

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU



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Welcome to this reading class!

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

This study seeks to expound your knowledge of the Holy Spirit and the beautiful relationship you have with Him.

Now let's get started.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you would have understood:

- i. Who the Holy Spirit is
- ii. How to enjoy intimacy with the Holy Spirit
- iii. The ministry of the Holy Spirit
- iv. How to take advantage of the ministry of the Holy Spirit

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Matthew 28:19 records the great commission of our Lord Jesus to us. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"*. We immediately see the highlighting of the Holy Trinity – the three persons of the Godhead. Our Lord God, though one divine being, is actually manifested in three distinct persons– God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit– One God in three Persons.

Of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the first to be revealed in scripture. When you study in Genesis chapter one, it says, *"In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). 'Elohim' in Hebrew, is plural for 'God.' We are then told that the Spirit of God moved over the face of the deep. Thus, even though the Holy Spirit is the first to be revealed from 'Elohim', He is however often referred to as the third person of the Godhead because He is the last of the trinity that man got acquainted with. Jesus introduced him to His disciples in John 14:15–17 *"if ye love, me keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you"*

The Holy Spirit is exactly like Jesus. He is not some smoke or cloud, nor is He a light. He is not a thing! He does not receive power from God. He is the POWER of God! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth which proceeds from the Father. He is not less than the Father, nor is He lesser than Jesus. He proceeds from the Father. If you went to heaven, you would not find the Holy Spirit outside the FATHER, for He is in the Father. On earth, you



will find Him everywhere, because everywhere you go as a child of God, the Holy Spirit goes with you and His presence rubs upon everything that concerns you!

The Holy Spirit does not have a name; 'Holy Spirit' is a description of His person and character. He answers to the name of Jesus. Thus when you call upon the Name of 'Jesus,' the Holy Spirit goes into action. Our Lord Jesus is gone to heaven but the Holy Spirit is here with us. He's the power of our Christianity (**Acts 1:8**) and helps us live the life that the Lord has wrought for us. Glory to God!.

THE BAPTISM & INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when a person is born again. It is the Holy Spirit that baptizes you into the Body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). A Christian is then required to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit which is a separate experience from the above, but can occur at the same moment. What is commonly referred to as the anointing is actually the power of the Holy Spirit. And because He lives in you wholly, you don't need nor can receive a "double-anointing" or more anointing, because you have the whole! What you require is to know how to activate what you have received and be full of Him, from inside you not from outside.

After salvation, the greatest experience anyone could ever have in life is



the experience with the unseen person of the Holy Spirit which begins with receiving Him to live in you. You might have been called into the ministry but have not yet received the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

However, to carry out a successful ministry that would yield the result God intends, you would need to receive this infilling. There are several ways to

receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. During Apostle Paul's missionary journey through Asia, he met twelve men who were disciples in Ephesus, but had not received the Holy Spirit. The Bible records that ***"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost, came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied"*** (Acts 19:6). This is one of the ways to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Those men had to have someone else, who had received the fullness of the Spirit, lay hands upon them. If you have not received the Holy Spirit, you can also receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of someone who himself is full of the Holy Spirit. Conversely, if you have received the Holy Spirit and you know someone who had been born again but has not received the Holy Spirit, you can lay hands on him/her to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Another way to receive the Holy Spirit is by asking in prayer. The Lord said in Luke 11:13 ***"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"*** This means when someone who has been born again asks the Father in faith and in the Name of the Lord Jesus, he will receive the Holy Spirit.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has a ministry in the life of every Christian as a Comforter. The Lord Jesus talking to His disciples just before He was crucified in John 14:16 said ***"...I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter..."*** This suggests that Jesus was already the Comforter with them and He was going to ask the Father to send them another Comforter just like Him. The word 'comforter' in the above verse of scripture is translated from the Greek word, 'Paraklet'. There are two words for 'another' in the Greek: one is 'Heteros' and the other is 'Allos.' *Heteros* means 'another one of a different kind,' while *Allos* means 'another one of the same kind'.

What Jesus said was “*Allos Parakletos*” not ‘*Heteros Parakletos*.’ *Parakletos*, referring to One called to go alongside.

The Amplified Bible shows that the Comforter who has been sent to go alongside with us is not passive but proactive. There are six synonyms of the Word “Comforter” – These are Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthenener and Standby.

The Counselor

When you receive the Holy Spirit, He becomes your Counselor. He is the One who gives you advice for your life. One of the meanings of the word

‘counselor’ is ‘legal adviser’. There are issues of life not expressly dealt with in the Scripture for which you may require guidance. You may not find exact guidance regarding these things if you



search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but you can hear the Holy Spirit speak to you. You can walk in His counsel and make the right choices and decisions in your life. A perfect example of this was when Peter was praying on a certain day in the house of Simon the tanner, ***“And behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. And the spirit bade me go with them...”*** (Acts 11:11-12).

Peter said, ***“...the spirit bade me go...”*** in other words, the Holy Spirit told him to go. The Holy Spirit can tell you to do something and He can tell you not to. He can direct you. Has He ever told you to do anything? Are you acquainted with the Counselor or do you find yourself only getting advice from people? Let the Holy Spirit function in you. He will talk to you and instruct you. You’d need to take time to understand His language so that

you can recognize His voice when He speaks to you. Later on in this course, we will deal with recognizing the voice of the Holy Spirit and you can begin today to follow His leading in your decisions and actions as you consistently meditate on the Word and fellowship with Him.

The Helper

The Holy Spirit is also your Helper. When you receive Him into your life, you should never say again, "I don't have anybody to help me," because He is



your Helper. There are people who will help you even when they are not willing to because the Holy Spirit compels them to. The psalmist calls the Holy Spirit *a very present help* in trouble (Psalm 46:1). This

does not mean the Holy Spirit is one out of many 'present helps'; it means His presence with you is something you don't need to doubt at all. You don't have to look for Him. If you ever get into trouble, you might as well laugh and say, "Thank You Holy Spirit, I am not alone!"

God never gives us the impression that we are disadvantaged in any way. You ought not to be disadvantaged. If you find yourself disadvantaged, you can bring yourself out of it because God has given you all you require to emerge victoriously from every situation. Always be mindful and declare that you have the advantage in life because the Holy Spirit is your helper.

The Intercessor

The Holy Spirit functions as your intercessor, but He also carries out His intercessory ministry through you as a Christian. If a Christian has a problem or is in trouble, the Holy Spirit intercedes on his behalf. However,

He does not do the praying by Himself. It would be illegal for God to pray for you by Himself. He prays for you through another Christian who is filled with the Spirit. Romans 8:26 says ***"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*** The word 'infirmities' rightly means limitations because it says we do not always know what we should pray for, and how to pray about them.



Furthermore, understand that when it says ***"but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered"*** is not the same as speaking in tongues. When you are speaking in tongues, the Spirit gives you utterance but in this case, the groanings cannot be uttered – they are not articulate speech. The New Revised Standard Version describes them as ***'sighs too deep for words'***. There are times when you find yourself crying or making loud groans. At such times, you are actually



unable to articulate what you have inside in tongues or any other language, because it is too deep for words. In Romans 8:27, the Bible says ***"And he that searcheth the heart knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit"***. God knows what the mind of the Spirit is, and the Spirit knows how

to make intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Then the next verse says ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."***

It is great to know we have an intercessor who is praying for us in the background, but there is more. When Jesus told us He would send us

another intercessor, He was not just looking at someone in the background. He gives us another word to strengthen the thought, He says He is our Advocate!

The Advocate

The kind of Intercessor the Holy Spirit is to us is that of an advocate – a Counsel for the defense. He is our legal representative. He speaks on our behalf; He defends us. So when Jesus said, “...I will pray the Father, he shall give you another Comforter...”, He was talking about Someone who engages our adversaries; Someone who comes right into the middle of the heat and takes charge with us from the background as we grapple with forces and circumstances that assail us. You can never be disadvantaged

anymore. When people are saying evil things about you and have judged you wrongly, don't worry. Your advocate will be right there. They may not give you an opportunity for defense or explanation.



Your Counsel for the defense will show up at the right time. You just keep saying this: “I can never be disadvantaged. I can never be discouraged.” Praise the Lord!

The Strengtheners

The Holy Spirit also ministers to you as your ‘Strengtheners.’ The reason He strengthens you is so that while He’s taking His own steps to ensure that everything works out right for you, you are also participating actively in the process, since He has to function through you. If you have the Holy Ghost in your life, weakness no longer describes you. No wonder Paul said, *“...when I am weak then am I strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)*



In other words, when He was bruised and battered, broken down by outside factors, He was made even stronger by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Have you ever felt yourself so weak and without strength that it seemed like everything was going dark? In His ministry to Jesus, we read in Luke 22:43 that as an Angel from heaven, He strengthened Jesus. Now, He strengthens you. Hallelujah! Listen to the Spirit's prayer through Paul the Apostle: ***"That he would grant you, according to riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man..."*** (Ephesian 3:16).

The Holy Spirit strengthens you with might in your inner man. Praise be to God, the Holy Spirit is your strengthener!

The Standby

The last operation of the Holy Spirit mentioned, which is so beautiful, is the word Standby: He is your Standby. When you run out of everything – your strength, information, ideas and options – there is a standby, the Holy Spirit; and He never fails. When things fail in your life, He'll show up. He's your Standby.

He is like a standby generator. If you run out of electricity and the power source shuts down, a standby generator kicks off immediately so you can continue to enjoy all the nice things of life. The doctors may tell you that your heart is not pumping right or that your kidneys are not working right. They may have told you that your lungs are not functioning well and everything seems to be shutting down, be conscious that there is a Standby. Romans 8:11 says "If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead lives in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also vitalize (give life to) your mortal body." When the Holy Spirit gets a hold of your

body, He will energize every fibre of your being. Everything that was not functioning right in your body will suddenly receive life. As long as the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, it does not matter where the trouble came from, He will energize your spirit and supply you with the necessary requirements in knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Your life should always be full of joy and excitement, because you've got a Helper, Comforter, Intercessor, Advocate, Counselor, Strengtheners, and Standby. How could you lose? It's impossible for you to lose with the Holy Spirit! The trouble with a lot of God's children is that, first of all, they're not



well informed of things like this. Secondly, even when they are informed, they do not know how to take advantage of what they have.

The Holy Spirit is an awesome personality; a wonderful personality. He leaves His presence everywhere and anywhere He chooses to. He also leaves His presence in places where we are well received and on people who welcome and receive us. Oh, what a blessing this is! His presence rubs off on anything that concerns us.

We need to understand that everything that belongs to a child of God carries the presence of the Holy Ghost. This was the principle Peter operated in as he walked through the streets and his shadow fell upon the sick folks laid out along his path (**Acts 5:15-16**). They were healed because the Holy Spirit was in that shadow! When they took handkerchiefs and aprons from Paul's body, the Holy Spirit went in those hankies. That's the power of God!

Functioning in the Kingdom

On your own, you may be able to do a lot but when you take advantage of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life, you'll be able to do much more. Jesus said, "...I have chosen you out of the world..." (John 15:19). He has picked us out of the world. We don't belong here even though we live here. When the Master told us we were not of this world, He meant exactly what He said. He meant you don't belong here!

We are a special race. We belong to another Kingdom and we ought to function therein. It's a spiritual Kingdom and there are spiritual activities in there that we ought to participate in. We can know when we're participating in the Kingdom; we ought to know. We function consciously in our spiritual Kingdom. There are many Christians who don't even know they belong there, let alone tell them that they ought to function there. You've got to know about the kingdom to be able to function consciously in it. Every child of God should function in some spiritual activity in the Kingdom to which we belong.



Now, even your reading this course is the Spirit's effort to engage you in the realm of this spiritual Kingdom to which you belong, because the words you are reading now are not of this world. If your spirit can get a hold of these words in the realm from which they are coming to you, you will begin to function in that realm of communicating with the Holy Spirit – receiving information, instruction and direction from Him. Soon enough, your spirit will be ministering back to God in that same realm and you would know that you're functioning spiritually. But that's just one of the several spiritual activities that your spirit ought to engage in.

Build Your Life with Your Tongue

Never be afraid to say what the Lord says about you. This is the principle of God's Kingdom. If you don't say it, it will not work even though you believe it. By believing, it becomes real in the realm of the spirit but if you're going to see it on earth, you would have to say it.

Take advantage of the Word. Do you know that you can open doors for yourself? Yes, you can, because the Holy Spirit is in you! He's the one who reveals the truth of all God has done for you and inspires you to speak them forth (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). The most powerful being in the earth is the Christian who knows the Word of God and declares it boldly in faith. To him, anything is possible.



Build your life with your tongue. That's the principle. As you speak, you're laying the blocks. Stand in front of a mirror and say to yourself. "I am a success. The world is waiting for me. I know where I am going. I was not born for nothing; I cannot live an empty life. I came to touch this world. I am on my way and I can only get better." Learn to use words; your mouth will take you places. It is with your mouth that you will open doors. God wants to speak but He wants to do it through your mouth. Look at the road you are travelling. Are you following God's Word? Are you sticking to what the Bible says about you? Stick to it, it cannot fail.

THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a Person and not a thing. Sometimes, we think that when He ministers to us, He will speak with a loud voice. We want to feel a shaking first or we want to hear a noise but that's not the way He ministers. We can



learn something from Elijah's experience in 1 Kings 19:11-13 *"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent*

the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?"

Elijah was on a mountain waiting for God, and where he was waiting, several awe-inspiring events that caught his attention transpired. Although it seemed these things were loud and fearsome enough to announce God's presence, He chose not to come with them. Rather He came with a still, small voice. God did not show up in a way Elijah would have expected Him to. He announced His presence with a still, small voice. If He operated like that back then, you can trust that He still operates the same way today.

The Holy Spirit talks to God's children all the time but many do not respond as they really should. More frequently than not, they respond to Him with their senses. They expect that when He talks, there should be a loud noise and a violent shaking but that is not true. The Bible says *"...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* (Hebrews 11:6).



It therefore means that to hear God's voice, you have to do it by faith. It takes faith to accept 'a still small voice' as the voice of God. That's the kind of voice you hear in the nighttime as you lie in your bed, saying, "Arise son, it's time to pray." When you hear a still, small voice or a nudging in your spirit urging you to pray, that's the Holy Spirit. You have to learn to listen to Him. He's the One who calms your spirit when you're angry. He's the One who tells you everything will be alright. He gives you hope. Even when you do things wrong, He's the One who helps you out. The Bible says in **Isaiah 30:21**, "...if you leave God's paths and go astray, you will hear a voice behind you say, ***"No, this is the way; walk here"***. This is the reason you can't fail. It is impossible to fall into error or be defeated after hearing that Voice. With the Holy Spirit in you, you can't but grow in everything you do. You will keep winning all the way because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world! In our fellowship with the Holy Spirit, we come into His awesome ministry, but to receive that ministry, we must also learn to minister to Him.

In **Acts 13:1-2**, the Bible tells us of certain prophets and teachers who ministered to the Lord. As they did, the Holy Spirit ministered back to them and it resulted in the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas. If we are to receive the ministry of the Spirit, we must also recognize that we have our ministry to the Spirit. This ministry to the Holy Spirit is in our fellowship with Him in prayer. This is the Communion of the Holy Spirit and its blessing.

ACTION NOTE

In the beginning of your beautiful walk with the Holy Spirit, be sure to actualize the following;



We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor-made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with the requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

Feel free to visit our website with the details below for More Information.

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