

Introduction: Why study the Holy Spirit?

- Our culture demands it.
- The Church requires it.

1. What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

- The context – John 14:1-6,18
- Jesus' promise – John 14:16-17, 23-26
- Jesus' rationale – John 16:7, 12-15
- Jesus command – Acts 1:4-8

Summary: The promise of the Holy Spirit is that all believers would receive the indwelling presence and resurrection power of the glorified Christ within us forever!

2. Who, then, exactly is the Holy Spirit?

1. He is a **PERSON** not an influence.
Evidenced by...

- Intelligence –

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

- Feelings –

Ephesians 4:30

- A Will –

1 Corinthians 12:11

2. He possesses the **ATTRIBUTES** of God.

- Omnipotent –

Genesis 1

- All-Knowing –

1 Corinthians 2

- Omnipresent –

Psalms 139

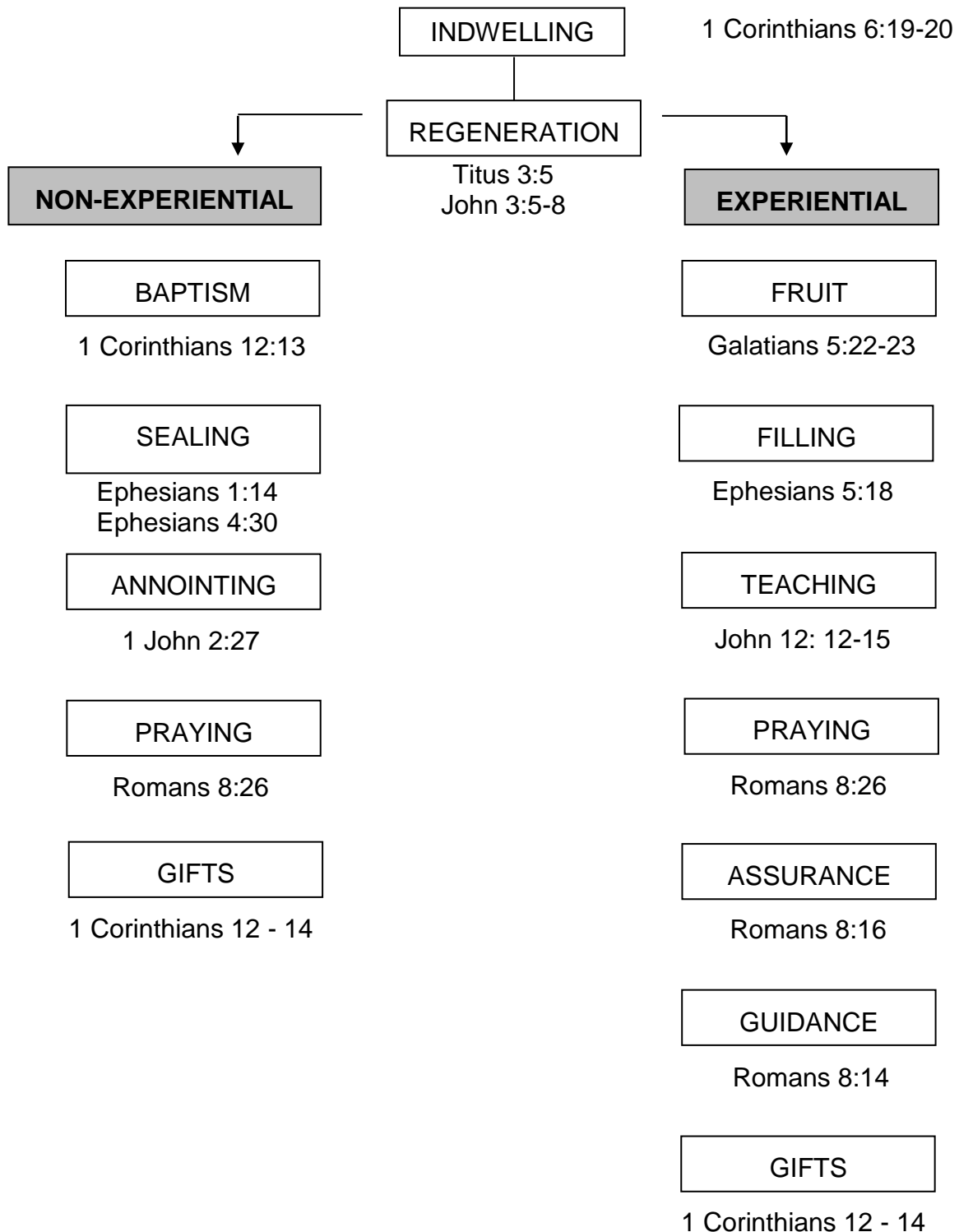
- The Truth –

1 John 4

3. He is **GOD**. Co-Equal, Co-Existent, and Co-Eternal
with the Father and Son.

Acts 5:3-4
2 Corinthians 3:17

3. What exactly does the Holy Spirit do in a believer's life?



4. When and how does someone receive the Holy Spirit today?

- At **CONVERSION** – John 3:5-8
- All **BELIEVERS** have the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:9

Note: Compare the transitional, irregular, pattern of receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, 8, 10, 19 with the consistent instruction of the Epistles. Reference: *Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today* by John Stott

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is it possible for us to have a more intimate relationship with Jesus than the early disciples?
3. Who has the Holy Spirit and for how long?
4. How could recognizing, moment by moment, WHO dwells within you impact your life? Attitudes? Worries? Fear? Relationships? Prayers? Self-image?

Introduction: Are you “Spirit-filled”?

- My Experience = Confusion
- My Search = Honest
- The Answer = 3 Keys
 1. Clarify the terminology
 2. Understand the book of Acts
 3. Obey the command of the New Testament

1. Clarifying the terminology: **Baptism ≠ Filling**

The Baptism of the Spirit:

“The non-experiential, unrepeated work of the Holy Spirit at regeneration whereby we are placed into the Body of Christ.” F.F. Bruce
Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9

The Filling of the Spirit:

“The unobstructed, or unhindered, control or influence of the Spirit upon the believer’s life.” C. Ryrie
Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 6:3, 6:5, 6:55, 9:17, 11:24, 13:9, 13:52

Baptism	Filling
Occurs only once in each believer's life	A repeated experience
Never happened before the Day of Pentecost	Occurred in the Old Testament
True of all believers	Not necessarily experienced by all
Cannot be undone	Can be lost
Results in a position	Results in power
Occurs when we believe in Christ	Occurs throughout the Christian life
No prerequisite (except faith in Christ)	Depends on Yieldedness

2. Understanding the book of Acts

Key Issues to Compare	Acts 2	Acts 8	Acts 10	Acts 19
Who?	Jews	Samaritans (mixed)	Gentiles	Jews who knew only John's baptism (Unsaved)
Spoke in tongues?	Yes	Not mentioned	Yes	Yes
When did they receive baptism?	After salvation	After salvation	At conversion	At conversion
Peter's key role	Present when Jews received	Present when Samaritans received	Present when Gentiles received	This group previously validated as authentic (Acts 2)

3. Obeying the New Testament command to “Be Filled”

Ephesians 5: 15-21 (NIV)

- :15 *Be very careful, then how you live – not as unwise but as wise,*
:16 *asking the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*
:17 *Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*
:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead,*
be filled with the Spirit.
:19 *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.*
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
:20 *always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our*
Lord Jesus Christ.
:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- The context – Ephesians 5:1-2, 8
- The command to be “Spirit-filled”-
 - The command = “Be filled!”
 - Meaning of “filled” –
 - The plural form –
 - The passive voice –
 - The present tense -
- Four Evidences: The proof of being “filled”
 1. **SPEAKING (Edification)** 3. **THANKSGIVING**
 2. **SINGING** 4. **SUBMISSION**

Conclusion – Four principles to remember:

1. The issue is not getting more of the Holy Spirit, it's Him getting more of you.
2. We are never told to seek an experience or gift as evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. The conditions for being filled are:
 - Obedience – dedication – yieldedness to God and His Word. Romans 12:1-2
 - Undefeated life (dealing with known sin) Romans 6:12-13
 - Dependent life – John 15, Galatians 5:16
4. The key perspective: It is relationship, not mechanical.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit? Why is it important to understand the difference?
2. How does knowing the historical transitions of the book of Acts help us in understanding the working of the Spirit then and now?
3. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit?” How often can this happen?
4. How does one know if they are “filled” with the Spirit?

Introduction: What is the Holy Spirit's top priority?

- According to Jesus - John 14 – 16
- According to the early Church - Acts 1-5
- According to the apostle's teaching -
2 Corinthians 3:17-18
James 1:2-4
Ephesians 4:13
Romans 8:29

Summary:

The Spirit's primary purpose is to **TRANSFORM** me into the "Image of Christ."

What is Christ-likeness or spiritual fruit?

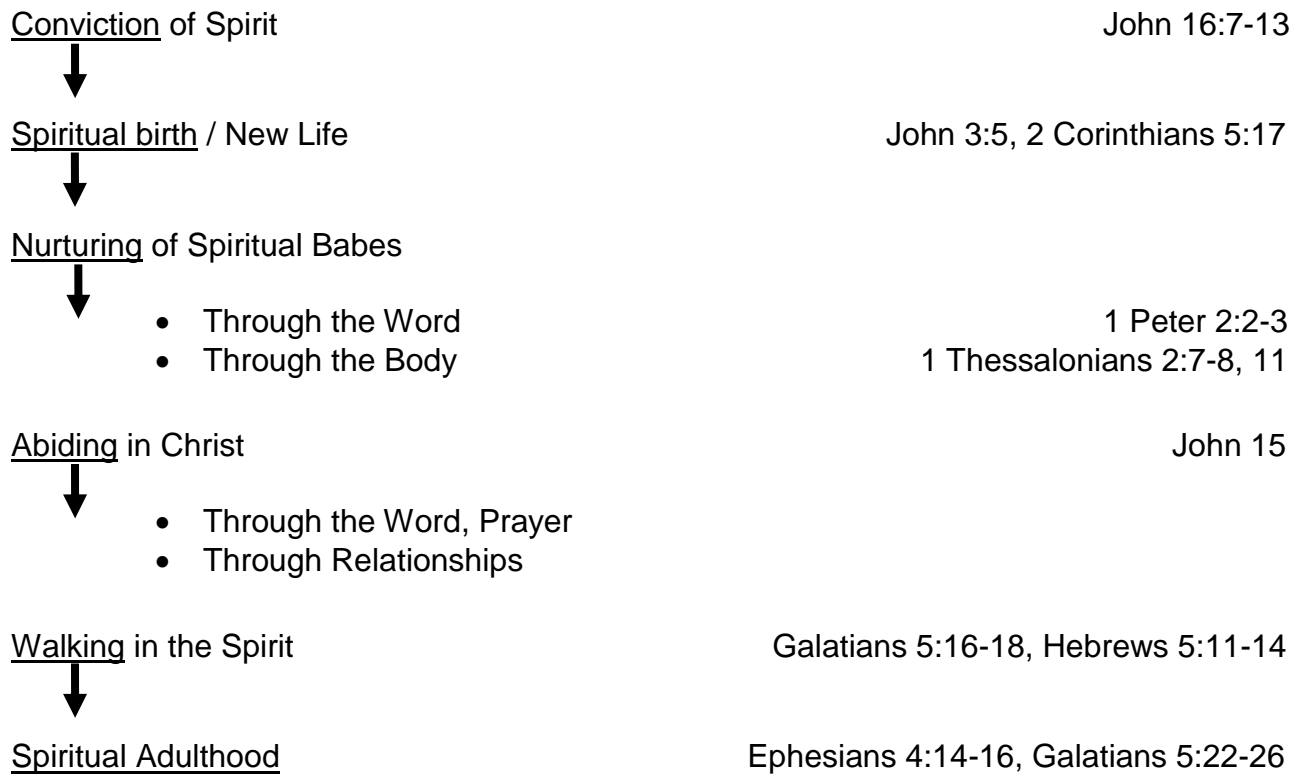
Galatians 5:22-23

- Love }
Joy } In our relationship with God
Peace }

- Patience }
Kindness } In our relationship to others
Goodness }

- Faithfulness }
Gentleness } In our relationship with ourselves
Self-Control }

How is spiritual fruit developed?



How does the spiritual life work?

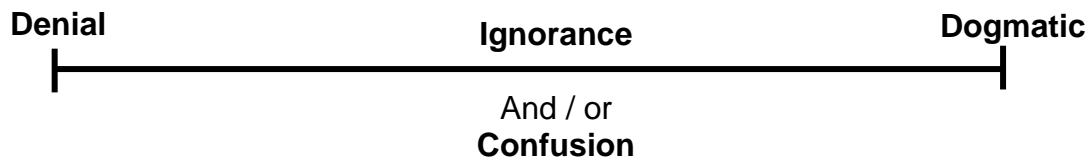
1. Spirituality is the life of Christ.
 - Ephesians 3:16-17
 - Philippians 1:21
 - Galatians 5:19-23
2. Spirituality is the life of Christ, reproduced in the believer.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Galatians 2:20
 - 2 Corinthians 4:5-10
3. Spirituality is the life of Christ, reproduced in the believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 1:8
 - Galatians 5:16, 25
 - Romans 8:1-17
4. Spirituality is the life of Christ, reproduced in the believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in obedience / response to the Word of God.
 - Hebrews 5:11-14
 - John 8:31-32
 - James 1:19-27

Conclusion: Are you in step with the Spirit?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Holy Spirit's primary purpose in our lives?
2. What does this spiritual transformation look like? What does Galatians 5:22-23 call this work of the Spirit in us?
3. What did you learn about the "Fruit of the Spirit," what was most helpful?
4. How does understanding how the spiritual life works help you cooperate with God's plans for your transformation?
5. What specific step of faith/ obedience would allow you to keep "in step" with the Spirit's fruit-producing ministry in your life? When and how will you take that step?

Introduction: Spiritual gifts in the Church today!



Four questions everyone needs to ask and answer about spiritual gifts

1. Why bother with spiritual gifts?

1. They are essential for determining **GOD'S WILL**.
2. They are God's "stamp of approval" on your **VALUE** as a person.
3. When known and exercised, they put you in the place of **MEETING NEEDS** and building deep **MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS**.
4. The by-product of exercising your spiritual gifts is **JOY**.

2. What is a spiritual gift?

Definition: A “divine endowment” of special ability upon every member of the Body of Christ which “fits” them for specific and corresponding service.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

1. Gift - “Charismata”
2. Spiritual – “Pneumatikos”
3. Every spiritual gift embodies:
 - a) Ability
 - b) Qualification
 - c) Strength
 - d) Responsibility

3. How and why do we receive spiritual gifts?

1. They are distributed by the ascended Christ. Ephesians 4:7-11
2. Gifts are distributed to every believer without exception at the time of salvation on the basis of grace. 1 Peter 4:10
3. Gifts are distributed for the profit of others 1 Corinthians 12:7
4. Gifts are distributed sovereignly by the Holy Spirit in accordance with each believer’s best interest and God’s ultimate glory and purpose. 1 Corinthians 12:11

4. How do I discover my spiritual gift(s)?

1. Pray seriously seeking guidance.
2. Study the gift passages in God's Word.
3. "Test the waters."
4. Examine the fulfillment factor.
5. Evaluate honestly.
6. Get quality counsel.
7. Recognize God's evident blessing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What, if anything, did you learn that was new to you concerning spiritual gifts? How could this information be used to enhance the way God wants to use your life?
2. Why is it important to know and develop your spiritual gifts? Discuss how spiritual gifts benefit others and how they benefit you.
3. What ministry have you been involved in at any church that you really felt fulfilled in doing? Describe it and your experience. How could you further develop your gifts?
4. What do you see as the natural implications of a church body that takes the whole concept of spiritual gifts and interdependence seriously? What would it look like? How would it differ from the norm? What impact would it have beginning with you?