



**The Spirit of Life
Part 3
How to be Spirit Filled and Led by the Paraklete
Romans 8:12-17
John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:7-15**

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. www.Lockman.org**

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible (NRSVue), Copyright © 2021, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

**Scripture taken from the New King James Version (NKJV).
Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.**

**Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version (CEV).
©1995 by The American Bible Society, Thomas Nelson, Nashville TN.**

Scripture quotations marked (CSB) have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Taken from the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) by David H. Stern. Copyright © 1998. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Messianic Jewish Publishers, 6120 Day Long Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029. www.messianicjewish.net

Romans 8:12–17

“So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God.** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit



Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (NASB 2020)

How are we led by the Holy Spirit. Last time we discussed the difference between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. But the implication from Paul here is that there is a whole lot more to this being in the Spirit stuff. Now he is talking about being led by the Spirit on top of it all.

He knows that the Christian life is impossible to do without the power of the Holy Spirit in him. And yes, we know that when we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes into dwell and does so forever. But what is Paul hinting at. It all starts with the final briefing that Jesus gives to His closest followers, His disciples minus Judas Iscariot.

After Judas went out to finalize the treachery he was engaging in, Jesus gave some final instructions to His disciples. And He majored on the Holy Spirit. Let me set the stage, Jesus is walking with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and talking to them at the same time. He has just discussed the three key relationships that will change as a result of what He is about to do on the cross.

The first key relationship is the one with Him. Each disciple is expected to be fruitful and produce, but that is only possible based on the nature of the relationship they each have individually with Jesus.

The second key relationship is with each other. Disciples will now be expected to love one another, in fact that love will be a key component seen by the world to identify a disciple of Jesus.

Finally, the third relationship is with the world, that which is controlled by Satan. Hatred and persecution, which in the past was dealt with by Jesus, will now be dumped on those who follow Him. The disciples will be persecuted.

At this point, they must be wondering just how they are going to make do in this new environment. Jesus says He is going back to the Father, whatever that means, and all of these changes are about to take place because of some terrible thing that is about to happen to Him. And one of their number is a traitor to boot.

Jesus has some good news though. He is going to provide them with all the resources they will ever need. What is all of that?

This is exactly what Paul is telling us here in Romans that is a requirement for us to be in the Spirit and led by the Spirit.

As we go into this, there is a point that Gayle Erwin makes reference to in his book **Spirit Style**.

“The Source is the Father. The Revealer is Jesus. The Achiever is the Holy Spirit. Wherever God needed to interface with mankind, we find Jesus on the scene. In the Old Testament he was frequently called the Angel of the Lord, but if God appeared in physical form, you can rest assured that it was Jesus. However, if God needed to somehow empower and move mankind, this job seemed to fall to the Holy Spirit.” (Erwin 2012, 20)

John 14:16–17

“I will ask the Father, and **He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.**” (NASB 2020)



"I will ask the Father" - Jesus wants this to be a reality for each of us.

"He will give you" – Jesus and the Father are already on the same page on this. This has always been part of the plan and although they aren't thinking this way at the moment, this is all about the New Covenant and the book of Joel.

"another Helper (parakletos)" – Not a bird or football shoes, but a specific Greek word. Here in John 14 it infers that Jesus has been operating as a Paraclete for the disciples and modeling some of what they and we will experience in the future. We also know this because the Greek word used for another is allos meaning another of the same kind.

The first word is from the word allos and it does indeed mean another. But the Lord could have also used heteros which would mean another as well. The choice of words here is important and tells us who this helper is.

Allos means "other, another (of a similar kind)." (Porter, Reed and O'Donnell 2010, 440)

Heteros means "other, another (of a different kind)." (Porter, Reed and O'Donnell 2010, 445)

Jesus is telling His disciples that the Helper being promised is another like Him. He is saying that He too is the Paraclete. The Helper is a person, not an it. He is referring to Holy Spirit as the Paraclete, as a person as well as Himself.

"He may be with you forever" – As a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Paraclete who has been sent by Jesus and the Father comes to us and Jesus promises that He will be with us forever.

This is heavy. Old Testament saints were not promised that, we are. Tribulation saints are not promised that, we are. One million years from now in the Kingdom, the Holy Spirit will be just as real and part of us as He is today.

He "is the spirit of truth" – Implying that once He is in us, we will be able to clearly discern between true and false as it pertains to spiritual things. His truth, not ours or anyone else either.

The "world cannot receive" – The Paraclete is exclusively only for followers of Jesus Christ. Do not ask your unbelieving friends if they have met the Helper, they may think you are talking about a WWE wrestler. The world simply is clueless.

The "world does not see Him or know Him" – And this is the source of persecution, this lack of perception on the part of the world system which is still running off in rebellion.

"You know Him because" – "He remains with you," and we already know that is forever. He "will be in you," and that is also forever as well.

No wonder we seem to be foreigners to unbelievers. Alien almost. We are because in each believer resides the person of the Holy Spirit communing with us and guiding us in all we do, if we are indeed allowing Him to do so. Now we are getting to what Paul is saying.

Just as Galatians is a commentary on this part of Romans, Paul is relying on us knowing what John said. He will also do more commentary work in 1 Corinthians but that is yet to come.



John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.**” (NASB 2020)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit” – The one Jesus is sending to His disciples is the Holy Spirit, one who is just like Him, God, a member of the Triune Godhead. One who has eternally existed and loves us just as much as the Father does.

“The Father will send in My name” – This is more than a promise, as far as Jesus is concerned, it is a done deal. All the disciples will have Him come alongside and dwell inside. That includes us too.

“He will teach you all things” – Another incredibly heavy statement from the King of Kings for us. This one is simply breath taking. For His disciples, if there is anything they need to know about, the Paraclete will teach them. That means for us, as we serve Him, as we go about our service and there is something we need to know and learn, He will teach us, be on the lookout for that because He does use brothers and sisters as well as the Word, circumstances, situations, life to do this.

He does that for me every single day. I spend a good part of my time every week preparing to teach His word and asking Him to teach me His truth and the Holy Spirit does indeed do that for me.

If you are serving today and know what the Lord wants you to do and you feel like things simply aren't moving fast enough for you, don't sweat it. There are things He is teaching you that you must have in your tool kit for the future.

You may not know you need it; I may not know I need it. While we wait on the Lord our job is simple.

Just be faithful.

This means another amazing fact for us too. We live in a culture that believes in education and knowledge. Please do not misunderstand what I am about to say as being anti-intellectual. I am not. But here is the thing, to do service, to be a Pastor, to be a missionary, to do anything the Lord is leading you to do, it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to train you for that service. He can use school for that, but He doesn't always do so.

Remember this, Jesus intentionally chose staff members who smelled a lot like fish.

Peter was a professional fisherman who had maybe completed the basics of education in Galilee of the 1st Century AD. But after the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, he became a genius in the word.

Acts 4:13–14

“The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were **ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures**. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say.” (NLT)

Jesus personally promises us that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. He is the one who teaches us the scriptures, and He is the one who helps me put together what it is He wants His people to hear every week. It is not me.

Before we were saved, we were wrecks, at one level or another. If you came to Christ as a child, like my wife, praise the Lord that you had parents who loved you and showed you way to the Father. But not all of us had that privilege.



Paul, who had a double doctorate equivalent, before Jesus, was all about murdering Christians. But after Jesus, he realized who was the one turning the world upside down. Just the everyday believer yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit.

What happens when we realize who the Paraclete is and rely on His power and enabling? R. A. Torrey tells us what he experienced.

“...when I came to know the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete. When the thought got possession of me that when I stood up to preach, there was Another who stood by my side, that while the audience saw me God saw Him, and that the responsibility was all upon Him, and that He was abundantly able to meet it and care for it all, and that all I had to do was to stand back as far out of sight as possible and let Him do the work. I have no dread of preaching now; preaching is the greatest joy of my life, and sometimes when I stand up to speak and realize that He is there, that all the responsibility is upon Him, such a joy fills my heart that I can scarce restrain myself from shouting and leaping.

He is just as ready to help us in all our work; in our Sunday-school classes; in our personal work and in every other line of Christian effort. Many hesitate to speak to others about accepting Christ. They are afraid they will not say the right thing; they fear that they will do more harm than they will good. You certainly will if you do it, but if you will just believe in the Paraclete and trust Him to say it and to say it in His way, you will never do harm but always good. It may seem at the time that you have accomplished nothing, but perhaps years after you will find out you have accomplished much and even if you do not find it out in this world, you will find it out in eternity.” (Torrey 1910, 75-76)

We forget that God is in the remodeling business and it is through the Holy Spirit that He achieves much of His remodeling work. He takes each of us from where we were and turns us into examples of His grace at work in the world.

He “will remind you of all I said to you” - A promise to teach us all things followed by a promise to help us remember those things Jesus taught. What holds us back is us, it sure isn't Him.

But talking to others is scary. Yes, yes, it is. Standing up and speaking in public is equally frightening for almost everyone. But when the Lord calls, we really need to surrender to that call. And the really cool thing, He will indeed teach you and me all things and will indeed remind us and bring back to us what we have placed on the hard drive when we need it. Even if you don't remember memorizing it. Jesus knew that, so He talks about more the Paraclete will do for us.

Before pushing forward, what have we learned so far that the Holy Spirit does in and through us as we allow Him to lead us.

He comforts us, He is always there and never leaves. In fact, He will be with us forever, serious comfort. He is the Spirit of truth meaning when He leads and He teaches it is truth and always is truth. Of course, He dwells in us meaning when you and I go anywhere, He is going with us. We are now Holy space because He is in us, so there is that too. Choose locations wisely.

He is our teacher and teaches us like no one else ever has or will.

John 15:26–27

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, **He will testify about Me, and you are testifying as well, because you have been with Me from the beginning.**” (NASB 2020)



“He will testify about me” – With the Paraclete alongside and in us, as we read the word, He will point out to us all the places it is about Jesus.

New believers talk about not understanding the word before meeting Christ, but after, suddenly the Spirit is showing them things they never knew was in the word.

So, it is a typical morning, and you sit down to read the word, it isn't really clear to you so you ask the author, the Holy Spirit to do His thing and teach you all things as you read. And He is standing there right next to you, pointing to the word and whispering to you, it is all about Jesus. Again.

It is His job to reveal Jesus to us as we read and study, The operative words there are read and study. Jesus has told us about the primacy of our abiding in Him (John 15:4-5). That includes spending time with Him and hearing what He has to say to us through His word and talking to Him about it as we pray.

We have this promise of being taught all things, why not ask the author, the Holy Spirit what that section of scripture means. He will tell you. Be on the lookout for that as you go about the day after praying that. Write down the before and after so you begin documenting just how He does teach us.

But Ken, what about talking to others? It is scary. Yes, it is. But here we see another promise. Not only will the parakletos be testifying to us about Jesus but look at this.

John 15:26–27

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, **He will testify about Me, and you are testifying as well, because you have been with Me from the beginning.**” (NASB 2020)

He begins to testify through us to others as we do life and talk about about Jesus. The results will be just like we already have seen elsewhere in Acts; the incredulity of the religious leadership over unlearned men, knowing more than them.

Jesus says, “follow me.”

Did He say, “But go to Bible School first.” Nope. How about “Become an intern.” That He did indeed say, His disciples followed Him and learned from Him as they watched Him do life and listened to Him as well. We get hung up on the cultural standards and traditions of education being the gateway to doing anything and as believers, many tend to conflate that with wisdom. Just because someone went to Seminary does not mean they have any wisdom at all. It also does not mean they are educated in the Bible either. Jesus said follow me. And remember this.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”” (ESV)

Why the emphasis on this from Jesus and of course Paul, who has the resume, pointing to the Holy Spirit as the source and not to his education. Thinking again about who Jesus called to be on His crew, really? Fishermen? Folk who speak with a really identifiable accent making them hard to understand sometimes.



My wife is from West Texas, and there are times I have to ask here to please repeat because you can take the girl out of West Texas, but you can't take West Texas out of the girl. And my daughter went to kindergarten while in Mississippi, so let's not go there.

My favorite choices of Jesus, Matthew the tax collector, read dictatorial pencil pusher. As well as Simon the Zealot. Think far left revolutionary who thought life begins only with the overthrow of the existing government. But Jesus called them both.

Talk about a demonstration on what it is Jesus would do as well as the power of the Holy Spirit.

This brings us to the last time Jesus would reference the Holy Spirit before the cross.

John 16:7–15

“But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. **And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.** I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. **But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.** He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you.” (NASB 2020)

The Paraclete cannot come unless Jesus first takes care of our sin problem on the cross, rises from the dead and then ascends to the Father. He is being sent by the Father in Jesus name to be alongside His disciples just as Jesus was alongside them. And that is where He is today, inside/alongside us as we do life in Christ.

When you step out to serve, there are times you feel like you are hanging out there all alone. You are not alone. Jesus is standing right there next to you and inside of you, the person of the Holy Spirit simply wants you and me to allow Him to be the one doing the ministering through us. Paul calls that being led by the Spirit of God. The disciples were bummed because they thought it was all about them. It is, and that is why we all need the Helper in everything we do. We desperately need to be led by the Holy Spirit all of the time.

Here we have repeated for us several things we have already learned about the Paraclete. Then we learn a few more aspects of His ministry.

“He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgement” – It is His job not ours. We are not the ones tasked with coming up with a compelling hook to grab folks so they will come to Jesus as we talk to them. That is His responsibility.

We share what it is the Lord has laid on our hearts as we testify of Him. The Holy Spirit is the one guiding those words anyhow. Once we are done, then it is His responsibility to convict. It is not ours.

We are His kids doing and saying what He has led us to do and say. Jey Kanagaraj tells us this.

Remember, “the work of the Spirit is to convict the world’s conscience of its sin and to convince humanity to change their minds to receive either God’s righteousness or his judgment. Since the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit, the work of conviction is mediated through God’s new community. The Spirit of truth will convict the world that sin consists in its unbelief in Jesus, for unbelief is the root of all evil deeds.



Secondly, he will convince the world to receive God's gift of righteousness, which became possible because of Jesus' departure to the Father through the cross and Jesus' disciples will see him no more on earth. The Spirit offers God's righteousness (justification) for those who believe in Jesus. Thirdly, the Spirit will convict the world of condemnation, in both present and future experience, if they fail to believe and receive God's righteous status in Jesus. God's verdict will be either to make a sinner righteous or to keep the sinner under judgment. Just like God's righteousness, his condemnation also is assured because the ruler of this world is already judged on the cross. That is, the devil's power is defeated." (Kanagaraj 2013, 160)

This is probably the hardest thing to understand since we have this thing called the flesh that still clings to us from time to time.

We live in a culture that is results driven. In the business world, unless you produce results, then how do you know you have succeeded. In track, you work hard and do all the necessary work during the week and then the results of that are what you exhibit in performance at the track. The coach wanted results. Our coach, the Holy Spirit, wants faithfulness. Those are the results He is looking for. He is not looking for the number of likes our story produced on Facebook or You Tube. He is not interested in how many are listening to our podcast and He certainly isn't interested in how many came to church. All He wants is my faithfulness to what He has called me to do.

That is all He wants of each of us. He is the one doing the convicting of sin and if that message is rejected, then He is the one convicting of judgement. Why judgment, because the standard of righteousness has been missed unless they respond to the conviction of sin and simply believe that Jesus died on the cross for that sin and then rose from the dead to provide eternal freedom from it and eternal life with Him.

Torrey again, "There are many ways in which the Paraclete stands by us and helps us of which we will speak at length when we come to study His work. He stands by us when we pray (Rom. 8:26, 27); when we study the Word (John 14:26; 16:12-14); when we do personal work (Acts 8:29); when we preach or teach (1 Cor. 2:4); when we are tempted (Rom. 8:2); when we leave this world (Acts 7:54-60). Let us get this thought firmly fixed now and for all time that the Holy Spirit is One called to our side to take our part." (Torrey 1910, 76)

So, adding to that previous recap we did, the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, as we are led by Him per what Paul says we need to be doing, as He teaches us everything we need to know, He will always point back to Jesus. We are learning what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:15-17

"For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but **you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."** (NASB 2020)

As we become more and more aware of that in our life, we will indeed step out and tell others about Jesus, that is just us following the lead of the Holy Spirit. That is what He does. Once we share, we now know, it is not our job to beat a confession out of them.

Shortly after she was saved, my granddaughter determined her younger sister needed Jesus too, so she began hitting her with her Bible telling her she needed Jesus. We are not called to be thug evangelists, but the temptation is indeed there. The Holy Spirit, I have learned over the years, does a magnificent job of convicting folks of their sin even from some of the most unlikely scriptures.



The Holy Spirit does the convicting. Not only of sin but also of the need for righteousness and the coming judgment. Every so often, you do indeed come across someone the Holy Spirit has been working on and they tell you they want to be saved and saved right now.

I had that happen to me a couple of times when I was working at a Christian radio station. We played music, read the word every now and then, news at the top of the hour and that was about it. But the music, unlike today, was not industrialized pop. It was Jesus Music, emphasis on Jesus. Play the right songs in the right order and you do indeed provide the gospel, to include the scriptures.

I would get a phone call and answer it. What I heard I had never heard before. The person on the line was crying in tears, begging to be saved. Asking how to be saved, they wanted to know they were forgiven and wanted that right now. At that point, you pray with that person and lead them into relationship with the Lord. And the change, wow. The tears fade, and the voice changes.

That is what Jesus does, that is the job of the Holy Spirit, that is what we are praying that He do here in South Florida in Hobe Sound. We want to see the lost, saved. That is what the Great Commission is all about.

As we share, we have also learned that the Holy Spirit will not steer us off into a ditch, He guides us into all truth. He will not speak of Himself either. This is why I get nervous about some of the so called “miracle” ministries that come rolling into town every now and then with the appointed wolf leading the pack trying to mislead the flock.

The Holy Spirit will show us the truth of those folks. He shows us things to come, that means He is the one teaching us to want to know more about last things, i.e. eschatology. But that also means He will show us who it is really all about, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will always point us to Jesus. Not too a teacher, not to a healer, not to anyone who is trying to build their own kingdom, but to Jesus.

Conversations of this type also, I have discovered, lead to the question of “how do I know the Holy Spirit is in me.”

Jesus Christ said this to His disciples just prior to His ascension to the Father.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (ESV)

All of us as believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit in us, but yes, there is an empowering of the Spirit too.

John 14:16–17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.**” (ESV)

As believers, we all have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Bible uses three words in the Greek to discuss this.

With (para)

In (en)

Upon (epi)



Before we come to Christ, the only relationship we have with the Holy Spirit is with us. We already looked at it once but we did not focus on this, it is John 16:8-11 and it is there in verse 8 we discover that before we come to Jesus, it is the Holy Spirit busy convicting the world of their need for Jesus.

He has been involved with us from the **beginning of time** (Ephesians 1:3-6). He is the one who whispers in our ear that we are sinners in need of salvation (John 16:8) and He is the one who invites us to come to Jesus (Revelation 22:17). No thug evangelism, the Holy Spirit is a gentleman, and it is still our decision. He communicates the word to us, but then we must decide. If we say no, then He will leave us alone for now. There may be another time, but then again, there may not be. We do not know how long we have on this planet and then there are those who have rejected so many times, that the Holy Spirit is done talking.

What happens if we say yes to the Spirit and yes to Christ? Then the relationship changes from Him being with us showing us truth to being in us.

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes into us and we experience the new birth (John 3:5-8). As we learned in John 14:16, the Holy Spirit enters into us forever at the moment of salvation. That is what we have been learning in Romans 8.

The Holy Spirit places us into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13) and we have new life because of coming to Christ (Ephesians 2:1). We are now guaranteed that what He has started He will finish (Philippians 1:6).

Romans 8:16-17

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (NASB 2020)

And as we have also learned, He now opens up God's word to us and we can understand His word. I saw that happen in real time when I was privileged to pray with a woman who was Jewish to accept her, Messiah. I had her read, right after praying with me, from Isaiah 53 which she told me the rabbis did not want to her ever read, after just a few verses, she looked up at me and said, this is all about Jesus. The Holy Spirit at work in real time.

He never leaves us; we also learned that earlier as well as becoming sacred space. So, we have discussed the Spirit being with us, and then in us. But what is this upon us thing. It is that which Jesus was talking about prior to His ascension as well as He prepared His staff for the cross.

John 14:12

“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father.” (NASB 2020)

How is that even possible? Yep, it ties into being Spirit led and is possible because of John 14:16-18.

So again, every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, that is the guarantee (Philippians 1:6,) the Holy Spirit is now with us forever (John 14:16). And every believer has been, at the moment of salvation, placed into (baptized into)(1 Corinthians 12:13) the body of Christ.

In Acts 1:8, we see “Christ then strictly charged His disciples not to presume to undertake the work to which He had called them until they had received as the necessary and all-essential preparation for that work, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.” (Torrey, The Baptism with the Holy Spirit 1895, 26)



We are not to serve in the power of the flesh, but in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. That is what Jesus was telling the disciples.

So, how does this empowering, the Spirit being upon us, happen? Not every believer has been Baptized with the Holy Spirit. Some are when they are saved (Acts 10:44-48,) but not all. For many today, the empowering is not there, not at all, until they ask Him to do so. And no, when you do that, you will not lose control, i.e. self-control being a fruit of the Spirit. But Jesus was up front about it.

Luke 11:13

“So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?**” (NASB 2020)

The Spirit coming upon you is called being baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), filled with the Spirit in Acts 2:4, and then there is clothed with power from on high in Luke 24:49. It is the Holy Spirit falling upon a believer or group of believers in power (Acts 10:44).

This all points to one thing, a supernatural empowering of the Holy Spirit for service. This is how the disciples were empowered to turn the world upside down.

This is what Paul is talking about when he says to be Spirit led. This supernatural power changes everything. We are going to be witnesses and it will flow naturally from us. This does not turn everyone into Billy Graham, unless you have the gift of evangelism. But it does mean you now have power in your life to live, Jesus style.

As we go about life empowered by, filled with, baptized with, gushing with the Holy Spirit, we simply and organically reflect Christ in all we do. It will just flow naturally like gushing rivers of living water.

I wish I could say it is a one-time thing, but no, we are all leaky vessels. He fills us with living water, we leak it, some more than others.

Another reason why 1 John 1:9 is important. Each of us, as we do life, sin, and when we sin, we cause pain to the Holy Spirit, we grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30). And then there are those who just prefer to quench what it is He is doing (Galatians 3:3). We can't plug the leak this side of heaven, but we can avail ourselves of 1 John 1:9 and then move on.

So, if you have not asked the Lord to do this for you, and you want the Holy Spirit leading and guiding as we have been seeing Paul encouraging to do here in Romans 8, all you have to do is ask. We know that this is a prayer that is in His will that He will answer and that we can pray. It is always according to His will.

Ephesians 5:17–21

“**Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father; and subject yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ.” (NASB 2020)

Here in Ephesians, Paul is telling us the need to understand the will of God, not doing so is, foolishness. He follows that with a phrase in the imperative, this is a command, it is the will of the Lord.



It is “be filled with the Spirit.” Praying to be filled, or empowered, or baptized, whatever phrase you prefer, with the Spirit, is God’s will for His children and it is how He wants us to serve. In the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s pray right now and ask Him to fill us anew, or for the very first time.

Works Cited

- Erwin, Gayle D. 2012. *Spirit Style: Jesus invites us to the Holy Spirit*. Kindle Edition. Yashua.
- Kanagaraj, Jey J. 2013. *John, New Covenant Commentary Series*. Edited by Michael F. Bird and Craig Keener. Vol. 4. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.
- Porter, Stanley E., Jeffrey T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O'Donnell. 2010. *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Torrey, R. A. 1895. *The Baptism with the Holy Spirit*. New York, NY: Fleming H. Revell Company.
- . 1910. *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit as Revealed in the Scriptures and in Personal Experience*. New York, NY: Fleming H. Revell.