

“A.D. The Bible Continues”- Wk 3
“The Work of the Holy Spirit”
New Life Community Church

INTRODUCTION

This study looks at one of the most exciting revelations of God in the Bible. – the coming of His Holy Spirit at Pentecost. How does a small band of fearful, confused students of Jesus become bold witnesses and powerful agents in God’s plan to build His church on earth? This is the birth of the Christ-following church, His Body filled with His Spirit. For us, it holds startling lessons in the power, people and purposes of God and the proof that He lives in us.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is the most amazing thing you’ve ever seen?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Personal Perspective

Q1. (15 min) Share with your table one thought regarding this week’s sermon or T.V. show “A.D.” (a question, surprise, something new you learned, something that will change your life, or something you just liked).

Power & Presence

Q2. Read Acts 1:8-9, 2:1-6, 3:3, 6-7; Ezekiel 36:25

God’s promise of the coming Spirit (Ez 36 and Acts 1:8) was finally manifest to the disciples at Pentecost. How would you describe the difference between a heart of stone and heart of flesh? What most amazes you about this event at Pentecost? Two immediate results of the Spirit living in the disciples were the bold witness and healing work. Have you ever experienced God’s Spirit being poured out in these ways?

Purposes of Holy Spirit

Q3. Read John 16:8-15; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Romans 5:5,8; John 15:26-27

Orthodox Christian faith uphold that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, yet we see in Scripture that they are also distinct persons of the Godhead. The work of the Holy Spirit is multi-dimensional and many aspects are covered in these verses. What are some of the things that the Holy Spirit does? How does knowing God wants to pour His love into your heart mean to you (picture the cross)?

People of the Holy Spirit

Q4. Read 1Corinthians 3:16; 1Corinthians 12:4-7; Acts 2:41-47, Galatians 3:26

God had come upon His people in the past, but never indwelt all followers like now. How does knowing that God lives **in** you make a difference in your life – do you have a specific example to share (e.g., power to hope, love, change, make decisions, share, sacrifice, etc.)? In what way does the fact that we have the same Holy Spirit dwelling in us cause us to better work together in common unity (community) as the Body of Christ.

Proof of the Holy Spirit

Q5. Read Galatians 5:22-25; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; John 13:35

Scripture will describe in many places what a true disciple of Christ looks like, but we should be slow to cast judgment (ref: Mat 7:21; 13:29). Nevertheless, we do well to continue growing as disciples into the image of God. From the verses you just read, what are some qualities you admire in others – can you give an example? In what qualities would you like to grow?

WRAP-UP

God has promised to indwell believers to impart further His purposes in and through them. The Spirit gives us understanding of truth, transforms us, equips us, and empowers us to give witness to the world. This is how God has chosen to build His church with His sealed, Spirit-filled saints. And the world will know them by their love. Let’s join His work by inviting the Holy Spirit to rule and reign in our lives!

Memory Verse

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2Timothy 1:7 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: Read through the attached chart describing the work of the Holy Spirit and determine to invite Him to act in your life in that way.

Q2 Power & Presence

[Act 1:8-9 NIV] 8 But 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." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 2:1-6 Read from your Bible (*bookmark this to return later*)

[Eze 36:24-28 ESV] 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a **heart of flesh**. 27 And **I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

[Act 3:3, 6-7 NIV] 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ... 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and **instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong**.

Q3 Purposes of Holy Spirit

John 16:8-15 Read from your Bible

Look for the work of the Holy Spirit (e.g., convict, guide, glorify, etc.)

[Eph 1:13-14 NIV] 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a **seal**, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

[Eph 4:30 NIV] 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

[Rom 5:5-8 NIV] 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's **love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit**, who has been given to us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But **God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us**.

[Jhn 15:26-27 NIV] 26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--the **Spirit of truth** who goes out from the Father--he will testify about me. 27 And you also must **testify**, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Q4. People of the Holy Spirit

[1Co 3:16 ESV] 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that **God's Spirit dwells in you**?

[1Co 12:7,12-14 NIV] 7 Now to each one the **manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good**. // 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 **For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body**--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Acts 2:41-47 Read from your Bible

Q5

[Gal 5:22-25 ESV] 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

[1Co 13:4-8 NIV] 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

[Jhn 13:35 NIV] 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Prayer requests con't _____

10 Works of the Spirit

Exalts Jesus	Acts 2:22-41; John 15:26; John 16:14
Convicts us	John 16:8-11
Regenerates us	John 3:5; John 20:22; Gen 2:7
Lives in us	1Cor 3:16
Seals believers	Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30
Guides us	Acts 8:29; Acts 13:2;
Prompts us to worship	Acts 2:4, 11; John 4:24; Luke 10:21; Eph 5:18-19; Eph 6:18 John 7:38; Rev 19:6
Empowers us for witness	Acts 1:4, 8; 1Thes 1:5
Enables us to understand and apply what is taught in the Word of God	2 Tim 3:16; Romans 13:12-14
Gives life to our mortal bodies	Romans 8:11

George O. Wood, 2015