

Life with the Holy Spirit

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John 14:16-17 (NLT) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Introduction: Over the past few weeks, we've been learning about the Holy Spirit; His presence, His power, and His purpose in our lives. Today, I want to close the series with a summary, pulling together the key truths we've learned.

Here's the central truth: Life in the Spirit is not optional. It is the only way to live in freedom, bear lasting fruit, and show the world the difference Jesus makes.

1. Who the Spirit Is

Jesus promised: "I will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you" (John 14:16).

An advocate is a Comforter, or Encourager, or Counselor.

The Spirit is not an impersonal force but a divine Person with mind, will, and emotions.

- He teaches, convicts, comforts, intercedes, and empowers (1 Cor. 2:10; Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 4:30).
- He applies Christ's redemptive work to our life (Titus 3:5).

Truth: The more we know who He is, the more we recognize His presence in our lives.

Once we understand who He is, the next step is to become aware of how He makes Himself known; learning to recognize His presence and hear His voice.

2. Be Aware of Presence and Voice

The Spirit always speaks; our role is to listen.

- He leads through Scripture (Ps. 119:105).
- Through godly counsel (Prov. 11:14; Acts 13:2-3).
- Through inner promptings (Acts 8:29).
- Through restraints and cautions (Acts 16:6-7).
- Through peace (Col. 3:15).

As we grow in sensitivity, His voice becomes clearer, and our obedience becomes quicker.

But hearing His voice isn't enough. We must be willing to obey when He speaks.

3. Follow His Lead with Obedience

A GPS is useless if ignored, so is the Spirit's guidance.

- “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Rom. 8:14).
- Steps of obedience:
 - When He convicts - repent.
 - When He prompts - act.
 - When He closes doors - trust.
 - When He gives peace - move forward.

And when we follow His leading, the result is not just obedience; it's transformation, seen in the fruit that grows in our lives.

4. Bear the Fruit of the Spirit

The Spirit's direction always leads us toward love and Christlikeness

Galatians 5:25 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control.

Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19–23).

- The flesh is self-seeking; the Spirit produces love,
- Love comes first; it is the root from which all the other fruit grow. (joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
- Spiritual gifts may impress, but fruit proves true discipleship (John 13:35; 1 Cor. 13:1–3).

Truth: A Spirit-filled life naturally bears fruit, just as a healthy tree naturally produces a harvest.

But fruit only grows when it stays connected to its source. And for us, that source is Christ Himself.

5. Stay Connected to Christ

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.”⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4–5).

- Our connection to Christ through His Spirit and Word is the lifeline of fruitfulness.
- Disconnection leads to dryness; abiding produces lasting fruit.

When we know the Spirit, hear His voice, obey His leading, bear His fruit, and stay connected to Christ—our lives become living evidence that the Spirit truly makes all the difference.

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is not a doctrine to believe but a Person to know, love, and follow. He makes all the difference:

- He transforms us from glory to glory.

- He empowers us to live differently in a world of compromise.
- He guides us step by step into God's will.

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