

DISCIPLESHIP. LESSON 45

1	PRAYER
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Group leader. Pray for God's guidance through his Spirit, for awareness of his presence and for listening to his voice. Dedicate this lesson about disciple making to the Lord.

2	WORSHIP (20 minutes)	<i>[ATTITUDE EXPRESSED]</i> <i>LIVING TO GOD'S GLORY</i>
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Meditation

Worship is expressing your attitude towards God by listening to God's voice.

Theme: Living to God's glory.

Read the Bible passages. Read or explain the following in your own words.

1. The lifestyle of a Christian.

Read Psalm 15:1-5.

His behaviour. The Christian walks or behaves blamelessly. He does only what is right.

His speech. He speaks the truth from his heart. There is no question about his integrity.

His relationship to his neighbour. He does his neighbour no wrong. He does not gossip or slander.

His relationship to evil people. "He despises a vile person", that is, he rejects the wrong they do and gives them no praise or honour for the wrong they do. But he must not hate them (Luke 6:27-28).

His relationship to believers. He honours a person that fears God and consequently does not do vile things.

His promises. He remains faithful to his promises, unless he made a rash promise that he must immediately rectify (Proverbs 6:1-5).

His relationship to the needy. He helps the poor without asking interest.

His justice. He does not give bribes and does not accept bribes (Isaiah 16:19).

To which lifestyle will you dedicate your life? Which lifestyle are you currently practising to live to God's glory?

2. God's promise.

Christians, who live the life-style of Psalm 15, may dwell in God's presence (Psalm 15:1).

They will never be shaken by any person or circumstance in life (Psalm 15:5).

3. The lifestyle of a Christian leader.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

His age does not disqualify him from being an elder (a leader)!

He is an example to other Christians (cf. 1 Peter 5:2-3).

He devotes his time, energy and talents to studying the Bible and teaching the Bible.

He makes use of the spiritual gifts which God has given to him.

He never stops growing

He continually watches the life he lives and the doctrine he teaches.

Worship.

Take turns and worship God in his characteristic that demands a changed life-style that will bring glory to him. Worship God in one or two sentences.

3	SHARING (20 minutes)	<i>[QUIET TIMES]</i> <i>JOB 1, 2, 12 and 14</i>
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Take turns and share (or read from your notes) in short what you have learned from one of your quiet times out of the assigned Bible passages (Job 1, 2, 12 and 14).

Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares.

Manual 2, lesson 21. The person and functions of the Holy Spirit.

Manual 2, supplement 9. The Holy Spirit sustains Christians amidst their sufferings.

Manual 4, lesson 45. The baptism with the Spirit, the filling with the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.

Manual 5, lesson 19. Pentecost.

Manual 7, lesson 35. The spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Manual 7, supplement 12. More spiritual gifts.

A. THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The expression “baptism with the Holy Spirit”.

(1) The expression “baptism with the Spirit” in the Bible.

The expression “baptism with the Holy Spirit” occurs only seven times in the New Testament (Matthew 3:10-12; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:14-18 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). All seven times it expresses rebirth, that is, the beginning of someone’s Christian life! In Matthew 3:10-12 “the baptism with the Holy Spirit” is clearly associated with the gathering of believers into God’s kingdom, while “the baptism with fire” is here associated with the final judgement of unbelievers in hell.

(2) The prediction and fulfilment of the baptism with the Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit was already predicted in the Old Testament (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Joel 2:28-32).

The fulfilment of the baptism with the Holy Spirit

- for the first believers among the Jews (including the first disciples) is described in Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 2:37-41 (Acts 1:8a)
- for the believers among the half-Jews (Samaritans) is described in Acts 8:12-17 (Acts 1:8b)
- for the first believers among the non-Jews (Gentiles) is described in Acts 10:34-48 (Acts 1:8c; Acts 11:14-18; Acts 15:7-11).

After the foundation of the worldwide Church had been laid among the three main groups of people in the world, people who believe in Jesus Christ are said:

- “to receive the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38-39)
- “to be baptised with the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)
- “to be sealed with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- “to be reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5-7)!

These are synonyms for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

2. The meaning of baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The Bible uses a variety of expressions to describe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit:

- “The Holy Spirit was “once for all poured out on”¹ people that *began* to believe the gospel (Acts 2:33; cf. Titus 3:6; Acts 2:17). The aorist tense points to a *once for all time* act.
“The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out and remained (permanently for ever)”² even on the Gentiles” (Acts 10:45). The perfect tense points to a *lasting/permanent* event.
- The Holy Spirit “once and for all time fell on”³ the people that *began* to believe (effectively hear)(Acts 10:44; cf. Acts 11:15).
- The Holy Spirit “was once and for all time given to”⁴ the people that had *once for all* come to faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 11:17; cf. Acts 15:8).
- The Holy Spirit “was once and for all time received by”⁵ (Acts 10:47) the people that had *once for all* come to faith (cf. Acts 11:17).
- This was called: “being baptised with”⁶ the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:16). Genuine Christians are “once and for all time baptised with/by one Spirit”⁷ into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). This is the only way in which a person becomes a member of the worldwide Church!

¹ Greek: εκχεω επι (future tense) (Acts 2:17); εξεχεεν (aorist tense) (Acts 2:33)

² Greek: επι τα εθνη η δωρεα του αγιου πνευματος εκκεχυται (perfect tense)(Acts 10:45)

³ Greek: επιπιπτω: επεπεσεν (aorist tense) το πνευμα το αγιον επι

⁴ Greek: διδομι: την ισην δωρεαν εδωκεν (aorist tense) αυτοις ο θεος ως και ημιν πιστευσασιν επι τον κυριον Ιησουν Χριστον

⁵ Greek: λαμβανω: το πνευμα το αγιον ελαβον (aorist tense) ως και ημεις

⁶ Greek: βαπτισθησεσθε (future tense) εν πνευματι αγιω

⁷ Greek: εν ενι πνευματος ημεις παντες εις εν σωμα εβαπτισθημεν (aorist time)

- Genuine Christians are all “once and for all time given the one Spirit to drink”⁸ (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- This was called: “being once and for all time anointed”⁹ (with the Holy Spirit) (2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20,27)
- This was called: “being once and for all time sealed with”¹⁰ the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- This was called: “once and for all time being given a deposit”¹¹ guaranteeing what is to come (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- This was called: “once and for all time saved through the washing of the rebirth and renewal”¹² by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6)
- Jesus called it: “once and for all time born again”, “born anew” or “born from above”¹³ (John 3:3-8).

All these different expressions mean exactly the same.

- (1) The baptism with the Spirit means the reception of the Holy Spirit, by which a person is born again and saved.

When the first Gentiles heard the gospel and believed in Jesus Christ (about A.D. 40), the Holy Spirit *fell on* them just as he fell on the first disciples from among the Jews at the beginning (A.D. 30). God *gave to them the gift* consisting of the Holy Spirit himself and calls this event *the baptism with the Holy Spirit* (Acts 11:15-17).

- The Pentecost of the first Jews was in 30 A.D.
- The Pentecost of the first half-Jews (Samaritans) was in about A.D. 33/34.
- The Pentecost of the first non-Jews (Gentiles) was in about A.D. 40.

The result was that the non-Jews (Gentiles) who believed in Jesus Christ were *saved* just as the Jews who believed in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:18,21; Acts 11:14; Acts 15:11; Romans 10:12-13; cf. Ephesians 1:13). When they were baptised with the Spirit God *granted them repentance unto life* (Acts 11:18) and God *purified their hearts* (Acts 15:9). These biblical expressions all refer to “rebirth or salvation”.¹⁴

Long before that time, Jesus taught that people, who believe in him, are “born of God” (John 1:12-13), or “are born again/anew” (John 3:3-8), “have eternal life” (John 3:16) and “have entered the kingdom of God” (John 3:3-8). Likewise, long after that time, Paul taught that the Holy Spirit that is “poured out on” believers in Christ:

- “saves them through the washing of rebirth and renewal” by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6)
- “justifies them by his grace and their faith” (Titus 3:7-8)
- and makes them heirs having the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:3-8).

- (2) The baptism with the Spirit means the reception of the Holy Spirit, by which a person begins to belong to Christ and his Church (Body).

John the Baptist said that Jesus Christ would “baptise people with the Holy Spirit” and in this way “gather them as wheat into his barn” (Matthew 3:11-12). Paul wrote 26 years after Pentecost to believers from the Jews and the Gentiles living in Corinth, that not just a select group were baptised by the Holy Spirit, but that:

- “we all were once for all time baptised by one Spirit into one body (namely the Body of Christ) – whether Jews or Greeks ...
- *we were all once for all time given the one Spirit to drink*”¹⁵ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

This included all the apostles and all the believers in the world, whether they originally were Jews or Gentiles.

Thus, when people begin to believe in Jesus Christ, they are baptised by one Spirit into the one Body of Christ, the one worldwide Church of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). From that time onwards the believer is no longer simply an individual, but a member belonging to the community of Christ. From that time onwards at least one spiritual gift may become visible in the Christian.

- (3) Baptism with the Spirit means the reception of the Holy Spirit, by which the Holy Spirit comes to live and work in the believer.

At the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the body of the believer (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 14:16-17) and also in the midst of the Church as the Body of Christ (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22). The Holy Spirit in them is no one less than “Christ in them”. Whoever has received the Spirit is a Christian. But whoever has not received the Spirit is also not a Christian (Romans 8:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3).

The Holy Spirit applies Christ’s completed work of salvation in the lives of everyone who becomes a Christian (John 16:13-15; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22). The Holy Spirit becomes like “streams of living water which flow from within” the Christian (John 7:37-39). From then on the Christian may manifest a spiritual gift that enables him:

⁸ Greek: και παντες εν πνευματι εποτισθημεν (aorist time)

⁹ Greek: χρισας (aorist tense)

¹⁰ Greek: χρισας (aorist tense)

¹¹ Greek: δους (aorist tense) τον αρραβωνα του πνευματος εν ταις καρδιας ημων

¹² Greek: δια λουτρου παλιγγενεσιας και ανακαινωσεως πνευματος αγιου

¹³ Greek: γεννηθη (aorist tense) ανωθεν

¹⁴ And do not refer to the so-called “second blessing”.

¹⁵ Greek: και γαρ εν ενι πνευματι ημεις παντες εις εν σωμα εβαπτισθημεν (aorist tense), ειτε Ιουδαιοι ειτε Ελληνες ειτε δουλοι ειτε ελευθεροι, και παντες εν πνευμα εποτισθημεν (aorist tense)

- to *serve* others (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- to *built* the congregation (Church) (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Corinthians 14:12)
- to *equip* other Christians for their work of service (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- and to *glorify* God (1 Peter 4:11)!

Summarise. The “baptism with the Holy Spirit” happens when people believe in Jesus Christ for the first time and results in their rebirth and salvation, their belonging to Christ and the worldwide Christian Church, their indwelling by God through his Spirit and their sanctification and equipment with spiritual gifts for service.

3. The sequence of events at the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

- (1) Why were the first 120 disciples of Jesus not immediately baptised with the Holy Spirit when they believed?

Read Acts 2:1-4,33; John 7:37-39; (John 12:23-24; John 16:7; Luke 24:39; Acts 1:5).

Acts 2:1-4 describes a unique historic event in salvation history and does not give a universal Christian teaching. The apostles of Jesus Christ and the first other Christians among the Jews mentioned in Acts 1:15 were already believers when they were baptised with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. They were not baptised with the Holy Spirit at the moment they believed, because they believed in Jesus Christ when he was still with them on earth. They had to wait until Jesus Christ was glorified (in heaven) before they could receive the indwelling Holy Spirit! Jesus taught them in John 7:37-39 and in John 16:7 that *all people who believed in him before his glorification had to wait* until a very important event in salvation history would take place, namely, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after his crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and enthronement in heaven. Only after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit would the Spirit of Christ dwell in their bodies! This outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first believers from among the Jews on Pentecost is called “the baptism with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5; Acts 11:14-18)! This event was a unique event in salvation history! Acts 2:1-4 is thus not a teaching about the baptism with the Spirit for the present time!

- (2) Why were the other believers among the Jews immediately baptised with the Spirit when they believed?

Read Acts 2:14-42.

Only after the apostle Peter and the other apostles had proclaimed the gospel to a great number of Jews on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) and they had repented and believed, they too received the gift consisting of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-38). These Jews did not have to wait to be baptised with the Spirit, because the apostle of Jesus Christ (Peter), opened the door of God’s kingdom for the Jews (Matthew 16:18-19; Matthew 18:18). Jesus Christ built his Church among the Jews (Acts 2:41-42) on the foundation of the apostles (Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:11-14)!

- (3) Why were the first believers from among the Samaritans not immediately baptised with the Spirit when they believed?

Read Acts 8:12-17.

Acts 8:12-17 also describes a unique historic event in salvation history and does not give a universal Christian teaching.

The Samaritans were a mixed race consisting of people which the Assyrians had exiled to the old northern kingdom of Israel. They were a mixed race banned by the Assyrians to northern Israel. Their religion was a mixture of the religion of Israel and heathen idolatry (2 Kings 17:1-41). The Samaritans were professed enemies of the Jews. The Samaritans were not a part of God’s people during the Old Testament period. The traditional enmity between the Jews and Samaritans would make it hard to believe that Samaritans could also be saved and become a part of God’s people. Similar enmity existed between Jews and Gentiles (cf. Acts chapter 10 and 11).

But the Samaritans came to faith in Jesus Christ, not through the preaching of the apostles of Christ, but by the preaching of the evangelist Philip. These Samaritan Christians were however not baptised with the Holy Spirit until the apostles of Jesus Christ (Peter and John), had opened the door of God’s kingdom for the Samaritans by praying for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit and in this way also be born again (John 3:3-8)! Jesus Christ built his Church among the half-Jews on the foundation of his apostles (Matthew 16:18-19; Matthew 18:18; Ephesians 2:20; cf. John 20:21-22; Revelation 21:14)! The Samaritans had to realise that “salvation is from the Jews” (that is, from Jesus and his apostles)(John 4:22).

- (4) Why were the first believers from among the heathen immediately baptised with the Spirit when they believed?

Read Acts 10:1-48; Acts 11:1-18.

There also existed enmity between the Jews and the heathen (the non-Jews) because The Jews regarded the heathen as “unclean” (Acts 10:28). Also this traditional enmity between the Jews and the non-Jews made it difficult to believe that also the heathen could be saved and become a part of God’s people (the Church).

But God gave a vision via an angel first to the heathen Cornelius in Caesarea that he had to fetch the apostle Peter (Acts 10:1-8) and then another vision to the apostle Peter in Joppa about slaughtering and eating all kinds of unclean animals, reptiles and birds (Acts 10:9-23). The heathen came to faith and were baptised with the Holy Spirit when the apostle

Peter preached the gospel to them (Acts 10:24-43). Thus, also non-Jews were baptised with the Holy Spirit when the apostle of Jesus Christ (Peter), had opened the door of God's kingdom for the non-Jews (Acts 10:44-48)! Jesus Christ built his Church among the non-Jews on the foundation of his apostles (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:14)!

The authority to open the door of the kingdom of God for half-Jews and non-Jews was given by Jesus Christ to his twelve disciples in Matthew 16:18-19. Jesus Christ himself builds his Church and makes his twelve disciples its foundation (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 18:18; John 20:21-23; Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 3:2-6¹⁶; Colossians 1:13-14; Revelation 21:14). Especially the apostle Peter (Matthew 16:18) was his instrument to open the door of God's kingdom for the first Jews (Acts 2:37-41), the first half-Jews (Acts 8:12-17) and the first non-Jews (Acts 10:34-48). The twelve apostles and their authoritative ministry laid the foundation for the historical Christian Church The laying of the foundation of the Church by the apostles of Jesus Christ among the Jews, the half-Jews and the non-Jews was a unique historical event in the history of salvation (cf. Acts 1:8)! It is never repeated.¹⁷

Missionaries today are not "apostles of Jesus Christ", but only "apostles of the churches" that sent them out as missionaries or planters and builders of new churches. Acts 8:12-17 may therefore not be misused to motivate Christians *to so-called be baptised with the Holy Spirit by some pastor* in the church some time after they have come to faith in Jesus Christ. "The baptism with the Spirit" is and remains the sovereign prerogative of only the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:8; Matthew 3:11-12)!

- (5) Why others in the world today
are immediately baptised with the Spirit when they believe.

Read Acts 2:37-38; Acts 10:47-48; Ephesians 1:13-14.

Because Jesus Christ has already been glorified (by his resurrection, ascension and enthronement), other people in the world are baptised with the Holy Spirit at the moment they believe in Jesus Christ.

- The Bible describes in the book of Acts the historical beginning of the Church among the three important groups of people in the Bible: the Jews, the half-Jews and the non-Jews (Acts 1:8).
- And the Bible teaches that someone is baptised with the Holy Spirit the moment he hears the gospel and begins to believe in Jesus Christ. This *must* happen (John 3:7) and this *does happen* when a person accepts Jesus Christ (believes in him) (John 1:12-13).

All people in the world who sincerely begin to believe in Jesus Christ are immediately baptised with the Spirit (immediately receive the Spirit) without the mediation of one or another church official (Acts 2:38-39)! No-one needs to wait for the apostles of Jesus Christ to open the door of the kingdom for them, because this has already happened! The apostles of Christ have opened the door of God's kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19) and they have become the foundation of the historical Church (Ephesians 2:20). Everyone in the world who hears the gospel and believes, is immediately marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)! The Bible teaches clearly that every person who has received the Holy Spirit is a Christian (Romans 8:9-10). Therefore it is impossible to separate believing in Jesus Christ (becoming a Christian) from receiving the Holy Spirit (the baptism with the Spirit)(John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:13-14)! Christians believe in one Divine Being who revealed himself in three ways of being, The one God cannot be received in parts at different times!

4. The signs accompanying the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

- (1) The Bible relates (therefore this is history) three unique signs that accompanied the baptism with the Spirit.
The unique signs were: the wind, the fire and the speaking in strange tongues.

Acts 2:1-11 relates that at the baptism with (outpouring of) the Spirit the first disciples heard "a sound like the blowing of a violent wind that filled the whole house". They saw "what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began "to speak in other languages (that existed at that time in the world), as the Spirit enabled them".

The signs of wind and fire were certainly unique on the Day of Pentecost – they were not heard or seen again. The speaking in other existing languages of the world that could be understood by some of the people present, also occurred after that event (Acts 10:46) and still occurs today, but the Bible does not teach that this will or must happen when people are baptised with the Spirit or filled with the Spirit! The speaking in existing intelligible languages (tongues of men) in the world is certainly something different than the speaking of unintelligible languages (tongues of angels) that occurred only in the congregation of Corinth, a church with many problems¹⁸ (1 Corinthians 13:1)!

¹⁶ The twelve "apostles" were pre-eminently the "prophets" or preachers of Jesus Christ and his kingdom (Luke 24:45-48; Acts 1:8) and of the mystery that believers from among the heathen were on equal footing with believers from among the Jews heirs of God's people (Ephesians 3:2-6). "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit (essence) of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

¹⁷ Acts 19:1-7 does not relate "the baptism with the Spirit" some time after people have come to faith (does not prove the so-called "second blessing"). These "disciples" were not disciples of Jesus Christ (Christians), but disciples of John the Baptist that did not even know that the Holy Spirit existed! After Paul had explained the gospel clearly to them and had prayed for them, they were born-again (also they received the Holy Spirit) (cf. John 3:7).

¹⁸ The problems in the church of Corinth: disunity/factions, sexual immorality, lawsuits, marriage problems, participation in idolatrous sacrifices,

(2) The Bible relates (therefore this is history)

one general sign that accompanied the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The general sign: the coming into existence of a functioning congregation.

Acts 2:37-47 relates that after the baptism with the Spirit the disciples formed a functioning congregation. They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles (now recorded in the Bible), to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. This was a functioning congregation! The most common visible sign in the Bible at the baptism with the Spirit is the coming into existence of a functioning congregation (Acts 2:47; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14; Acts 6:7; Acts 8:12; Acts 11:21; Acts 13:48; Acts 14:21-23, Ephesians 1:1,13; Titus 3:4-11; etc.)!

The argument that about 3000 Jews all began to speak in strange tongues is invalid, because the Bible does not mention anything and Luke would not have neglected to remark this fact.

(3) The Bible teaches (therefore this is doctrine) three signs

that must accompany the baptism with the Spirit.

The necessary signs: becoming a part of a functioning congregation, the fruit of the Spirit and serving (possibly with a spiritual gift).

The Bible teaches clearly that three signs must become visible in every Christian that has been baptised with the Spirit.

- He ought to be a part of the worldwide Body of Christ by active participation in a local congregation (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
- He ought to bear the fruit of the Spirit (and crucify the fruit of the flesh)(Galatians 5:16-23; Romans 8:13; cf. Ephesians 5:18-21).
- He ought to serve Christ and his Church in his God-given task and possibly with his God-given spiritual gift (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11,28-31; Ephesians 4:7,11-14; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

B. THE FILLING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

If the Holy Spirit were *just an impersonal power* that a person could possess in a certain measure, then the dominant attitude of Christians with regard to the Holy Spirit would be, “How can I possess more of the Holy Spirit (more of this power)?” But if the Holy Spirit *is a Person who possesses, controls and influences the believer* then the dominant attitude of the Christian towards the Holy Spirit should be, “How can the Holy Spirit possess more of me?” “How can the Holy Spirit control me more?” “How can the Holy Spirit influence my life more?” A person is never able to take possession of God (Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit), but God (Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit) really wants to, can and will possess me if I let him!

The purpose of my relationship to the Holy Spirit is not to gain particular spiritual abilities or to show miraculous signs, but to allow Jesus Christ to live in me and control my life through his Spirit! My most important question should be, “How can Jesus Christ through his Spirit possess and thoroughly control and influence more areas of my life?”

To be filled with the Spirit means that God (Christ, the Holy Spirit):

- possesses, controls, influences and leads me by means of his presence and his Word (the Bible)
- and causes me to submit and surrender my life to him; making my life more influential and my ministry more fruitful! A Spirit-filled Christian yields, submits and surrenders himself completely to Jesus Christ!

1. The promise of the filling with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised to all believers in him that the Holy Spirit would be like “a stream of living water that flows from within them” (John 7:37-39). He especially promised to his own disciples (the apostles) that they would receive “power to be his witnesses among the Jews, the Samaritans and the Gentiles in the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)! The Holy Spirit gives heaven’s power, wisdom and love to live and serve on earth!

2. The historic fulfilment of the promise about the filling with the Holy Spirit.

The Bible relates or describes that there were various different results when people were filled with the Spirit. All these historic descriptions are not commands or teachings about what should happen in the churches today.

The Bible *relates* or describes many different results when people were filled with the Spirit:

- Luke 1:41-43. Elizabeth received *special knowledge* that the baby in Mary was the Messiah.
- Luke 1:67-79. Zechariah *prophesied* about the future of John the Baptist and Jesus.
- Luke 4:1-2. Jesus *overcame* the devil’s temptations.
- Acts 2:4. The first 120 disciples of Jesus were filled with the Spirit when they were baptised with the Holy Spirit and they *prophesied (declared) in other known languages* of the world God’s wonderful works.
- Acts 4:8. Peter received *immediate inspiration and courage to speak* in public (Mark 3:11).
- Acts 4:31. The disciples received *courage, boldness and words to speak* God’s message.

conflicts about the position of women, conflicts about the spiritual gifts especially the speaking in tongues and prophecy, striving after strange spirits (Greek: 1 Corinthians 14:12) and not believing in the resurrection of the dead.

- Acts 6:3,8-10. The first deacons were full of the Spirit and they *spoke God's Word with irresistible wisdom*. And Stephen possessed *the spiritual gift* of performing miracles.
- Acts 7:55. Stephen was enabled to *see a vision* of the glory of God and the risen Christ.
- Acts 9:17-22. Paul grew more and more *powerful in preaching and baffled his opponents* by proving from the Bible that Jesus was the promised Messiah (Christ).
- Acts 11:24. Barnabas *brought a great number of people to the Lord*.
- Acts 13:9-11. Paul received *authority to strike* a sorcerer and false prophet *with blindness*.
- Acts 13:49-52. New Christians were able to *rejoice in the midst of opposition and persecution*.

3. The biblical teaching about the filling with the Holy Spirit.

Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

The Bible teaches three clear facts about the filling with the Spirit

(1) The main verb is a command in the present continuous tense.

The main verb is in verse 18, “be filled with the Spirit”¹⁹.

- The main verb is a command

The Bible *commands* a Christian *to be filled* with the Spirit. To be Spirit-filled is not an option, but an obligation. The Christian must obey!

- The main verb is in the present continuous time.

It expresses that the Christian must be continuously or again and again filled with the Spirit.

- The main verb is in the passive form.

It expresses that the action is not dependent on the Christian (or a church leader, pastor), but on God. The filling with the Spirit is something only God can do. No human being, whether Christian leader or an exceptionally gifted person can effect this. The sovereign God must do it and promised to do it.

Thus, the Bible teaches that the normal Christian life is the Spirit-filled life!

(2) The other verbs are participles dependent on the main verb.

The next five verbs in verse 19-21 are present participles: “speaking”, “singing”, “making music” (Greek: psalló: singing psalms accompanied by musical instruments, thanking” and “submitting” (accepting one another’s authority). They express the same as the main verb: commands that are simultaneously and continuously or again and again applicable. The five verbs describe the characteristics of the life of a Christian that is Spirit-filled.

- The Spirit-filled Christian glorifies God together with other Christians. He will not get involved in wild parties that are associated with drunkenness, rioting and moral perversion (Ephesians 5:3-13; 1 Peter 4:3-4). Instead, he will meet together with other Christians to speak, sing and make music (literally “jubilate or rejoice by singing with the accompaniment of musical instruments). The goal of such Christian meetings is to glorify God and to build one another up. This is one example of the fruit of the Spirit called *joy* (Galatians 5:22).
- The Spirit-filled Christian has a controlled tongue (cf. James 3:1-12; Psalm 141:3). He will not be negative, critical and judgmental with respect to people or circumstances. He will not be characterised by complaining and arguing (Philippians 2:14), or by being dissatisfied and ungrateful. Instead, he will be content (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6) and thank God in all his circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This is an example of the fruit of the Spirit called *self-control* (Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 7:9; 9:24-27).
- The Spirit-filled Christian accepts the authority of another. He will not be proud and not be individualistic or independent. He will not be uncooperative, divisive, selfish or self-centred. Instead, he lives a life surrendered to Christ and submits to the authority of others. He does not always want to be the first in every competition or in every organisation, but is willing to be the least and willing to serve where no-one else wants to or can serve (John 13:1-17). He will seek the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). He will honour others above himself (Romans 12:10). He will be friendly, courteous, gentle, humble and considerate. This is an example of the fruit of the Spirit called *gentleness* (Galatians 5:23).

Thus, the Bible teaches that the Spirit-filled life results in a very attractive Christian.

(3) The conjunction between verse 17 and 18 ties verses 15 to 17 to the Spirit-filled life.

There is a conjunction “and” between verse 17 and 18 in the original Greek text of the New Testament. Thus, the Spirit-filled Christian will also be characterised by what is written in verse 15 to 17:

- The Spirit-filled Christian will be careful how he lives (behaves). He refuses to be a self-willed person that is independent from God (cf. Judges 21:25). Instead, in every aspect of his life, he will show that he has rejected the old worldly life-style and that he has embraced and grows in the new holy and righteous life-style.

¹⁹ Greek: πληρουσθε (imperative mood, present continuous tense, passive form) εν πνευματι

- The Spirit-filled Christian strives after practical wisdom. He will use the best means to attain the highest goals. He will apply his knowledge of the Bible to his daily life in a way that brings glory to God (Ephesians 5:15).
- The Spirit-filled Christian will make the best use of the time and opportunities that God gives to him (Ephesians 5:16).
- The Spirit-filled Christian will continually and actively pursue to know and obey the will of God, as it is revealed in the Bible (Ephesians 5:17). He will continually find out what pleases God (Ephesians 5:10).

4. The practice about the filling with the Holy Spirit.

Teach. In order to receive the Holy Spirit for the first time, a person must hear and understand the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:13).

Question. But what should Christians do when they do not experience the filling of the Spirit, that is, when they do not experience a life surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ?

(1) Restore the Spirit-filled life.

Read 1 John 1:9; Ephesians 4:25-32; 5:8-11; James 4:5-10.

Discover and discuss. What should you do to restore the Spirit-filled life?

Notes. Sin in all its forms *grieves* the Holy Spirit and *brings separation* in the relationship between you and God (Isaiah 59:1-2). However, when you sin, the Holy Spirit does not leave you, because you already possess *the state* of complete righteousness and because Jesus Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would be with and in you *forever* (John 14:16-17).

However, in order to restore the disturbed relationship between you and God and in order to again experience the continued work of the Holy Spirit in you, you should do the following:

- Confess all the sins you are aware of and receive and believe God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- Break with all the sinful practices (Proverbs 28:13) and wrong relationships in your life (1 Corinthians 15:33). Get rid of every form of sin (Ephesians 5:3-14).
- Ask forgiveness of people you have wronged (Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:16). As far as is possible, make restitution, set wrong things right and maintain peace with all people (Romans 12:17). This aspect is called "daily conversion". It is also an expression of "true love" (Luke 6:27-28).
- Surrender or submit yourself to God, obey his Word and live it out in your daily life (James 4:5-10). This is also an expression of "true love" (John 14:21,23).

(2) Ask (pray) for the Spirit-filled life.

Read Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13.

Discover and discuss. What may you ask Jesus Christ to do for you?

Notes. Every Christian may ask God for the reality of the Spirit-filled life and for specific aspects of the Spirit-filled life.

- Ask for the control of the Spirit. Pray that Jesus Christ may again exercise his lordship or control over your whole life by means of his indwelling Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:18).
- Ask for the fruit of the Spirit. Pray that Jesus Christ may do a new or fresh inner work in your life by changing your thoughts, attitudes, habits and character by means of the fruit of his indwelling Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Ask for the gifts of the Spirit. Pray that Jesus Christ may equip you for a particular service by giving you a spiritual gift that matches your task (Ephesians 4:7,11-12; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1). However, the giving of spiritual gifts always remains the sovereign prerogative of the Triune God (1 Corinthians 12:11)!

(3) Maintain the Spirit-filled life.

Discover and discuss. How can you maintain the Spirit-filled life?

Notes. The Spirit-filled life is maintained by continued discipleship.

The Holy Spirit is indispensable in every one of the six aspects of discipleship:

- The Spirit and Christ. The Spirit reveals and glorifies Jesus Christ (John 16:13-15). The Holy Spirit always puts Jesus Christ in the centre of your life and the life of the Church.
- The Spirit and the Word. The sword that the Holy Spirit uses is the Word²⁰ of God (Ephesians 6:17). He reminds you of the words of Jesus Christ in the Bible, explains them and applies them in your life.
- The Spirit and prayer (Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18). The Spirit helps to pray and to pray right.
- The Spirit and fellowship (Romans 5:5). The Spirit gives the peace and the love needed for fellowship.
- The Spirit and fruit bearing (Luke 12:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:11). The Spirit gives words to witness and spiritual gifts to serve.
- The Spirit and obedience (Acts 1:8; Acts 5:32; 1 Peter 1:2). The Spirit gives power to do what God says.

²⁰ Greek: "réma" and not "logos". Réma is for example a Bible verse that hits the target, like Matthew 4:4!

Summarise. The filling with the Holy Spirit describes *the normal Christian life* as a life continually or again and again put under the control of the Holy Spirit, that is, as a life continually or again and again *submitted or surrendered to the lordship* of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit-filled life is manifested in *the renewal of a person*, his thoughts, attitudes, habits or character by means of the fruit of the Spirit.

And the Spirit-filled life is manifested in *the person serving in a task* assigned by God; often by means of an appropriate spiritual gift.

C. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Romans 8:9-16; Galatians 5:13-25.

Discover and discuss. How does the presence of the sinful nature or the presence of the Holy Spirit in you express themselves?

1. The manifestation of the sinful nature.

The indwelling sinful nature expresses itself in *physical sins* like sexual immorality and excess, in *spiritual sins* like idolatry and occultism, and in *social sins* like selfish ambition and quarrelling.

2. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

The indwelling Holy Spirit expresses itself in the fruit of the Spirit. The indwelling Holy Spirit expresses itself in basic spiritual qualities, like love, joy and peace; in virtues that reveal themselves in social relationships, like patience, kindness and goodness; and in faithfulness to God, gentleness towards other people and self-control within yourself.

When you are a Christian, you belong to Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:16) and the Spirit of Jesus Christ dwells in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Then you have the obligation no longer to live under the control of the indwelling sinful nature, but to live under the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is opposed to the manifestations of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:17) and will help you put them to death (Romans 8:13).

The Holy Spirit will begin to produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in you. The Holy Spirit will lead you on the way God wants you to go. Thus, the Holy Spirit becomes the dominant power and influence in your life and you will more and more submit yourself to him and co-operate with him.

See the Bible study on the fruit of the Spirit in the next lesson (See manual 4, lesson 46).

5	PRAYER (8 minutes)	[REACTIONS] PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD
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Take turns in the group to **pray short** to God in response to what you have learned today.
Or divide the group into two's or three's and pray to God in response to what you have learned today.

6	PREPARATION (2 minutes)	[ASSIGNMENT] FOR NEXT LESSON
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(Group leader. Give the group members this preparation for at home in writing or let them copy it down).

1. **Commitment.** Be committed to make disciples.
Preach, teach or study the teaching of "Baptism and filling with the Holy Spirit" together with another person or group of people. Make it your goal to live the Spirit-filled life every day of your life. Consider which misdeeds of the body you should put to death or how you can grow in love.
2. **Personal time with God.** Have a quiet time from (half) a chapter of Job 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 each day.
Make use of the questions method. Make notes.
3. **Bible study.** Prepare the next Bible study at home. (5) Galatians 5:13-26. Theme: The fruit of the Spirit in the world. Make use of the five steps method of Bible study. Make notes.
4. **Prayer.** Pray for someone or something specific this week and see what God is doing (Psalm 5:3).
5. **Update your notebook** on making disciples. Include the worship notes and teaching notes and this preparation.