

# The Holy Spirit Is Not A Ghost

## LIVING FOR JESUS

Colossians 3:17 2 Corinthians 5:20 1 Peter 2:9-10

## LIVING WISELY

### If We Live Wisely We Will . . .

- (1) Make the most of every **opportunity**.  
Ephesians 5:15-16 Colossians 4:5-6
- (2) Be controlled by the **Holy Spirit**.  
Ephesians 5:17-19
- (3) Choose an attitude of **gratitude**.  
Ephesians 5:20 Colossians 3:17

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Deuteronomy 29:29 1 Timothy 1:3-7 Luke 18:16

- (1) He's **God**, the provider of spiritual **knowledge** and **power**.  
Acts 5:3-4 Matthew 3:16 Matthew 12:24-32 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13:20 2 Peter 1:20-21  
2 Timothy 3:16-27 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 John 16:7-11 Philippians 2:13
- (2) We receive the Spirit when we **become a Jesus follower**.  
Ephesians 1:13-14 Romans 8:9
- (3) Sometimes it's **spectacular**. Sometimes it's **subtle**.  
Ephesians 5:18 Acts 2:1-21 1 Kings 19:11-13
- (4) Unfortunately, we all have **static on the line**.  
Acts 16:6-10 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
- (5) To be filled with the Spirit we have to **stop, listen**  
and **follow** the Spirit.  
Proverbs 8:34 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Proverbs 12:15 Galatians 5:16-23 Proverbs 4:18

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 17, 2015

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. We have all had different experiences and influences that affect our view of how God's spirit works. As you look back in years past, how would you describe your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Has it changed over time? If so, explain.

2. What was your first response to Larry's statement that, "People have the right to judge Christians by what they say and do?"

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we were reminded that followers of Jesus have the exact same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus. Unfortunately sometimes we may think the Holy Spirit isn't doing much because we aren't aware of the variety of ways he works in our lives and in the world. How do the following verses further describe what the Holy Spirit does for us and through us?

### Romans 5:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> 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. *[NIV]*

### 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. *[NIV]*

### Ephesians 3:16

<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, *[NIV]*

### Romans 8:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. *[NIV]*

### Acts 1:8

<sup>8</sup> 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." *[NIV]*

### Acts 9:31

<sup>31</sup> Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. *[NIV]*

Which one of these is the most important for you to remember and why?

2. Most of us at some point have found ourselves wondering if the Spirit is speaking to or prompting us to make a decision or take action on something. For example, let's say you have a friend who has been sharing private information with others that may have hurt the reputation of another friend. You sense that God is telling you to talk to this friend but you're not sure if you should or if you're making a bigger deal about it than you should. How can the following verses guide you and confirm if God's spirit is speaking to you or not?

**Galatians 6:1-4**

*Doing Good to All*

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, *[NIV]*

**Proverbs 27:6**

<sup>6</sup> Wounds from a friend can be trusted,  
but an enemy multiplies kisses. *[NIV]*

**Proverbs 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers they succeed. *[NIV]*

**Proverbs 3:27**

<sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
when it is in your power to act. *[NIV]*

Can you think of any other verses you would add to this?

3. Galatians 5:16-26 contrasts the conflict that exists between God's spirit and our "sinful nature." As you read this passage, can you think of any examples of God's spirit helping or challenging you to put one of these "fruits" into action?

**Galatians 5:16-26**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. *[NIV]*

How might the fruit of the Spirit help you be effective in making "the most of the opportunities" around you and have an "attitude of gratitude?"

## TAKING IT HOME

Learning to slow down enough to listen to the Spirit is essential when it comes to hearing and knowing God's leading. How do you slow down and listen (take a walk, talk with a friend, journal, worship, a time of solitude, other)? Is there anything you want to make sure you continue to do (or add) to help you stay tuned in to what God's spirit is doing?

Looking back on this week's teaching, which one of the three actions under "Living Wisely" is most important for you to remember?

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Prayer Requests:



Looking for a great way to get your Growth Group together over summer break? Sign up to serve at Bread of Life in Oceanside. This is a great opportunity to get together and meet a real need in our community. Please call Mary B. for more information at (760) 330-9234 or sign up on our Community Service Website at [northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/bread-of-life](http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/bread-of-life)