

“If we read and believe these accounts [in the Book of Acts], We would expect a great deal of the Holy Spirit. He would not be a mostly forgotten member of the Godhead whom we occasionally give a nod of recognition to, which is what He has become in most American churches. We would expect our new life with the Holy Spirit to look radically different from our old life without Him.”

Francis Chan in *Forgotten God*

LESSON FIVE WHY STUDY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My men servants and on My maid servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:28-29

(The following material was taken from Holy Spirit Studies and written by Don Van Hoozier at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia USA.)

“Because from the first to the last this is the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit.”

1. This is the age of the “poured out” Spirit. Peter stood (on the Day of Pentecost) and said, “But this is that which was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days,’ saith God, ‘I will pour out my Spirit...’” (Acts 2:16-17a).

2. All Jesus did as a man, He did by the Holy Spirit, not entering into His ministry until the Spirit of God came upon Him at His baptism

Matthew 3:16-17

And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Luke 4:1

And Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness....

Matthew 12:28

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

3. The latter part of this age will be marked by spiritual warfare against unseen forces of evil, never seen before. It has already begun, but this will increase greatly until He shakes everything that can be shaken (Hebrews 12:27). We can be effective *only* by the power and wisdom of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:13).

Hebrews 12:27-29

And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we

receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

Ephesians 6:12-13

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints....

4. We live in an emotionally and spiritually shallow day, with little depth perception of spiritual truth. There is an abysmal ignorance among believers of the deep things of God and of their birthright privileges, and the Holy Spirit is given “that we might know the things freely given to us by God (1st Corinthians 2:10-14). He is the Revealer and Teacher of truth.

1st Corinthians 2:7-14

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searched all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

5. Every Christian grace of character (the fruit of the Spirit-Galatians 5:22-23), every supernatural enablement for life and ministry (the gifts of the Spirit-Acts 1:8 and 1st Corinthians 12:1-11), and even the quickening of our mortal bodies is mediated to us through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is not law.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1st Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. You know that you were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as you were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the workings of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

6. Jesus promised that the Spirit of Truth would guide us into and teach us all truth, and that He would not speak of Himself, but that He would glorify the Son (John 16:13, John 14:26).

John 16:13

Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come.

John 14:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me....

7. Jesus called Him “another (of the same kind) Comforter.” He takes the place of Christ making Him always present with all of His own in every place (John 14:16, John 16:14-15).

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him, but you know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 16:14-15

He shall glorify Me; for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine and shall show it unto you.

8. Jesus said, “It is better for you (to your advantage) that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come” (John 16:7). Does that not say that the presence of the Holy Spirit will take the place of Jesus? The Greek word

for *Comforter* is *Parakleetos*. *Parakleetos*, or as we say in English, *parakleet*, is one called to one's side, especially to one's aid. The Parakleet is one who pleads another's case before a judge or a defense lawyer or advocate, an intercessor, a helper, or an assistant.

John 16:7-11

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and you see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

9. We cannot pray as we ought except by the Spirit (Romans 8:26-27, Zechariah 12:10).

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

10. God is a Spirit, the author of our human spirits; our spirits are eternal, and the only way we can know God is through the Spiritual birth, made possible only through the Holy Spirit.

1st Corinthians 2:12-16

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things to spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

11. We need to know Him personally, keeping daily communication with Him who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts (Romans 5:5).

Romans 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us.

12. The Holy Spirit is the One Who changes us into the image of Christ. We must cooperate with Him and soak in His Presence to become more Christ-like (2nd Corinthians 3:18).

2nd Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

13. He is a Person and the One, in and by Whom, the Father-God is presently manifesting Himself and His Son to us, His children. All true worship is “in the Spirit” and in worship we can know Him experientially (John 4:23-24).

John 4:23-24

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

14. Jesus is the Pattern Son, and He was filled with the Spirit without measure. If the presence of the Holy Spirit was so important in His life, we too should know about and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 10:25

It is enough for the disciple that he be as His master, and the servant as his Lord....

15. In this wicked age, we will not be able to stand under the pressures of the age and the acceleration of the activities of the Kingdom of Darkness without the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.