes to lead us into the heart of God

- it is in the heart of God

- we are radically changed

- the old life no longer carried the appeal and power it had.

What is a baptism of fire?

It is a FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER with the REALITY, HOLINESS AND POWER of God.

God starts the process by causing divine dissatisfaction in our hearts.

It is not in us to turn to God.

Romans 3: 11

There is no-one righteous, not even one there is no one who understands
NO-ONE WHO SEEKS GOD.

The stirring within us is done by the Holy Spirit

We may not recognise it as God - He has many ways to rouse us from contentment.

It is impossible to say how God will move in your life.

Lesson Five

Speaking in Tongues

- Acts 2: 1-39 120 in upper room, Holy Spirit comes on them and they begin to speak in tongues. Not their own language and they did not understand.
- Acts 10: 1-48 In the home of Cornelius with relatives and friends. Peter testified about Jesus and the forgiveness of sins through his name. Holy Spirit comes on them and they speak in tongues.
- Acts 19: 1-7 Paul 3rd missionary journey in Ephesus. Group of 12 men. Accepted Paul's message that Jesus was the saviour. Paul placed his hands - they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

What is speaking in tongues?

Natural mind does not make sense at all.

Stop a complete stranger say I can speak in a language I have never learnt - they would look at you strange!

Continue by telling them you do not understand one word you say - they would beat a hasty retreat and think you mad.

"I see no point in tongues, so it is not for me" Such a statement I can understand from a non-Christian.

IF IT WAS POINTLESS THE SCRIPTURES WOULD HAVE IGNORED IT
But Christians are to be led by Gods word.

Paul says

1 Corinthians 14: 5 "I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues"

And in

1 Corinthians 14:39 "and do not forbid speaking in tongues"

Some Christians have dismissed the gift of tongues because they have not understood its VALUE and SIGNIFICANCE

They deprive themselves and those they influence

The value of tongues to the individual believer

1) Spiritual Edification

Spirit, soul and Body

Physcial body needs food and exercise

Soul life - our mind and emotion - ideas, reading, conversation meeting friends, fellowship.

What does the spirit feed on?

"that which can have direct fellowship and communion with the Lord"

SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS AN ACTIVITY OF OUR SPIRIT

Paul says

1 Corinthians 14:14 "For if I pray in a tongue my spirit prays..."

1 Corinthians 14:2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God...he utters mysteries with his spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies('promotes spiritual growth') himself.

As a Christian we do not want to be led by emotions (soulish person)

As a Christian we do not want to be led by physical appetite (carnal Christian)

We want to be SPIRIT LED Christians on a daily basis

2) Assurance

Most Christians at one time or another are attacked in their minds regarding validity of their salvation.

Speaking in tongues - powerful defence against the ACCUSER.

John 14: 16-17 "I will ask the father, and he will give you another counsellor to be with you forever, - the spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

To speak in tongues is evidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit
The world-those outside of Christ-are not able to receive him.

Ephesians 1:13-14 "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance..."

When you come under attack say listen Satan this is the evidence that the Holy Spirit lives in me and I have an inheritance coming.

3) Spiritual Refreshing

Times of dryness. Effort to pray - Read the Word - Following seems hard

2 Corinthians 1: 8 "We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed in our hearts we felt the sentence of death."

In such times we need SUPERNATURAL REFRESHING.

To the woman at the well Jesus spoke of Living Water.

John 7: 39 "By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive"

Speaking in tongues - worshipping - praising the Lord - Release Streams

4) Health

The Holy Spirit is able to strengthen and restore the physical.

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

Reveals the hope of resurrection from the dead for the Christian

BUT also the promise of life and healing now

Speaking in tongues is a way of letting the Holy Spirit do his work of healing and restoration.

5) Understanding

He is able to quicken the mind bringing insight and revelation

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of a self-discipline.

Keeping filled with the Spirit gives the opportunity the comforter needs to forward his work in us.

Ephesians 5: 18 We are commanded “to be filled with the Spirit”

How? Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

Spiritual songs include “singing in the Spirit in other tongues”

6) Control the tongue

James encourages us to control the tongue

Speak words of encouragement, blessing, praise

Not: destructive, critical or vicious words

Not: cursing or blasphemy.

Tongues need to be trained - we need to bring the tongue under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Make it a daily practise to use your gift of tongues for worship and prayer.

Just as you find it easy to hum a tune or sing a song so you will find it easy to worship, sing and pray in tongues.

David claimed God trained his hands for war in the same way the Holy Spirit masters our tongue for the Kings Service.

7) Stimulates Faith

At times we face great challenges - We feel weak, inadequate

- We need confidence

- We are overcome with tiredness

Paul encourages us in

Ephesians 6:18 "Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers"

Why? So we can stand our ground.

8) Keeping calm in hostile environments

We find ourselves where lifestyle, conversation and attitudes living under a pressure.
We can be a sweet fragrance to those around us.

Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16: 25 "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God..."

Paul told us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions!

I think he was praying in tongues on this occasion.

9) Giving thanks to God

When the goodness of God overwhelms us - our words are not enough!

1 Corinthians 14: 16 Speaks of praising God with our spirit

Acts 2: 11 "We hear them declaring the wonders of God"

John 4: 23-24 The father seeks those who will worship him in spirit and truth.

Lesson Six

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

Abraham	=	God
Isaac	=	Jesus
Rebekah	=	Church
Eliezer	=	Holy Spirit
Jewellery	=	Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Today in a similar way God has sent his Holy Spirit with abundant provision for the bride of his son Jesus the Church.

Included in it are the 9 beautiful spiritual gifts

By accepting these gifts the church is marked out as the one who is committed to become the bride of Christ.

Nine Supernatural Gifts 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

Kinds of tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Prophecy

Vocal gifts (sound)

Word of wisdom

Word of knowledge

Discerning of spirits

Revelation gifts (sense)

Working of Miracles

Gifts of Healing

Faith

Action Gifts (sight)

Some facts about these gifts

1) Holy Spirit is invisible - through these gifts he manifests himself.

Charismatic gifts - grace manifestations

2) Through them Christians minister to each other.

Jesus and the woman at the well - knowledge

Jesus paid his taxes - knowledge

Jesus escaped death - wisdom

3) They are tools not toys

You can not hang a door without tools

You can not help a brother or sister without gifts of the Holy Spirit.

4) They are not the product of natural ability

1) Praying

2) Knowing your Bible

3) Fasting

4) Giving money or time

5) Christian Counselling

All these are good but not the right tools for the job

Let me explain - Give you an example

You have a problem of always feeling lonely and an outsider and nobody values you.

'You feel rejected'

- A. You go to a minister or Christian friend who knows nothing of these gifts. He or she has not tools in their bag

You explain what they feel - They read some scripture that explains they are loved
They pray that God will help them
They counsel them to think differently
They tell them to go away and fast it might help

The truth is they have done this before and it did not help one bit.

Paul says "I did not come with words but power"

- B. You go to a minister or Christian friend who knows how the gifts of the Holy Spirit operate.

4 or 5 go into a room.

The person starts to explain their story, leaving out abuse.

The Holy Spirit gives one a Word of Knowledge about them. The Holy Spirit gives you a Word of Wisdom how to apply this knowledge. You keep open to the Holy Spirit and Discern Evil Spirits of abuse you start to pray deliverance through Working of Miracles. (Ask if baptised in Holy Spirit - receives - start to praise in tongues.) Time of worship - one of the group gives a message in tongues saying "God is present to heal" Another "I have a pain in my back". Another Prophesies "God wants to do more healing here". As you lay hands on another the gift of Healing flows.

Have these gifts been withdrawn?

Some teach these gifts were withdrawn at the end of apostolic age and are not available today.

Paul refutes this

1 Corinthians 1: 16

"You don not lack any spiritual gifts as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed".

We are expected to keep using these gifts until he returns.

Some more facts about these gifts

- 5) All given by Gods grace not earned
- 6) We receive them by faith

- 7) We can never be 'good enough' to exercise them we have been made holy by the blood of Christ.
- 8) Individually we decide if we want these in our Church.
- 9) We need to cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit allowing him to use us.
- 10) When we pass from this world there will be no further use for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 11) The exercising of spiritual gifts gives no indication of personal character.

A weak and unstable person receives £1,000,000 it could make him more weak and unstable.

- 12) God does not take the gifts back from those who misuse them

Romans 11: 29God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

- 13) When you receive the Holy Spirit he gives you a tool box with a number of fantastic tools inside

You are free to use, misuse or not use at all.

- 14) Christ honouring Christians are not known by their use of tools but by the fruit in their lives.

So while the fruit is growing-for that take time
Start using the gifts-for that is immediate

To get your tool box you are going to have to receive the Holy Spirit - when you do, you will be able to speak in tongues then like Jesus and Paul you will have the power tools to make a difference in people's lives.

Lesson Seven

Holy Spirit - power to witness

We the local Church have a responsibility to evangelise the world.

Two clear commands

We ignore at our peril as a church.

- 1) 'great command' "Love each other as I have loved you"
- 2) 'great commission' "Go into all the world and make disciples"

The Primary Purpose of the Holy Spirit sent

Acts 1: 8 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.

In the western church we have seen 2 to 3 generations of Christians give considerable emphasis to the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

We have prayed and sought a deeper experience and enjoyed

....the charismatic renewal	1960's
....the Toronto blessing	1994
....Pensacola	Late 1990's
....many times of refreshing	

Acts 3:19 Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Failing to fulfil the verse.

The power came but we did not go. We failed to be witnesses

We had faith to receive the blessing - but not enough faith to go.

Teaching on the Holy Spirit:

Is not simplyto encourage you to speak in tongues. (that's good)
....or prophesy in meetings. (that's good)
....or equip you with a tool box. (that's essential)

But to equip you to go!

Go where

- your neighbour
- your colleagues at work
- your relatives and friends
- your local association, clubs, organisation
- your communities, politics,
- your nation
- into all the world.

Church never existed for the few (be it 1000's) who darkened its doors BUT FOR ALL THOSE OUTSIDE.

Matthew 28: 18-20 The Message

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

We are to be a "going church" continually going out to take the LOVE and LIGHT of Jesus to others.

Will You Be Lonely in Heaven?

Oswald J Smith - People's Church in Toronto

Parable about John Chinaman, a name representing those in foreign lands who have come to Christ through the work of Christian Missions.

John Chinaman asked, what he would do when he got to heaven: -

- 1) I will walk the streets of gold until I find the Saviour - fall down and worship him for saving me.
- 2) I will walk the streets of heaven until I find the missionary who brought me the gospel grasp his hand and thank him for his part in my salvation.
- 3) I will search the streets of heaven find men and women who prayed and gave money to make it possible for the missionaries to come - grasp their hands and thank them for their part in my salvation.

Will there be any John Chinaman's looking for you in heaven?

How can we get more involved?

1. Develop a mission mindset - Home and Abroad.
2. Give time to voluntary work outside of the church.
3. Grow into a praying church.
4. Go on short term mission trips.
5. Support people who want to go on mission trips.
6. Get involved personally in mission projects.
7. God will bring full time missionaries for us to support.

Lesson Eight

The Fruit of the Spirit

There is a difference in kind between gifts and fruit

Illustrated by comparing Christmas tree with an apple tree

Christmas tree
carries gifts

No time or effort is required of
the person receiving the gift

Each gift is attached to it
by a single act and
received from it by a

single act

Both time and hard work is
required to cultivate an apple tree
to produce fruit it must go through
a series of stages that take several years.

- The seed is planted in the ground
- The root goes down and a sprout rises upwards
- Over time the sprout grows into a tree
- In due time blossoms appear on the tree
- These fall off and fruit begins to develop
- Blossom or fruit must be plucked off in the first year to produce a strong tree
- Several years must pass before the apple are fit to eat
(Leviticus 19: 23-24 at least four years)
- At various stages of growth the tree is very fragile
- Strong winds may uproot it
- Frost may destroy its blossoms or fruit

Reproducing seed in our lives

Seed and fruit are inseparably linked to each other

Fruit must grow from a seed
BUT it takes fruit to produce further seeds

At the beginning of creation God ordained
Genesis 1: 12 '....trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kind'.

Important spiritual principle:

Christians who do not produce spiritual fruit in their own lives have no seed to sow into the lives of others.

Gifts are Plural Fruits are Singular

The New Testament speaks of spiritual gifts in the plural listed in 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10

The New Testament speaks of spiritual fruit in the singular listed in Galatians 5: 22-23:
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Love - the primary form of fruit - is listed first

The others that follow may be understood as different ways in which the fruit of love manifests itself

Joy is love rejoicing
Peace is love resting
Patience is love forbearing
Kindness is love serving
Goodness is love seeking the best for others
Faithfulness is love keeping its promise
Gentleness is love ministering to the hurts of others
Self control is love in control.

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus manifesting itself through those whom he indwells

When all the forms of fruit are fully developed, it is as if Jesus by the Holy Spirit is incarnated in his disciples.

Seven Stages of Spiritual Development

In 2 Peter 1: 5-7 the apostle lists seven successive stages in the development of a fully formed Christian character.

To go through this process successfully will demand diligence and hard work (2 Timothy 2: 6)

The process Peter describes could be compared to our apple tree.

The seed is God's word implanted in the heart
This produces faith - the indispensable starting point.

Followed by seven stages

Stage One: Goodness, virtue or moral excellence

Covering every possible area of life

E.g. A nurse who comes to Christ should become an excellent nurse - so als a businessmen, housewife, plumber, shop assistant etc.

Luke 16: 10 Whoever is dishonest with very little (the secular) will also be dishonest with much (the spiritual).

Stage Two: Knowledge

Scriptural knowledge is primarily practical, not merely theoretical, knowledge that works.

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 'All of scripture is God breathed.....so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'

Stage Three: Self-Control

Not simply a church member but under discipline.
Disciplining our emotion, attitude, appetites, and thoughts.
Governing our action and reactions.

Stage Four: Perseverance

The ability to overcome the various tests and trials that will inevitably expose any weak, undisciplined areas of our personality.
Some Christians never develop beyond a certain stage of spiritual development. They never fulfil the requirements of self-control and endurance.

The blossom is blown away or the young fruit is killed off by frost.

The Three Final Stages

In the three final stages of development, the beauty of a truly Christian character unfolds.

Stage Five: Godliness

A person whose life is centred in God
Wherever that person goes the atmosphere changes.

Stage Six: Brotherly Kindness

Describes the way that believers in Jesus Christ should relate to their fellow believers - their brothers and sisters.

It is not easy for Christians to love one another

Scarcely a century has passed that has not been marked by bitter strife and contention.

Salvation does not bring about change of character but simply marks the day it started.

When David needed smooth stones to kill Goliath he went to the brook to find what he needed.

The stones were made smooth by the water flowing over them (God's word) and continual jostling against one another (personal relationships).

When Jesus needs stones for his sling he goes to the valley - the place of humility.

Stage Seven: The Final Stage: Love.

The full ripe fruit of Christian Character

God's own love for the unthankful and the unholy. Love that causes us to "bless those who curse us, do good to those who hurt us and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us.

Matthew 5: 11-12, 44 Romans 12: 17-21

The love of Christ on the cross

The love that caused Stephen to pray for those stoning him

The love that changed Paul the Christian persecutor.

Like Paul we can say:

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do; forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3: 13-14.

