THE PERSON, PURPOSE, AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DETAILED STUDENT GUIDE
WITH COMMENTARY

BISHOP STEVEN R. JACOBS

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Introduction to the Holy Spirit Series

"The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit"

A Word from Pastor Stevie & Mrs. Elaine Jacobs

Dear Students, Saints, and Seekers,

It is with full hearts and great expectation that we welcome you into this life-changing journey of discovering **The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit**. Whether you are just beginning to explore the work of the Spirit or you are seeking a fresh infilling, we believe these lessons will unlock truth, stir up hunger, and invite you into a deeper walk with God.

The Holy Spirit is not an accessory to the Christian life—**He is the power source.** He is not just for preachers and leaders—**He is for every believer.** He is not distant or mysterious—**He is present, personal, and passionately pursuing you.**

Throughout this series, we will look at the role of the Holy Spirit in:

- Encouraging and educating believers
- Empowering praise and preaching
- Positioning us in purpose
- Producing spiritual fruit
- Revealing our identity as sons and daughters of God

It is our prayer that you will not only learn about the Holy Spirit but that you will **encounter Him**, be **filled by Him**, and walk in **bold obedience to Him**. This is not just another Bible study—it's an invitation to transformation. Let these lessons be more than knowledge. Let them be a launchpad into a Spirit-led life that overflows with power, purpose, and passion.

Don't rush through this. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you, guide you, convict you, and comfort you. And above all—**say yes** to what He's calling you into. We love you, we're praying for you, and we're excited to see the fire of God fall in a fresh way on your life.

With all our hearts,
Pastor Stevie & Mrs. Elaine Jacobs

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The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit | What He Does

Week 1 | What the Holy Spirit Does

From the Teachings of: Bishop Steven R. Jacobs
John 14:23–26, John 16:7–13, Acts 1:8

In John 16:7, Jesus tells His disciples that it is better for them if He goes away—because only then will the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) come. This may have seemed surprising at the time, but Jesus was speaking of something powerful: the Holy Spirit would not only walk *with* them but *live in* them.

There are three key things the Holy Spirit does in our lives:

1. **He encourages us**
2. **He educates us**
3. **He empowers us**

Let's explore each of these together.

I. The Holy Spirit Encourages Us

The word "Comforter" used in the Bible comes from the Greek word **Paraklētos**, meaning "one who is called to come alongside to help." It's like a legal advocate—someone who stands with you and pleads your case. Jesus is our Advocate in heaven (1 John 2:1), while the Holy Spirit is our Advocate on earth. These two work together on our behalf.

Think about the times you've felt overwhelmed, misunderstood, or completely alone. In those moments, the Holy Spirit is there—not just in theory, but personally. He lifts our heads, steadies our hearts, and encourages us to keep going.

Jesus also wanted us to understand this:

- When He was physically on earth, He could only be in one place at a time.
- But when the Holy Spirit came, He would be **omnipresent**—with *each and every one of us* all the time.
- He did not leave us as orphans—He left us with a **Helper**, an **Encourager**, and a **Comforter** who lives in us.

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The Holy Spirit comes alongside us in every area of life—our ministry, our struggles, our calling—to uplift us and promote the purposes of God in us.

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding the dual role of the Holy Spirit as your personal advocate on earth and Jesus as your advocate in heaven change how you view your struggles, your prayers, or your sense of being supported?

- Can you share a time when you sensed the Holy Spirit encouraging you or helping you carry something that felt too heavy?

II. The Holy Spirit Educates Us

In John 14:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach us all things and bring to remembrance what He taught. This isn't just about knowledge—it's about **spiritual understanding** and **revelation**.

Jesus taught His disciples daily while He was with them. But once He returned to the Father, He knew they would still need guidance. That's why He sent the Holy Spirit—to continue teaching and reminding them of the truth.

When the Word of God is released into our lives, it gives us:

- **Substance** – It gives our lives depth and weight.
- **Identity** – It reminds us who we are in Christ.
- **Spiritual intellect** – It helps us discern right from wrong.

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When the Holy Spirit joins the Word, **life** happens. Darkness becomes light. Confusion becomes clarity. The worthless becomes valuable. The void is filled.

We are called to **know**, **remember**, and **apply** God's Word. The Holy Spirit helps us do all three.

Discussion Questions:

- The Holy Spirit doesn't just teach information—He brings revelation. How has the Holy Spirit helped you better understand a Scripture, recognize truth, or remember something Jesus said when you needed it most?

- What role does the Holy Spirit play when you study the Word or share your faith with others?

Follow-up:

- What's the difference between reading Scripture on your own and reading it with the help of the Holy Spirit?

- Have you ever had the Holy Spirit bring a Scripture back to mind at the perfect moment?

III. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses..."* That power is **spiritual strength** to carry out God's will.

We access that empowerment when we:

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- Hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit
- Seek to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- Strive to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25)
- Allow the Spirit to lead us (Romans 8:14)
- Listen to what the Spirit says to the Church (Revelation 2:29)

The believers in the upper room were not just waiting for a feeling—they were waiting for *power*. Though they were gifted, none of them stepped into ministry until the Holy Spirit came. Why? Because without Him, we can *perform*, but we can't *produce* Kingdom fruit.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to function with:

- Power
- Authority
- Confidence
- Boldness
- Strength
- Anointing

This includes our testimony, our worship, our prayer life, and our leadership.

Empowered Testimony: When the Spirit empowers your story, it becomes more than a narrative—it becomes a testimony that God uses to bring hope and healing to others.

Empowered Praise: Praise in the flesh may feel good. But Spirit-filled praise transforms the atmosphere and glorifies Jesus.

Empowered Prayer: Romans 8:26 says that the Spirit helps us pray, even when we don't know what to pray. He intercedes for us according to God's will—not our emotions or assumptions.

Empowered Preaching and Teaching: It's not just about preparing the content—it's about allowing the Spirit to guide the presentation, making it effective and transformative.

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Discussion Questions:

- Many people serve in their gifts, but not everyone serves in the power of the Holy Spirit. What do you think it looks like to be empowered by the Spirit in your personal life or ministry?

- How can we tell the difference between performing in our own strength versus being led and empowered by the Spirit?

Follow-up:

- Have you ever experienced a time when your testimony, prayer, or praise felt different because the Holy Spirit was present and active?

- What's one area of your life or calling where you want to stop striving and start relying more on the Holy Spirit?

Final Challenge:

Jesus gave us a Helper. That Helper is not passive—He is powerful. He walks with us, speaks to us, convicts us, and leads us into truth. The question is not whether the Holy Spirit is available.

The question is—will we let Him fulfill His purpose in our lives?

Let this week be a time where you:

- Invite the Holy Spirit to walk with you personally.
- Ask Him to teach you when you read your Bible.
- Lean on His power in every area of your calling.

He is with you. He is for you. And He is in you.

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Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank You for being with me today. You are my Comforter when I feel weak, my Teacher when I seek truth, and my Power when I feel unprepared. Thank You for living in me and walking with me. Help me recognize Your voice more clearly and respond with obedience and trust. Teach me to lean on You in every area of my life—whether I'm learning, struggling, or serving. I invite You to encourage me when I feel low, to teach me when I don't understand, and to empower me when I feel weak. Fill me afresh. Help me grow in intimacy with You every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

At-Home Interactive Activity: Scripture Reflection

This week, spend time with the Holy Spirit by reflecting on how He encourages, educates, and empowers you. Set aside a quiet space to read the verses and answer the reflection prompts honestly and prayerfully.

You will focus on three areas of the Holy Spirit's role:

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1. The Holy Spirit Encourages Us

Read: John 16:7 and John 14:26

Reflection Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit doing in these verses?
- Have you experienced His comfort, support, or encouragement in your life?
- How can you invite the Holy Spirit to be your Comforter in a deeper way this week?

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2. The Holy Spirit Educates Us

Read: John 16:13 and 1 Corinthians 2:10–13

Reflection Questions:

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- What is the Holy Spirit teaching or revealing in these verses?
- Can you think of a time He helped you understand Scripture or gave you spiritual insight?
- How can you be more open to the Holy Spirit's guidance while studying the Bible?

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3. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us

Read: Acts 1:8 and Romans 8:26

Reflection Questions:

- What kind of power is the Holy Spirit offering in these verses?
- Have you ever felt His strength in your prayer, ministry, or decision-making?
- What area of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's power in right now?

Tip: Write your answers in a notebook or journal. Be honest with yourself and with God. Don't rush the process—sit with these Scriptures and listen for what the Holy Spirit may want to say to you.

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The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit | What He Does: A Life-Giving and Life-Changing Source

Week 2 | Receive the Word of God and Be Positioned in a Work for God

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Introduction

When we talk about the person, purpose, and power of the Holy Spirit, it's essential to realize that the Spirit is not an optional part of the Christian walk—He is central to it. He has a specific role in our personal lives and in the larger mission of the Kingdom of Heaven. In this week's study, we focus on how the Spirit of God positions us through the Word of God for His work and how He transforms lifeless situations into life-giving assignments.

Scripture Foundation

> ***Ezekiel 37:1–6 (NKJV)*** *1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews (SIN - YOUS) on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."*

Commentary

In the very first verse, Ezekiel highlights three key moments:

1. The hand of the LORD was upon him.
2. He was carried out in the Spirit of the LORD.
3. God spoke to him.

Though Ezekiel was a prophet by calling, the principle applies to all of us: Our kingdom identity, gifts, and potential are not fulfilled through striving or title-holding but by:

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- The hand of God resting upon us,
- The Spirit of God positioning us,
- And the Word of God being received and obeyed.

Let this be a reminder: The Spirit of God will never lead us where the hand of God cannot sustain us and where the Word of God does not equip us. We are sustained by His hand, directed by His Spirit, and transformed by His Word.

Kingdom Positioning Through the Word

Our spiritual success is not defined by what we do or who we become in the world's eyes—it is defined by our alignment with the Spirit of God and our receptivity to His Word. The Holy Spirit is not only our teacher; He is our equipper. He does not fill our heads with mere knowledge—He fills our hearts with His presence and then positions us for Kingdom impact. Like Moses, we must carry the posture: "If Your presence does not go with me, do not send me." Whether we're teaching, serving, leading, or learning, we must invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide every move. Receiving the Word is the first step. Being positioned by the Spirit to walk in that Word is the second. We cannot share what we have not first received.

The Holy Spirit in the Home

One of the most significant places the Spirit desires to position you is in your home. Whether you're a parent, spouse, or family member, the Spirit of God wants to rest upon you and dwell within your home. You don't have to be holding a microphone or standing on a pulpit to be used by God. Some of the most powerful Kingdom work is done through consistent, godly influence in the home. The handprint of God on your family comes when you submit your role—no matter how difficult—to His Spirit. Whether your spouse is unsaved, or your children are battling worldly influences, God has positioned you to speak life and truth through your example. Don't underestimate the power of flowing with the Spirit in the everyday rhythms of family life.

Placed in the Valley

Now consider Ezekiel's assignment. The Spirit of God set him down in the middle of a valley—not on a mountaintop, not in a temple—but in a battlefield filled with dry bones. These bones were not just dead; they were disgraced. In Jewish tradition, bodies were to be washed, wrapped, and buried with dignity. To leave them exposed in the valley was a sign of shame and defeat.

This valley represents places in our lives or ministries that feel lifeless, hopeless, or forgotten. You may feel like you're standing in the middle of brokenness—whether in your marriage, your ministry, or your personal walk. But like Ezekiel, your presence in the valley is not a punishment—it's a divine placement.

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Why Would God Place Us There?

Why would God place a prophet in a graveyard? Shouldn't he have been sent to a great congregation or a thriving community? It's a question many of us ask. "Why me? Why here? Why now?"

The answer is this: The Spirit doesn't place us where it's easy—He places us where His power can be revealed. If God places someone in children's church, a hospital bedside, a classroom, or in a place of hidden service, and they reject that Word because it's not a "glamorous" assignment, they are not yet ready for greater responsibility.

Here is a core Kingdom principle: **If you are faithful with the little, God will entrust you with much.** Ezekiel didn't resist the valley. He leaned into it. He began to observe the bones and realized:

- There were many,
- They were scattered,
- They were very dry.

The assignment looked overwhelming. But God didn't ask Ezekiel to fix the bones. He told him to **speak the Word**.

Application for Today

You are not where you are by accident. Whether you're in a valley or on a mountaintop, the Spirit of God has a purpose in placing you there. You may feel surrounded by brokenness, but don't run from it—prophesy to it! Speak the Word of God into your situation. Watch how the breath of God brings life back into what appeared lifeless.

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1. Reflect: Where Has the Spirit Positioned You?

Think about where God has placed you in this season—whether at home, in ministry, at work, or in a difficult circumstance. How can you recognize this place as your "valley," and what Word is God calling you to speak into it?

Write your response:

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2. Connect the Word to Your Role

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What area of your life is the Spirit calling you to operate in more intentionally—spouse, parent, student, leader, servant? How can you allow the hand of God and the Spirit of God to move through you in that role?

Write your response:

3. Prophesy to Dry Places

What are the “dry bones” in your life right now? These might be broken relationships, a discouraged heart, a forgotten dream, or even a stagnant ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in speaking the Word of God over them.

Dry Bones:

The Word I will speak:

4. Discuss: Kingdom Assignments that Don’t Feel Glorious

Why do you think God sometimes places us in hard, unseen, or unglamorous assignments? How can we stay faithful when the work seems insignificant?

5. Prayer of Alignment

Write or speak a short prayer, inviting the Spirit of God to position them and place His hand upon your life.

Prayer:

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Key Takeaway

Let the hand of God rest on you. Let the Spirit of God position you. Let the Word of God flow through you. He is not only a life-giving source—He is a life-changing source. Your assignment may be in a valley, but your authority comes from above.

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Week 3 | Release the Power of the Word of God and the Presence of the Holy Spirit

Obey the Word of God and Unleash the Power of the Spirit

> **Ezekiel 37:7–10 (NKJV)***"So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army."*

When God places us in a culture or community to make a difference, one of the most critical keys to effectiveness is **obedience to the Word of God**. The Word alone is powerful, but it cannot bring transformation in our lives unless it is obeyed. Obedience is the vessel that carries the Word into manifestation.

Kingdom Principle #1:

Obedience to the Word of God always brings blessing and effectiveness; disobedience always brings curses and ineffectiveness.

The Power of Obedient Prophecy

Ezekiel was not just a prophet—he was a man positioned by the Spirit and obedient to the instructions of the Lord. He allowed the Spirit to carry him, and then he acted on God's command. He **released** the Word, and things **began to happen.**

Ezekiel's obedience resulted in a spiritual chain reaction:

- There was a **noise**.
- There was a **rattling**.
- Bones came **together**, each to its proper place.

This shows us the process of spiritual reformation: when the Word of God is released in obedience, it causes a **divine alignment**. Broken, scattered, and lifeless things begin to come together.

> **Encouragement:** One word from God—received and obeyed—can forever shift your situation. It can awaken what is dead, reposition what is scattered, and cause spiritual things to realign with divine order.

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The Kingdom Operates on Sound

There's something significant about **sound** in the Kingdom of God. Ezekiel spoke, and the valley responded. The bones responded to the **sound** of obedience—a Word released under divine instruction.

> **Prophetic Insight:** If you're in a dry, dead, or desolate place, the key might not be a new location—but a new sound. **Hear the Word of the Lord.** The Word has the power to reposition you for purpose.

Kingdom Principle #2:

Where God releases His Word, He will also release His Spirit.

The Word Brings Structure, but the Spirit Brings Life

After Ezekiel obeyed and released the Word, the bones were covered with sinews, flesh, and skin. They looked like bodies—but they had no life. This symbolizes a powerful truth: **the Word brings form, but the Spirit brings function.** We can have churches full of people who have structure and appearance but lack breath, movement, or life. So God gave Ezekiel another command: **prophesy to the breath**—to the Spirit.

> In Hebrew, the word *ruah* means **wind**, **breath**, or **spirit**. This same word is used in Genesis 2 when God breathed into Adam and he became a living being.

New Testament Confirmation

- **2 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV):** *"Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."*
- **James 2:26 (NKJV):** *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*

Without the Spirit, we have structure without substance. It is the **breath of God** that brings true revival, restoration, and power.

Obedience Unlocks Divine Partnership

Ezekiel was not acting alone. He was:

- **Carried** by the Spirit,
- **Commanded** by God,
- **Speaking** God's Word.

When he released both the Word and the breath, life entered the lifeless. The bones stood up—not just as bodies, but as **an exceedingly great army**. This is God's desire for His people:

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not to just have good services or well-structured ministries, but to be **an army—alive, active, and advancing His Kingdom.**

Kingdom Application

Saints of God, what you receive from the Word must be released by your mouth and partnered with the breath of the Holy Spirit. This is how you:

- Speak **identity** into your children.
- Declare **restoration** over your marriage.
- Prophesy **life** into your ministry.

> It is not enough to **study** the Word. We must **obey** the Word. It is not enough to know the Spirit exists—we must **invite** and **yield** to Him daily.

Encouragement to the Church

You have the **Word of God**, the **hand of God**, and the **Spirit of God** upon you. Rise up in faith and speak to what is dry, scattered, and dead.

- Speak to your household.
- Speak to your finances.
- Speak to your calling.
- Speak to your church.
- Speak to your city.

> Tell them: **"Hear the Word of the Lord!"**

Final Kingdom Charge

The hand of God is on this church. This is not the time to settle for dry bones or lifeless ministries. It's time to:

- **Receive** the Word.
- **Release** the Word.
- **Summon** the Spirit.
- **Raise** an army.

Let us obey the Word, unleash the Spirit, and watch the miraculous come alive all around us.

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Questions for Discussion:

1. **When was the last time you obeyed a difficult word from God?**
    - What did obedience require of you—faith, surrender, or courage?
    - What happened as a result of that obedience?
    - How did it affect your relationship with God or your spiritual growth?

2. **Ezekiel prophesied even though the valley was full of dry bones.**
    - Are there any "valleys" in your life right now where God is calling you to speak life?
    - What stops us from prophesying in desolate places—fear, doubt, or discouragement?
    - What would it look like for you to speak God's Word boldly in that area?

3. **The bones came together, but they still lacked breath.**
    - What does this say about the difference between structure and life in the church or in our personal walk?
    - Have you ever felt like you were going through the motions but missing the breath of the Spirit?
    - How can we create space in our lives for the Spirit to breathe again?

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The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit | What He Does | Gifted for a Purpose

Week 4 | Prepare (To Get Ready, Train, Put in Order or Place) for a Purpose

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1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NKJV): *4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*

With so many gifts and opportunities available in the church, how in the world can we determine the best place for ourselves? What is the purpose behind all these gifts? Who decides what each person should do in the church? Who sets the criteria or qualifications—and who does the qualifying? Should someone become a pastor simply because they've personally decided that's what they want to do? Why is the Spirit of God placing a gift or calling on my life? Why does God want to work in and through me?

Paul gives us insight and clarity—there is divine reasoning and spiritual order behind what seems like chaos. He makes it clear that the One responsible for delegating, choreographing, and coordinating every gift within the church is the Holy Spirit!

Paul had already referred to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in verse 3. Now, in reverse order, he stresses the unity of the Godhead in relation to spiritual gifts, establishing a Trinitarian emphasis: *"the same Spirit... the same Lord... the same God with the same purpose."*

The Holy Spirit, with the sponsorship and support of God and Jesus, gives a diversity of gifts to the Body of Christ. He prepares us so we can serve the Lord and His church in various ways. Though there are different kinds (*diaireseis*) of gifts, services, and workings, the same Spirit, the same Lord (Christ), and the same God are involved in all of them.

The same God who is working in me to prepare me for a specific purpose in the Body of Christ is also working in each of you to prepare you for specific purposes within the church.

Though there are many different gifts and functions, it is the Holy Spirit who, as He pleases, distributes these gifts and personally prepares us to be used for God's preordained divine purpose. Because the Holy Spirit alone determines who gets what, there's no room for rivalry, jealousy, or pride among believers. God, through His Spirit, gives each believer exactly the right gifts and prepares them to provide the services that are needed to build up the church and serve the Kingdom of God. These gifts are given **"to profit withal" (KJV)**—meaning, for usefulness and advantage to the whole body, not for personal gain.

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What Does “Manifestation” Mean?

The word *manifestation* means that which makes something clear, obvious, or visible. Just like a person’s conduct manifests what is in their heart, spiritual gifts are a visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a believer.

The gifts are not given to elevate a person’s status or glorify an individual. The Holy Spirit gives these gifts to reveal and demonstrate the Spirit’s presence and work in the life of the believer—and they are meant to benefit others.

The gifts are not for our own honor or promotion. They are meant to edify the church, strengthen the body, and spread the gospel.

Our Gifts Are About OTHERS, Not Ourselves

The gifts we have received are not about us. They are about:

- Our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- The lost who need to hear the gospel.
- Adding value to the church and advancing the Kingdom of God.

That’s why no believer should boast or be puffed up, as though they are more worthy than others. Our gifts are simply that—gifts from God. At the same time, no believer should feel discouraged or insignificant, as though their assignment in the church is less important. Your role—whatever it is—was hand-picked by God. The goal of the Holy Spirit is for every believer to be content and confident in the assignment they’ve received and to make the best use of their gifts and time for the collective good of the body and the advancement of the Kingdom.

Important Truth: The Holy Spirit Cannot Be Boxed In

Whatever the practices of different churches, believers must realize that the Holy Spirit does not submit to human methodologies. He cannot be confined to cultural trends or contemporary traditions. Every believer must be open to God’s gracious power in their lives—and trust that the Holy Spirit is the one preparing them, empowering them, and placing them for a specific work in the Kingdom. As the church, we must embrace the gifts He has given us and allow the Holy Spirit to prepare us for our assignments.

Unity in Source. Unity in Purpose.

Our gifts come from the same source (vv. 4–6) and are given for the same purpose: not for personal elevation (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:4; 1 Peter 4:10), but for the common good of the Body.

1 Corinthians 12:8–13 (NKJV): *8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the*

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interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Home Activity: Discover, Confirm, and Activate Your Spiritual Gift

Title: ***"Gift Tracker: Discover, Confirm, and Serve"***

Step 1: Take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Begin this week's activity by completing a spiritual gifts inventory.

After completing the test, write down your top 1–3 gifts:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Which one do you feel most confident about or most drawn to?

_____

_____

Step 2: Pray for Confirmation

Spend 10–15 minutes in quiet prayer asking the Holy Spirit to confirm your gift(s) and show you how to use them.

Prayer Prompt:
Holy Spirit, You have uniquely gifted me for a purpose. Thank You for revealing what You've placed inside of me. Confirm these gifts in my heart and guide me on how to use them to serve, love, and glorify You this week. Amen.

Step 3: Apply It This Week

Choose **one intentional way** to activate your spiritual gift during the week. This can be something simple and practical.

Examples:

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- *Gift of Encouragement?* Write or text a Bible verse and a word of hope to a friend.
- *Gift of Hospitality?* Invite someone to church or offer to help at home.
- *Gift of Teaching?* Share a Scripture devotional or teach a short Bible thought to your sibling or child.
- *Gift of Helps?* Serve behind the scenes in church, home, or school.

This week, I will use my gift by:

Step 4: Reflect and Record

At the end of the week, journal what you experienced.

- **What happened when I used my gift this week?**

- **How did I see God move through this?**

- **What do I want to do next with my gift?**

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The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit | What He Does | Gifted for a Purpose

Week 5 | He Positions Us with a Purpose

There's something important about the Holy Spirit we all need to understand—and never forget: **the Holy Spirit knows us better than we know ourselves**. Because of that, He doesn't just prepare us—**He positions us**. Let's look at how that works.

Jeremiah 1:5–9 (KJV)

> *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

The word **"formed"** means to shape, plan, or purpose something in advance. And **"know"** in this context means to be intimately familiar with every detail about someone—even before they exist. **God was telling Jeremiah—and us—that before we were even born, He knew everything about us.** He had already decided on a purpose for our lives. He didn't start working on us once we were born or once we got saved—He had a plan all along.

Jeremiah responded just like many of us do: "God, I'm not qualified." But God reached out, touched Jeremiah, and assured him, "I've already prepared you for this."

Here's the truth: God will never position you where He hasn't already prepared you. The Holy Spirit knows every detail about your life—your strengths, weaknesses, struggles, and potential. And He uses that knowledge to put you exactly where you're meant to be in the church and in the Kingdom.

So why does this matter?

Because **some of us have been saying "I can't" or "I'm not ready"**, when really, the Holy Spirit is calling us to step into the position God already prepared us for. He places us in the body of Christ in a way that **brings value to others and builds up the church**. There are many kinds of spiritual gifts, services, and roles in the church—but they all come from the same Spirit and work together for the same purpose: **to build the body of Christ**.

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Ephesians 4:13–16 (KJV)

> *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man... From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth... maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Paul tells us: **If you're tired of being tossed around by life**, take your place in the body. When we all step into the position the Holy Spirit has given us, we grow stronger—together. If you don't know where you belong yet, ask the Holy Spirit. If you already know, **let Him help you walk confidently in it**. We don't all have the same gift, but **we're all needed**. Every gift matters. Every person matters.

Key Truths for This Week:

- The Holy Spirit positions us based on God's perfect knowledge of who we are.
- Your gift was chosen for you before you were born—and it's for the good of the church.
- The church grows when we each work in the place the Spirit has assigned us.
- The goal is **unity**, **growth**, and **maturity**—personally, spiritually, and together as a church.
- Your gift isn't about personal recognition—it's about building others up.

Devotional & Reflection

Scripture Review *Take time this week to re-read:*

- **Jeremiah 1:5–9**
- **Ephesians 4:13–16**

Read it slowly and prayerfully. Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight any words or phrases that speak directly to your current season.

Personal Reflection: Use a journal or notebook to answer the following questions below.

1. **What part of Jeremiah's story do you relate to the most right now—his doubt, his calling, or his response? Why?**

2. **Is there an area in your life where you've said "I'm not ready" or "I can't"?**
    - What might the Holy Spirit be preparing you for?
    - What's one small step of obedience you can take this week to trust His positioning?

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3. **According to Ephesians 4, how does your position in the body help the church grow?**
    - What role are you already playing (big or small)?
    - Where do you sense God may be calling you to step in?

Prayer Focus | Ask the Holy Spirit to:

- Help you **recognize** your gift and your place in the body of Christ.
- Give you **boldness** to step into your assignment—even if it feels intimidating.
- Bring **unity** in your heart with others in the church, so we grow stronger together.

Action Challenge: Ask a mentor, leader, or pastor: "What gifts or qualities do you see in me that could help the church?" Write down their response. Pray about how you can begin to develop or use that gift in a way that builds up others.

Creative Option (for artists, writers, or musicians) Create something that represents your gift. It could be:

- A drawing or painting that expresses how God shaped you.
- A poem or song about being known and positioned by the Holy Spirit.
- A short devotional you write and share with someone.

Offer it back to God as a form of worship this week.

Already Serving? "How do I balance ministry and family when it feels like church responsibilities demand more time than I have left for home?"

This isn't just a scheduling question—it's a stewardship question.

> *Pastor Stevie shared: "This is where we must understand and activate the kingdom principle of stewardship. God has the same expectation for all that He has trusted to our care… In a cycle of time, all the top things that require our time will move up and down on our priority list."*

Let's unpack that together.

1. Stewardship is Spirit-Led Time Management.

The Holy Spirit empowers us not only to serve, but also to prioritize. Stewardship means recognizing that every assignment—whether family, ministry, rest, or work—matters to God. But not all assignments require equal time in every season.

Try this:

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- List your top areas of responsibility (ministry, family, rest, job, etc.).
- Ask: “Holy Spirit, in this season, what needs to move up on my list? What can be moved down without guilt?”

2. Assign Your Priorities Real Time.

> “Assign these weekly priorities their proper dates and time on your calendar, and your calendar will tell you where to invest your time in that moment.”

If it matters, schedule it. Don’t just schedule sermons or services—schedule dinner with your family, your Sabbath rest, your prayer closet time. Let your calendar reflect your values, not just your obligations.

3. Define What Really Counts as a Crisis.

You will also have to decide in advance what will constitute a crisis and will take precedence over what you have scheduled…” Not everything urgent is a crisis. If everything can interrupt everything, we’re not walking in Spirit-led boundaries. Learn to recognize the difference between God’s interruptions and people’s expectations.

4. Make Room for the Four Essential Rhythms.

Pastor Stevie encourages four cycles every believer should intentionally make time for:

- Rest – time to be still and physically reset
- Recreation – moments of fun, laughter, and joy
- Relationship – quality time with key people God placed in your life
- Reflection – intentional pause to evaluate where you are, how you’re doing, and if you’re aligned with God’s purpose

Weekly Reflection Prompt: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you evaluate each of these four areas. Which one are you missing most? What can you rearrange this week to honor it?

Weekly Application: Start small. Block off one hour this week for each of the following:

- An hour of rest (nap, quiet, solitude)
- An hour of fun or recreation (walk, game night, hobby)
- An hour of focused time with someone important (family dinner, coffee, etc.)
- An hour of reflection with God (journal, read, or sit in stillness)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me to steward what You’ve entrusted to me. Teach me when to pause and when to push, when to say yes and when to say no. I don’t want to run on empty—I want to be filled to overflow, in every part of my life.

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The Person, Purpose, and Power of the Holy Spirit | The Promise, Presence & Power of the Holy Spirit

Week 6 | What Happens When the Holy Spirit Fills the House

> ***Acts 1:4–5, 8 (KJV)*** *4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence…. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

I. The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Promise means a solemn pledge—a guaranteed assurance that something will certainly happen. The baptism with the Holy Ghost is a **promise** from God to believers. Jesus gave the disciples three promises in this passage:

1. **They would be baptized with the Holy Ghost.**
   Baptism means to immerse, submerge, or overwhelm.
2. **They would receive power** once the Holy Ghost came upon them.
3. **They would become witnesses** for Jesus.

Here's the thing—**we all want the promises of God**, but many of us forget: God's promises often come with **conditions**. In this case, Jesus told them to:

- Stay in Jerusalem.
- Wait for the promise to come.

Sometimes we miss the promises of the Holy Spirit because we **leave the place God told us to wait.** When it feels like nothing exciting is happening, we often try to move on too soon—physically, emotionally, or spiritually. But obedience means staying in position, even when things seem still or quiet.

We don't know how many times the Holy Spirit has shown up to release something we've been praying for, but we missed it because we didn't wait. We must learn to **wait on the Lord and work our source**. Just like Adam had to work the ground he came from, sometimes we must

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remain planted in the place God assigned us and trust that if we keep praying, worshiping, serving, and obeying, the promise will come.

> ***Joel 2:28–29 (KJV)*** *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was **promised generations before**. Joel didn't live to see it, but it still came to pass. Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and said, "The same Spirit Joel spoke of—He's here now!" **God's promises are yes and amen.** Just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean it won't.cGod still wants to pour out His Spirit on all people—on **sons and daughters, young and old**. He wants to use the church—**you and me**—to do the work of the kingdom. All He needs is for us to come together, stay in position, and keep waiting, worshiping, and working in unity.

II. The Presence of the Holy Spirit

> **Acts 2:1–4 (KJV)**1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

We all desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit—and Scripture commands us to be filled. That means God is ready and willing. The question is: are we? If the church today could return to the same **mindset and atmosphere** as those gathered on Pentecost, **what happened then could happen now**. The presence of the Holy Spirit can still fill the house—and more importantly—**He can fill our hearts**. When the Holy Spirit shows up, several things happen:

1. **He fills the house.** If He filled the upper room then, He can fill our church today—but we must worship, pray, and trust in unity.
2. **He came with a sound.** There's a spiritual principle: **certain kingdom things come with a sound.** The mighty rushing wind was no accident. When the Spirit moves, there's a noticeable shift in the atmosphere.
3. **Tongues of fire and spiritual language came.** The Spirit gave them the ability to communicate in ways that reached people's hearts. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective spiritual communicators. He gives us the right words and the ability to connect with others.
4. **They were all filled with the Holy Ghost.** It's one thing to feel the Spirit. It's another thing to be **filled and overflowing** with Him. When we're filled, we are influenced, guided, and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Our words, actions, and decisions begin to reflect His presence. The presence of the Holy Spirit will always:

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- Shift the atmosphere.
- Break through traditions and limitations.
- Transform lives.

The Holy Spirit flows best in **unity and obedience**. When a church gathers in one mind and one heart, the Holy Spirit doesn't just visit—**He abides**. If His presence isn't going with us, **we need to wait in our "upper room" until He does**.

> ***Acts 2:4–14, 41 (NLT)*** *4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. 5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. 7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 ….and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!" 11b "And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words… 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

Prayer Closet Challenge: "Filled to Overflow"

What's the Challenge? This week, we're inviting you to create a space and carve out time each day to meet with God—just you and Him. The goal is simple: to make room for the Holy Spirit to speak, fill, and lead you. This isn't about how long you pray or having the perfect words. It's about **being present, being honest, and being open** to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your heart.

Step 1: Pick Your "Closet"

Your "prayer closet" can be:

- A quiet corner of your bedroom
- A chair in your backyard
- A spot in the car with the music off
- Even your literal closet with a pillow and Bible!

Wherever it is, choose a **distraction-free space** where you can be still and focus.

Step 2: Commit to 15 Minutes a Day for 5 Days

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You can do this in the morning, at lunch, before bed—whatever works best for you. Use the guide below to help you get started each day.

Daily Prayer Focus

Day 1 – "Waiting on the Promise"

Read Acts 1:4–5
Ask: "Holy Spirit, teach me to wait and trust You even when nothing feels exciting."

Day 2 – "Fill This House"

Read Acts 2:1–4
Pray: "Holy Spirit, fill this space and fill my heart. Change the atmosphere in me."

Day 3 – "Let Me Hear You"

Reflect: What is the Holy Spirit trying to say to you this week?
Pray: "Open my ears to hear Your voice clearly."

Day 4 – "Unity in the Spirit"

Think: Are there people you need to forgive or love better to walk in unity?
Pray: "Help me walk in unity—with my church, family, and friends."

Day 5 – "Overflow"

Read: Ephesians 5:18–20
Pray: "Holy Spirit, I don't want to live on empty. Fill me to overflowing, and let my praise be real."

Bonus: Keep a "Prayer Closet Journal"

After each prayer time, write down:

- A verse that stood out
- A thought or word the Holy Spirit placed on your heart
- A prayer request you want to keep praying for
- A "thank you" to God for something specific

Final Challenge:

At the end of the week, ask yourself: **"What changed in me because I made room for the Holy Spirit?"** Then, **write a short testimony** or prayer to share with your group, class, or even just between you and God. You might be surprised by what He reveals!

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Week 7 | The Power of the Holy Spirit | He Empowered Them to Praise

You want to talk about a powerful praise? When the Holy Spirit showed up, He didn't just fill the house—**He filled their lives** and empowered their worship! Freshly filled with the Holy Spirit, the early church was not afraid, embarrassed, or too dignified to make some noise for Jesus. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to speak a spiritual language that was universal—even those who were lost could understand.

> ***1 Corinthians 14:22 (KJV)*** *"Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers..."*

When we allow the Holy Spirit to fill our church and our lives, **He will empower our praise, our worship, and our service.** We'll begin to speak a spiritual language that ministers in personal and powerful ways. And it's not just our speaking that gets empowered—**He empowers our hearing, too.**

Here's something we must understand: **if we can be filled, we can also be emptied.** While the Holy Spirit is knocking and ready to fill and empower our praise and worship, Satan is doing everything he can to drain us dry and silence our voice. This might surprise you—but Satan's main strategy to weaken growing Christians isn't temptation to sin. **It's getting us to settle for average.** He uses resistance—especially in the areas where we're trying to succeed for God. That resistance? It usually doesn't come from the world. It comes from within the church. Disunity. Division. Distractions. **Young vs. old. Hymns vs. praise songs. Yesterday vs. today.** As long as we're fighting each other, Satan doesn't have to lift a finger.

Author Steven Pressfield once wrote: *"Resistance's aim is not to wound or disable. Resistance aims to kill, and its target is the epicenter of our being—our soul and the unique and priceless gift we were put on this earth to give."*

> ***John 10:10 (KJV)*** *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."*

That resistance is real. And when we're constantly under attack, our spiritual tanks start to run low. But hear this: **just because we're running low doesn't mean we have to stop. We can be filled again.** And the best part? **It's a self-service pump.** Stop waiting on someone else to hand you your oil. **Get your own.** Like the five wise virgins said—bring your own oil. Or as Pastor Ted would say: **"Pull up to the Holy Ghost and say, 'Fill 'er up!'"**When the Holy Spirit empowers our praise, it's okay to get a little radical! Their praise was so powerful and out of the ordinary that onlookers thought they were drunk.

> ***Ephesians 5:18–20 (KJV)*** *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

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Just like being drunk reveals a person is under the influence of alcohol, **Spirit-filled praise reveals that a person is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.** The purpose of Spirit-empowered worship is to move heaven, not to entertain man. When our worship moves God—**He moves in our lives and in the atmosphere around us.** Remember what Jesus said: when the Holy Spirit comes, **He will speak of Jesus—everything He did, said, and taught.** That means: **if we really want to honor Jesus, we must desire, seek, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives and our church.**

Even if we know Jesus well, we don't know Him like **Holy Spirit does.** So let the Spirit lead our praise. When singers, musicians, and worshippers are all under His influence, **our worship becomes powerful and life-changing.**

Empowered to Praise: Weekly Devotion & Challenge

Ephesians 5:18–20 (KJV) *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Home: This week, create a personal space where you can prepare your heart before worship. Each day, take time to invite the Holy Spirit to fill you again.

- **Ask:** "Holy Spirit, is there anything draining me that I need to release?"
- **Worship:** Sing or speak your own melody to the Lord—just you and Him.
- **Write:** Reflect on the phrase "Fill 'er up!" What area of your life feels empty? Ask God to fill it with His Spirit.
- **Prepare:** Journal one way you can shift your focus from distraction to devotion the next time you're in worship.

Worship Services: When you enter a service this week, come expecting! Let this be more than a routine.

- **During Praise & Worship:** Take a moment to close your eyes and lift your hands—not just to feel, but to be filled.
- **Free Your Mind:** Ask God to silence the noise and help you focus. Don't worry about who's around you.
- **Respond Boldly:** If you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to sing louder, dance, kneel, or release a sound—respond with obedience.
- **Look for Fruit:** After service, reflect: Did something shift? Was there peace, joy, freedom, or breakthrough?

Challenge: This week, don't wait for a worship leader or a "feeling" to spark your praise. Practice being led by the Spirit at home and in church. Let your worship come from overflow, not just atmosphere.

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Week 8 | The Power of the Holy Spirit | He Empowered Them to Preach

You want to talk about the value of **Holy Spirit-filled worship before the Word?**
It creates an atmosphere for breakthrough preaching. Anyone who's ever preached knows this: **Spirit-filled worship leads to Spirit-filled preaching.** Peter understood this. He didn't try to preach in his own strength or gifting—**he waited for the Holy Spirit** to fill the house and the people first.

Once the atmosphere was right, **he released the Word.** And what happened? **Hearts were pricked. Truth was received. Three thousand people were saved and added to the church in one day.** When the Holy Spirit fills the room, **He fulfills God's promises, rewards unity and patience, answers prayer, and glorifies Jesus Christ.**

- He empowers worship, preaching, and witness.
- He convicts sinners and strengthens the saints.

Closing Reflection

In the baptism at Pentecost, the disciples weren't just dipped or sprinkled in the Spirit. **He filled the room. He fell on them. He sat on them. He filled them.** And He wants to do it again today. **Let's reflect. Ask yourself:**

- Do I have a strong desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Have I been baptized in the Holy Ghost?
- Am I waiting, watching, and working faithfully where He has placed me?
- Am I unified with the rest of the saints in heart, mind, and spirit?

If you've been seeking, waiting, and staying faithful—**get ready.** The Holy Spirit is about to **invade your atmosphere.**

Devotional and Application Guide | What Happens When the Holy Spirit Fills the House

This week, focus on recognizing the Holy Spirit's leading in worship, prayer, and daily life. The early church didn't just feel the Spirit in the room—they were filled, transformed, and empowered. You can be too.

Day 1: A Desire to Be Filled

Read: Acts 1:8 and Ephesians 5:18–20
Reflection: The Holy Spirit isn't just available—He's ready and willing to fill us. The question is:

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Are we willing and open? Ask God to stir a fresh desire in your heart.
Prayer Prompt: “Holy Spirit, I don’t want to live empty. Fill me today and guide my every step.”
Application: Write down three areas of your life where you need the Holy Spirit’s help. Be specific (for example: boldness, peace, or focus).

Day 2: Recognizing Resistance

Read: John 10:10 and 1 Corinthians 14:22
Reflection: Satan’s greatest tactic isn’t always temptation—it’s resistance. He’ll try to wear you down and convince you to settle. Often, resistance shows up in the form of division, discouragement, or distraction.
Prayer Prompt: “Holy Spirit, help me identify the resistance I’m facing. Strengthen me to keep pressing forward.”
Application: Identify one source of spiritual resistance you’ve experienced lately. Write it down and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a strategy to overcome it.

Day 3: A Praise that Shifts Atmospheres

Read: Acts 2:1–4
Reflection: When the Holy Spirit filled the room, the people couldn’t stay quiet. Praise broke out. It may have looked radical, but it was real—and powerful.
Prayer Prompt: “God, let my worship move Your heart. Help me praise You without fear or hesitation.”
Application: At the next church service, or during your personal time with God, step out of your comfort zone. Lift your hands. Speak out loud. Sing a song. Praise Him with freedom and truth.

Day 4: Make Room to Hear

Read: 1 Kings 19:11–12 and Acts 2:6–8
Reflection: The Holy Spirit doesn’t only speak through loud moments—He often whispers in the quiet. Are you listening?
Prayer Prompt: “Holy Spirit, help me slow down. Quiet my mind and make me more aware of Your presence.”
Application: Spend 3 to 5 minutes in silence today. No music. No noise. Just stillness. Then write down what you sense the Lord speaking or revealing.

Day 5: Empowered to Speak and Witness

Read: Acts 2:14 and Acts 2:41
Reflection: Peter didn’t preach in his own strength—he waited for the Spirit to fill him. When he spoke, it wasn’t just words. It was power, and thousands responded. You may not preach from a

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stage, but your life can preach every day.
Prayer Prompt: “Holy Spirit, use my words today. Help me speak life, truth, and love to someone who needs it.”
Application: Reach out to one person today—a friend, family member, classmate, or coworker. Send a message of encouragement, a prayer, or simply tell them God loves them.

Weekend Reflection: Worship with Intention

At church this weekend, take time before worship begins to pray this: “Holy Spirit, remove distractions. Help me hear Your voice. Fill this room—and fill me.”

After service, write down:

- How did I experience the Holy Spirit today?
- Was there a moment in worship or preaching where I sensed Him moving or speaking to me?

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For Those Still Exploring Faith

We want you to know—this lesson isn't just for people who've been in church their whole life. It's also for you. Maybe you're still figuring things out. Maybe you're curious about God but unsure. Or maybe you've been hurt by religion or just haven't felt ready to take a step.

That's okay.

We're not here to pressure you—we're here to walk with you. And here's something important: **The Holy Spirit doesn't wait until we're perfect. He meets us where we are.** Even if you're still deciding what you believe, the fact that you're asking questions, reading this lesson, or showing up at all—that's the Holy Spirit drawing your heart.

A Simple Prayer to Start:

> *"Holy Spirit, if You're real, help me see You. Help me understand. Help me take a step."*

That's it. You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to be open. **You are welcome here.** Whether you believe, are beginning to believe, or aren't sure if you ever will—we're so glad you're here. Keep coming. Keep asking. And know this:

God is not afraid of your questions. He's already been pursuing you—with love.

Challenge for the Week: Just Be Open

Each day this week, take 2–5 quiet minutes—no music, no phone, no distractions. You don't have to say anything out loud. You don't even have to be sure what you believe. Just sit still and pray quietly in your heart:

> *"God, if You're real… I'm listening."*

Then just be still. You might feel peace. You might feel nothing. That's okay. This isn't about performance. It's about presence.

Write down anything you notice this week:

- A thought that comes to mind.
- A person who says something that speaks to you.
- A feeling during a moment of worship.
- A Scripture or lyric that stands out.

You don't need certainty to start a conversation with God. Just honesty. God is not looking for perfection—He's looking for permission. Let this week be the beginning of something real.

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For Believers: How to Talk About the Holy Spirit Without Sounding Super Spiritual

John 14:16–17 (NKJV) *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

Let's be real—sometimes we hesitate to talk about the Holy Spirit because we're afraid it'll come off as "too much." Maybe we don't want to freak people out. Maybe we don't know how to explain it without sounding like we're on a different planet. Or maybe we think, "What if they think I'm just trying to be deep or super spiritual?"

You're not alone.

But the truth is: the Holy Spirit is not a weird topic. He's the *best gift* we could ever explain—and the world is hungry for what He brings.

Key Truths:

1. **You don't have to make it mystical.**
    - The Holy Spirit is a real, present Helper—not a spooky cloud or a strange feeling.
    - Talk about Him like you'd talk about a close friend who helps you stay grounded, makes you better, and brings you peace in chaos.

2. **Relatability is more powerful than theology.**
    - You don't need to give someone a doctrinal lesson. Just share what the Holy Spirit has done in *your* life.
    - Examples: "When I didn't know what to do, He gave me peace." "When I was about to lose it, He reminded me who I am."

3. **He's already working in people's hearts.**
    - If someone is curious, wrestling with questions, or even just open to hearing more about God—the Holy Spirit is already drawing them.
    - You're not starting something. You're joining in on something God already began.

Reflection Question: Why do you think it feels hard to talk about the Holy Spirit to people who don't believe yet?

Practice Prompt: Think of someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus—or isn't walking closely with Him. This week, ask God to give you a moment to share just *one* thing the Holy Spirit has done for you. Keep it real. Keep it short. Keep it personal.

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Here are a few examples you can borrow:

- “I didn’t know what to pray, but I whispered, ‘Holy Spirit, help,’ and somehow I had peace.”
- “I felt super overwhelmed, but I asked the Holy Spirit to guide me—and He really helped me take the next step.”
- “I used to think God wanted me to be perfect before I came to Him. But the Holy Spirit showed me—He just wants me.”

Daily Devotional Thought: ***Romans 8:26 (NKJV)*** *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses...”*

Each day this week, pray: *“Holy Spirit, help me talk about You in a way that helps—not hurts. Let me be honest, loving, and bold.”*

Challenge: Holy Spirit Conversations: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into one conversation this week. Not to *convince* anyone—but to *represent* Him with grace. You don’t have to seal the deal. Just plant the seed.And remember: the goal isn’t to sound spiritual. It’s to be real. Be loving. Be led.

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The Journey Continues…

What a journey this has been. Over the last several weeks, we've learned about the **Person**, the **Purpose**, and the **Power** of the Holy Spirit. We've explored how He encourages, educates, empowers, positions, and fills us—not just for our sake, but for the sake of others and for the building of God's Kingdom. But here's the most important thing we want you to remember: This is not the end—**this is your beginning.**

What God has started in you through this series, He desires to **continue, deepen, and strengthen**. Don't let this be just a study you completed. Let it be a **lifestyle you live**. Let it become a daily walk of surrender, dependence, and bold obedience to the Holy Spirit. Whether you are still learning, just now feeling the hunger to be filled, or walking boldly in your calling—**you're right where you need to be.** Keep going. Keep growing.

Moving Forward:

- Stay connected to the Word.
- Stay connected to the church.
- Stay connected to the Holy Spirit.
- Keep discovering your spiritual gifts.
- Use what God has placed in you to edify others.

The Holy Spirit is your **Helper, Comforter, Teacher, and Friend.** He is not far away—**He is with you, in you, and for you.** We are so proud of the steps you've taken and the hunger you've shown. We believe with all our hearts that **your life will bear fruit**, your words will carry power, and your witness will bring people to Jesus.

Don't just carry information—**carry fire.**
Don't just attend church—**be the church.**
Don't just wait for revival—**walk in it.**

We love you, we're praying for you, and we can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit continues to do in and through your life.

You are filled for a purpose. Now go live it.

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