

Faith Requires Revelation

The worst thing someone could say about you would be, "I do not trust you," for this would mean that he has seen something in your character that is not good, not reliable, and therefore not to be trusted.

But it is also possible that he has heard things about you that are not true; and if this were the case, then having a chance to get to know you for himself might change his mind. Perhaps he would discover the delightful integrity of your character and grant you the honor of his trust!

How worthy is God of your trust? Yet how many whispers have you heard that cast great doubt about His being good or powerful or willing to help? Here we have the suffering of this world explained, for it is rooted in lies about God!

The Father's compassion has come to your rescue, for He sent the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about God and His nature. It is also the Spirit who gives us the ongoing revelation of the Father and all that has been given to us in Jesus Christ.

These truths have been revealed in Scripture and stated in doctrine; but unless the Holy Spirit opens your spiritual eyes time and time again, you will forget and find yourself not trusting the One most worthy of your reliance.

Lies about God and our readiness to believe them define the curse. The Father sent the Son to demonstrate the truth about God, and the Holy Spirit to apply all that Christ did to our lives by revelation.

For this reason, Paul reaches out even now to help you by saying, "Do not grieve the Spirit of God." It is the Spirit who regenerated your inner man, giving you a new heart and an ability to trust God. It is the Spirit who sealed you in Christ. It is the Spirit who is the down payment of all that God has determined to give you. It is the Spirit who applies the understanding, the desire, the motivation, and the insight that allow you to experience the goodness of God through faith.

Your soul will be filled with something. Make room for the Spirit. Paul says to "be continually filled with the Spirit." You need Him to quicken to you what your Father is like so that you may trust Him and receive from Him.

You have been brought into a lifestyle of faith, but Romans 1:17 states that such a way of living requires constant revelation from the Spirit.

Let this be a month of learning from the Holy Spirit to receive His ministry of disclosing God to you. The more you feel the need for fresh revelation of your Father so that you might honor Him with your faith, the more you will be attentive to the Spirit of God.

Lesson 1

You were not born with faith; you were born in unbelief, and the society in which you live is designed and operates on the principle of unbelief. Your mind was blinded so that you could not recognize the beauty of God nor the joy found in knowing God. In spite of that, God releases His power in your life as you exercise faith in the gospel about Jesus Christ.

God took the initiative to make you a new creature by a miracle. He caused light to shine out of your heart just as He caused light to shine out of the world when He formed it. Both miracles. At that moment, He gave you the same precious faith which He gave Peter.

Scripture Study: Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6. (*10 minutes*)

Look at 2 Corinthians 4:2-3, and finish this sentence: Paul is very careful in how he uses the word of God, and he appeals to every man's conscience; but he explains that the gospel is _____.

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, you discover what caused this dilemma. What is the cause of mankind's inability to recognize the value of Jesus Christ? _____

Explanation: Regeneration occurs without your asking. God takes the initiative by sending the Holy Spirit to regenerate or recreate spiritual life in you. When this happens, you receive a new heart and saving faith. Conversion then results when you repent toward God and use your newly found faith to trust in Jesus Christ.

Scripture Study: Read Romans 1:15-17. (*10 minutes*)

In Romans 1:15, Paul writes that he is eager to preach the gospel to people who are already saved. Why do you think Paul was so motivated to explain the gospel further to Christians?

In Romans 1:17, what do you think Paul meant by the expression, "from faith to faith"?

Why do you think Paul used the word, "revealed," in connection with your living from faith to faith? _____

Finish this sentence: In order to live by faith in Christ every day, I need _____.

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank your Father God for sending the Holy Spirit to you!

Ask the Spirit to fill you and reveal the glory of God to you.

Receive forgiveness for any unbelief that has plagued you.

Confess God's faithfulness over your difficulties.

Lesson 2

When we are deceived about God's nature, we will be deceived about many other things.

Satan knows this and works accordingly.

Jesus urged us to continue in His word so that we would be knowing the truth, for He said that it was the truth that would make us free. (John 8:31-32) The context makes it clear that Jesus was referring to the truth about Himself.

Scripture Study: Continue yesterday's passage by reading Romans 1:18-26. (*10 minutes*)

Comb through these verses again, looking for places where deception is being described.

Make a list of the places you see deception being mentioned. (1) _____
_____ (2) _____ (3)
_____ (4) _____ (5)
_____ (6) _____
_____ (7) _____

Now explain why Paul begins Romans 1:26 with, "For this reason..." For what reason is our world so wrongheaded? _____

Comments: The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit reveals, discloses, enlightens, gives experiential knowledge, illuminates, teaches, brings to remembrance, gives insight & understanding, leads, and bears witness. (*5 minutes*)

He is the Spirit of Truth.

He is the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation. (Ephesians 1:17)

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank God for giving you the Spirit of God to live in you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher.

Trust God for His righteousness.

Worship God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 3

The Spirit of the Lord was anointing Jesus to preach the gospel, proclaim release, recover sight, set free from oppression, and convey favor. Here we see God the Son and God the Spirit jointly revealing God's nature for the benefit of His people. (Luke 4:18)

The Father is said to reveal and to draw men to Christ; but it appears that He accomplishes both the revealing and the drawing by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 4:18-19. (*5 minutes*)

Think about Jesus' baptism in connection with His selecting this text from Isaiah 61.

What do you think Jesus wanted you to understand about the Holy Spirit's role in what He was doing? _____

Scripture Study: Read Acts 1:2, 4-5, 8. (*10 minutes*)

Why do you think Luke inserted the phrase, "by the Holy Spirit" into his description of what Jesus did? _____

In Acts 1:4-5, why do you think the Father was promising the Holy Spirit? _____

In Acts 1:8, what exactly is the power that the Holy Spirit brings? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Ask the Lord Jesus to immerse you in the Holy Spirit!

If this has already happened to you, ask for Him to refill you.

Submit yourself to the Holy Spirit's ministry to you as God's child.

Worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Lesson 4

Ephesians' central theme is the blessings of God, which have been given to us in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3) What follows is a description of the roles of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's distinct work is seen in Ephesians 1:13-19. You will not be surprised to notice how involved the Holy Spirit is in taking you into the purposes of God, which were accomplished for you by Jesus Christ.

Becoming sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit in Scripture and in your own life will greatly boost your enjoyment of God as well as your faith in Him.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 1:13-19. (*15 minutes*)

In Ephesians 1:13, what does the Holy Spirit do to you? _____

What do you think that means? _____

In Ephesians 1:14, what does the Holy Spirit do for you? _____

And what does this mean to you? _____

In Ephesians 1:17-19, what does Paul pray will happen to you? _____

Since the people Paul was praying for were already regenerated and converted Christians, why did he think it was important for him to pray this way for them and for us?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-18 over your own life.

Wait quietly before the Lord.

Let the Spirit of God minister to you.

Raise your hands to God and honor Him in adoration.

Lesson 5

Ephesians 2:10 has these wonderful words, “For we are His workmanship.” The Greek makes it clear that you are a special work of art, and He is the craftsman.

Have you ever wondered why Paul leads up to Ephesians 2:10 with the depressing assessment of your early beginnings in Ephesians 2:1-3? It’s because he wants you to treasure what the Father has invested in your life!

Finally he reveals God’s purpose in joining you to other Believers in order to create for Himself a holy temple in which He is settling down to deeply dwell by the Spirit.

Scripture Study: Read quickly so as to grasp the overall picture in Ephesians 2:1-8 and 19-22. *(15 minutes)*

In Ephesians 2:1-3, what was your condition before God selected you for salvation?

What do you now understand to be the role of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing this?

The blessings of God mentioned in Ephesians 1:3 now show up in Ephesians 2:10 as God being the master craftsman who is fashioning you as His work of art!

But in Ephesians 2:21-22, we see God gathering us as individual stones and fitting us together in order to make us His house, His family, and His holy temple.

What do you think happens to the purposes of God when Christians resist being joined to their brothers and sisters in a serious way? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Submit yourself to the Father’s hand as He fashions you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what the Father is doing.

Ask the Spirit for His love for your brothers and sisters.

Pray for God’s purposes in your local church.

Lesson 6

Everything you have or shall have is a gift from God, but He imparts it to you by His Holy Spirit.

Much good will happen as you pay more attention to what the Spirit is saying and doing in your life as an individual and in your life collectively in the local church.

Paul attributes every good thing in his life to God's grace; but it is the Holy Spirit who actually conveys the revelation or understanding or ability into his life. Learn from Paul.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 3:2-10. In almost every verse there is a reference to the work of revelation, insight, disclosure, or something being made known. All of this involves the Holy Spirit even when He is not named. Go through this text verse by verse and note the places in which you recognize the Holy Spirit's work. *(10 minutes)*

Thoughts: *(5 minutes)*

The mystery referred to here is the church. God has canceled the distinction between Jews and Gentiles and formed one new entity in the church.

In Ephesians 3:10, God's wisdom mentioned here refers to Jews and Gentiles living together as one new man; thus the love and unity among Christians is displaying God's glory and light into the darkness.

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank your Father for placing you in Christ's body, the church!

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of the riches in Christ to you.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's activity in your local church.

Declare God's purposes on earth through your local church.

Lesson 7

It is inspiring to watch Paul father the Ephesian Church, for he imparts such high vision of what God is doing. You can almost feel it going into them and bringing them to another level of understanding.

If you pay attention to his prayers for them, you will learn about your own needs, and you can cash in today on prayers prayed so long ago. They are still active.

Paul prays to the Father, but you will notice that he prays for the Spirit to do certain things in Christians.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 3:14-19. *(15 minutes)*

Ephesians 3:14 begins with, "For this reason..." To discover this reason, you will need to look back to the nearest reference, which is Ephesians 3:13. What is Paul's reason for bending his knees in prayer? _____

To whom is Paul praying? _____

What does Paul ask the Father to do by the Spirit? _____

What does Paul see as the ministry of the Holy Spirit to Christians? _____

Why do you think Christians need the Holy Spirit to be fulfilling His ministry in order for us to move in faith? _____

Why is your personal, ongoing experience of God's love for you so crucial in your fulfilling God's purposes? _____

In Ephesians 3:18, Paul mentions comprehending "with all the saints..." Do you think you can experience the love Paul envisions apart from your church family? _____ Try to explain what you think Paul is implying here. _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Pray through Paul's prayer for yourself.

You need the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner man, so ask!

Use your faith in Jesus Christ to draw from Him.

Let the Spirit pour the love of Christ into you.

Lesson 8

You want to live wisely. You want your life to count. You want to walk in God's plan for your life.

For these things to happen, it is healthy to feel needy for the Holy Spirit.

Your needs can be a distraction from God, but you can learn to turn your needs into a dependency upon God the Spirit. Paul uses the imperative to urge you to be constantly filled with the Spirit.

Scripture Study: Ephesians 5:15-22 is packed with practical help in living the type of life which delights both you and God. Using your own words, write out a word of counsel to yourself from each of these seven verses. Especially note the role of the Holy Spirit in this advice. *(15 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you this morning.

Ask the Lord to set you free from negativity and complaining.

By faith receive Jesus as God's wisdom coming into you.

Thank God for the many blessings in your life.

Lesson 9

Only God can change a person. Probably you have had the frustrating experience of trying to change yourself or someone else.

How does God change people? He certainly includes you in the process. Your part is to respond to what He initiates in you. He works in us both to will and to do His good pleasure, while your part is to trust Him.

You will sow (invest) in the Spirit or in something else (the flesh); and you will receive a multiplying of what you invested.

Scripture Study: Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18. (*15 minutes*)

With reference to 2 Corinthians 3:16, picture yourself in a busy, pressured day; but in the midst of it, you turn your attention to the Lord. Something happens. How would you describe what happens? _____

2 Corinthians 3:17 - Any experience you have with the Lord involves the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you that, "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"?

2 Corinthians 3:18 - What does Paul mean by the expression, "with unveiled face"?

2 Corinthians 3:18 - What is the role of the Holy Spirit in transforming you?

How might you benefit more from the Holy Spirit's ministry? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Turn to the Lord this morning.

Be still and let Him minister to you.

Ask the Spirit of the Lord to show you more of Him.

Take delight in your Glorious God!

Lesson 10

The Holy Spirit is the great Encourager, but He is also sensitive to what is pure and what is not. You can grieve the Holy Spirit; and while He will not love you less, you will certainly feel less of His reassuring presence.

How can you grieve the Holy Spirit? Your words are perhaps the greatest culprit, for they reveal your heart attitudes. Of course, pride, lust, comparing, criticizing, and complaining also grieve God.

The Holy Spirit is the great Encourager; He does not like words that discourage.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 4:25-32. List the things in this text that grieve the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:32, simply turn these positives into negatives. *(15 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Bring words and attitudes to God that need to be changed.

Trust Christ for His righteousness to replace your sin.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you.

Ask the Spirit to reveal more of the delights of God Himself to you.

Lesson 11

Jesus said that those who had would receive more. This is certainly illustrated in those who have been regenerated by the Spirit of God; for He came silently without your awareness and brought life into your inner man, imparting faith to your heart.

Now, you have the ability to trust your Father; and as you do, the Holy Spirit ministers even more to you. The opposite is also true, for when you neglect God, becoming so preoccupied that you forget, then you sink back into the mire of trusting yourself.

Scripture Study: Read Galatians 3:1-5. (*15 minutes*)

What do you think these Galatian Christians are experiencing? _____

Can you relate to their struggle? _____ Comment on this. _____

In Galatians 3:2, the question is: What experience does Paul have in mind? It isn't the experience of regeneration but rather the experience seen in Acts 2, 10, and 19.

How does one receive the Spirit for an anointing of power? _____

How does one receive the Spirit or God's miracle provisions on a day-by-day basis? _____

How might you stimulate your faith so that you are receiving more from the Spirit of God? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Lay your works down so that you can come to Christ in faith.

Get still before the Lord.

Listen. Listen for His still, quiet voice.

Respond to Him.

Lesson 12

An investor earns more money either by investing more money or by investing more wisely. A farmer harvests more by either sowing more seed or sowing in better soil.

Your words are seeds. Your finances are seeds. Your acts of forgiveness are seeds. Your deeds of serving are seeds. So are temper fits. So are pity parties. So are seasons of neglecting God.

Most of life is made up of little things, little moments of investing in the Spirit or not.

Scripture Study: Read Galatians 6:7-10. *(15 minutes)*

Use your own words to rephrase Galatians 6:7. _____

When you “sow to your own flesh,” what does it look like and feel like?

How do you recover from sowing to your own flesh? _____

How do you personally sow to the Spirit? _____

In light of what Paul is saying about sowing and reaping, explain why he would speak about not growing weary, and doing good when you have the opportunity.

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask forgiveness for any recent times of investing in the wrong things.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you based upon the righteousness of Christ.

Yield your mind to the Spirit so that He can give you His thoughts.

Receive His grace to invest in the Spirit today.

Lesson 13

All true learning is personal and takes place inside the heart and the mind. Your mind plays a crucial role in this process, for first you must grasp the concepts or information; but in order for genuine understanding to come, there must also be the flash of comprehension.

When the learning involves spiritual insight, the Holy Spirit is the active Teacher. He teaches, reveals, convicts, and applies God's lessons to your life.

He is also called the Spirit of Truth; thus using your mind to study and memorize Scripture cooperates with the Spirit in applying fresh understanding to your soul.

Scripture Study: Read John 14:26. (*5 minutes*)

What two things does the Holy Spirit do in your life? _____

How are you experiencing the Holy Spirit's ministry to you in these two areas? _____

Scripture Study: Read John 16:7-15. There are at least five ministries of the Holy Spirit listed here. List them and at the same time think about the Spirit performing these functions in your life. (*10 minutes*)

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Bring your heart to God and ask Him to remove any hardness.

Invite the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

Sit quietly for a few minutes and give the Spirit room.

Surrender both your heart and mind to the Lord.

Lesson 14

In an ideal world, Sunday services might consist of (1) a time of getting into God's felt presence through worship, (2) being taught from Scripture, (3) breaking into small groups to talk about the implications of the lesson, (4) followed by more worship which springs from the gladness of learning from Him!

God has already deposited many revelations about Himself in you. Use them. You are a steward of the valuable things God has entrusted into your care.

Each morning you can practice the ideal service by (1) worshipping God, (2) digging into His word, (3) talking about it with your mate if married, and (4) using some prayer time to be with Him and to enjoy Him!

Scripture Exercise: Read Romans 11:33-36. (*5 minutes*)

Paul has just concluded chapters 9-11 in which he has brushed against God's sovereignty; and as he has glimpsed some of God's greatness, he finds himself in all out adoration and worship!

Try reading these verses out loud in true adoration of God!

Scripture Study: Read Romans 12:1-2. (*10 minutes*)

Why do you think Paul begins the next section with, "Therefore"?

It is the Holy Spirit who quickens great thoughts about God to you, and the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully upon Paul as he wrote these glorious but mind-boggling words in the previous chapters.

How are you experiencing the Spirit quickening fresh thoughts and insights into God's greatness? _____

In your experience, how does the Spirit renew your mind? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Close your eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to quicken your thoughts about God.

Raise your hands toward Him and adore Him!

Surrender your mind to the Spirit of God!

Pray His will into the challenges of your coming day.

Lesson 15

Performance-based living is something with which we all struggle. Our flesh, strangely enough, resists the grace of God, and tries to deserve God's help and favor.

The more you want to serve God, the more tempting it is to serve Him in your own ability. Of course, you know it doesn't work; but the flesh resists the Spirit of God.

If you are weary of attempting to serve God in your own strength, begin to rely upon the Spirit of God who lives in you, who is called alongside you to encourage you and assist you in experiencing the love God has just for you!

Scripture Study: Read Paul's glorious revelation in Romans 8:1-7 about serving God by the Spirit, who removes all condemnation and releases the help of God to do what is right from the right motive. *(15 minutes)*

When you have failed to yield to the Spirit and have therefore sinned, you feel condemnation. What is it about condemnation that violates the gospel?

According to Romans 8:4, the only way you can live in freedom is _____

What does this mean to you? _____

Romans 8:5 offers a very practical way of telling you when you have been operating on a performance basis. What are these symptoms? _____

What can you do to not live in a performance mode and to increase your attentiveness to the Spirit of God? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for giving you Jesus' performance as a gift.

Receive the gift of Father's approval of you in Christ.

Repent of your performance lifestyle.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and lead you.

Lesson 16

The Holy Spirit administrates the New Covenant. The first thing we see Jesus doing on resurrection night is breathing upon His disciples and imparting to them the new creation of the Spirit! (John 20:22) Apparently, they were born again in that instant!

The book of Acts is sometimes labeled The Acts of the Apostles, but it is better named The Acts of The Holy Spirit!

In this remarkable account of how the early Church turned the world upside down, it is clear that it was reliance upon the Holy Spirit that accomplished this. The Spirit of God is mentioned 66 times in these 28 chapters. The story continues today.

Scripture Study: Get a fresh look into how God birthed and empowered the early Church by reading Acts chapter 1. (*15 minutes*)

What references to the Holy Spirit impress you the most? _____

Have you received the promise of the Holy Spirit since you believed and were converted?

If not, begin to ask to be immersed in the Spirit of God for your service to God.

If you have received this promise as the early Christians did, then meditate upon Acts 1:8, and allow the Holy Spirit to birth fresh faith in you for His power to flow through you.

What lessons might you draw from Acts 1:14 that could apply to your life?

In Acts 1:21-26 we see the only occasion of this Old Testament practice being used in the early Church. Why do you think this was never repeated after Pentecost?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit is so important to the Church today in fulfilling its role in history? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Read Acts 1:8 out loud and pray accordingly.

Thank the Holy Spirit for coming into your life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ in you and to you.

Commit your day to the Spirit to guide you all day.

Lesson 17

The three celebrations that were mandated for every male Jew to attend in Jerusalem were Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

Passover was fulfilled in the presentation of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God. The Feast of Tabernacles, or ingathering, is thought by many to point us to the final ingathering when Christ returns.

Pentecost, the day of the first fruits, was wonderfully fulfilled in the early “harvest” of three thousand souls! In addition, the first 120 believers were filled with the Spirit. What a day!

Scripture Study: Read the thrilling account in Acts 2:1-47 of how God inaugurated “the last days” by dramatically sending the Holy Spirit upon His people in a way resembling the anointing of Jesus at His baptism. *(15 minutes)*

In order to understand the significance of Acts 2:5-12, read Genesis 11:1-9.

In this new age of the Holy Spirit, what do you see God doing?

What change do you notice in Peter after the Spirit of God filled him on this day?

What was Peter’s explanation of the supernatural events that the crowds were witnessing?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Use your own neediness to invite the Holy Spirit to fill you!

Ask the Lord for one or more of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Believe God to send you into this day and use you!

Pray God’s will into the situations that surround your life.

Lesson 18

God created you to be filled with His life! Jesus invited people to come to Him and discover that He would create an artesian well of the Spirit in them that would pour forth in life-giving ways to others! What an incredible plan! God is awesome!

You are born of the Spirit, so use your faith in Christ to draw heavily upon the Spirit of God who lives in you.

Scripture Study: Reread Acts 2. (*15 minutes*)

Looking at Acts 2:23-24, answer this question: Do you think God is working out a predetermined plan, or do you think He simply came up with a new plan when the Jews rejected their Messiah? _____

Considering the overall context of Acts 2:38-39, what do you think Luke means by “the gift of the Holy Spirit”? _____

In Acts 2:39, who qualifies for this gift? _____

To quote Paul’s question in Acts 19:2, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” If you are a Christian, you are born of the Spirit; but have you received the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised in Acts 2:39? _____

What is your experience with the Holy Spirit? _____

What do you think the Lord desires for you with regard to the Holy Spirit? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Pray for the promise given in Acts 2:39.

Yield your whole being to your Father God.

Receive the Spirit’s anointing upon your life in a fresh way.

Pray for the Spirit of God to refresh your local church community.

Lesson 19

The Spirit of God is jealous for the complete work of Jesus Christ to be fulfilled. He loves to reveal the glory of God in the corporate expression.

Being filled with the Spirit is both individual and corporate, for you will notice in the first Church how the people received in community. It was something they shared.

Then when the Spirit filled them, they were taken into a way of living together, which was powerful in its effects. Today the Spirit draws people together in spite of their differences in order to show forth the wisdom of God. We need one another.

Scripture Study: Once again read Acts 2:39-47. (*15 minutes*)

As you examine this text, what are some of the results you notice of the filling of the Holy Spirit? _____

What parts of the community life described here do you see in your own local church?

What are some of the ways in which belonging to a local church helps you stay filled with the Holy Spirit? _____

Are you part of a small group that meets regularly? _____

Do you think that non-Christians you know would be attracted to a church that is filled with the Spirit? _____

How can you contribute to the spiritual atmosphere of your church?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank God for placing you into a community of faith.

Pray His purposes into your church.

Ask the Holy Spirit to draw others to Christ through your church.

By faith, allow the Holy Spirit to spring up in you like a well.

Lesson 20

With all this talk about being constantly filled with the Spirit, questions may arise such as, “Do we leak?” And the answer is, “In a manner of speaking, yes, we do.”

The Spirit lives in the Christian; and while He does not depart, the awareness of and influence of the Spirit does vary with your responses.

Yours is a relationship with God, and all relationships can drift in and out of intimacy; thus Paul exhorts us to not grieve the Spirit, and to be continually filled.

Scripture Study: Read Acts 4:1-14. (*5 minutes*)

When this trial began, what do you think Peter was feeling? _____

What do you think Luke meant when he made the comment about Peter being “filled with the Holy Spirit”? _____

What do you think Luke wants you to understand from what he said in Acts 4:13? _____

Scripture Study: Refresh yourself in what Jesus predicted in Matthew 10:16-20.

(*10 minutes*)

What role do you think Jesus envisioned for the Holy Spirit in your life? _____

Examine Matthew 5:3 for the very first principle of living in God’s Kingdom. How does this tie in with staying filled with the Spirit? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner man.

Exercise your faith in Jesus Christ, who is dwelling in you by the Spirit.

Thank your Father that you are needy.

Call upon Christ to be all that you need today.

Lesson 21

The Holy Spirit is the One who makes the presence and reality of Christ freshly alive to us, thus enabling us to trust Him. When we are filled with the Spirit, we become God conscious; and the result of that is confidence.

Humility is a keen awareness of your own inadequacy, but when you use your need to exercise your faith in Christ, His sufficiency flows from you.

God intends to use you to represent Himself; and He likes to take you into places where you feel your inadequacy. Then you “lean upon” (an expression for faith) the Lord, and as you cast yourself upon Him, grace comes.

Scripture Study: Read about Peter in Acts 4:15- 22. (*5 minutes*)

Peter had seen and participated in many miracles when he denied that he knew Jesus and fled. What is the difference in his life that accounts for the bold wisdom recorded here?

As you consider this text, is there anything you sense God the Spirit is quickening to you?

Scripture Study: Read about their prayer in Acts 4:23-31. (*10 minutes*)

What do you think would have happened if there had not been community and teamwork on the part of Peter, John, and the whole church? _____

What do you suppose caused them to be freshly filled with the Holy Spirit after this time of corporate prayer? _____

What do you think would have happened if there had been unresolved differences among them? _____

How do you think God desires to use your church today in advancing His fame?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Let the Spirit search your heart for any unforgiveness.

Let the Spirit apply the blood of Christ to your conscience.

Pray for the Spirit to fill the whole church.

Ask the Spirit to thrust your church into affecting people around you.

Lesson 22

On resurrection night, Jesus spoke this commission over us, “Just as the Father sent Me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

You have a ministry to your church family, and you have a mission to the world.

The Spirit guarantees you the continuing experience of Christ’s inheritance so as to make you effective in both your ministry and your mission.

Scripture Study: Read Acts 6:1-7. (*15 minutes*)

How were the relationships within the church tested? _____

A church has to pass tests in order to stay unified and thus able to represent God and defeat Satan. How did the church pass this test? _____

What if the twelve had not been in unity? _____

Who was the leader of the twelve? _____ Why is it important to have both a number of leaders as well as one leader who is ultimately in charge?

In Acts 6:3, what qualified these men to be servants? _____

What conclusion do you draw from this regarding every Christian’s ministry within the church? _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Pray for restoration in any damaged relationships in your life.

Ask God to release His wisdom into the ordering and functioning of your local church.

Ask the Spirit to so focus you upon God that you pass your tests with people.

Ask the Spirit of God to fill you with fresh love for God.

Lesson 23

Today we are not accustomed to hearing much about the Old Testament practice of “the laying on of hands”; yet in Hebrews 6:2, it is referred to as an actual doctrine.

Blessings are sometimes conveyed through the laying on of hands. Ordinations are made by the laying on of hands; special commissions are made by the laying on of hands, and in some instances, the Holy Spirit is imparted by the laying on of hands.

Scripture Study: Read this fascinating account in Acts 8:5-25. (*15 minutes*)
Simon was said to have believed; but what type of belief do you think he had?

It is possible to believe some true things about Jesus Christ without having inner revelation and therefore genuine faith. Jesus said that we would know His followers by the fruit. How do you think Peter knew to speak so strongly to Simon?

Why do you think it was necessary to have someone lay hands upon these who had truly believed and been baptized in order for them to “receive the Holy Spirit”?

Have you had someone in authority lay hands on you to receive the Holy Spirit?
_____ Is this something that God may wish for you to seek?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Express your needs to God.

Invite the Holy Spirit to show you more of the Father.

Ask forgiveness for anything you have done that grieved the Spirit.

Worship God in the Spirit.

Lesson 24

The book of Acts is filled with accounts of the Holy Spirit releasing the supernatural in and through the followers of Christ.

Every Christian has at least one supernatural gift, and every Christian receives the ministry of the Holy Spirit speaking, guiding, leading, empowering, and revealing.

The book of Acts is meant to be a primer for the Church today. It portrays normal Christianity.

Scripture Study: Read about Philip the Evangelist in Acts 8:26-40. *(15 minutes)*

What supernatural things do you see in this text? _____

The Spirit spoke to Philip. What is your experience with the Spirit speaking to you?

What did Philip preach to the eunuch? _____ This is a synonym for

_____.

Do you think water baptism was presented as the appropriate way to express one's belief in Christ? _____

Have you been water baptized since you received saving faith? _____

In Acts 8:39, there is a rather mysterious expression, "the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away," and Philip "found himself at Azotus." It sounds as if doctor Luke is saying that

Do you believe that you should trust God the Spirit to do supernatural things for you and through you? Comment. _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Use even little faith to trust a great God!

Take your place in Christ and ask God for great help.

Confess His faithfulness over things that seem impossible.

Praise God for His supernatural answers.

Lesson 25

The only way anyone can come to faith in Christ is to receive revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Every person starts as an enemy of God, so it should not astound us to see the most ardent hater of God become a love slave of Jesus Christ! What hope this gives us for the conversion of friends and family!

Paul knew the power of such revelation in his own life, for his conversion was remarkable; but he also wrote about the continuing need for the Spirit of God to be freshly opening eyes that had already been opened. We need the ministry of God's Spirit.

Scripture Study: Read the awe-inspiring account of Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9:1-18.
(10 minutes)

What do you think were the roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the regeneration and conversion of Saul? _____

Reread Acts 9:15-16, and journal some of your thoughts about God, Paul, and yourself.

Does this increase your faith to intercede to God for His sovereign move upon some of your loved ones who have seemed most resistant to the gospel? Comment.

Scripture Study: In Ephesians 1:18, Paul makes it clear in the Greek that he is praying for those whose heart eyes are "having been enlightened." In other words, these people's eyes were once blinded and have now been opened, but the opening process is ongoing. Paul prays for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to continue, recognizing the constant need for the Spirit of revelation in the life of the Christian.

Prayer Time: (15 – 30 minutes)

Thank Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for bringing you to faith in Christ!
Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to know Him better.
By faith, call upon the Spirit to well up in you and flow out to others.
Pray for the Spirit to convert others you know.

Lesson 26

The Holy Spirit is the guarantee to you that Christ's full inheritance belongs to you (Ephesians 1:14); and He quickens in you an interest, a desire, a hunger for knowing God better in His personality, His love, His ways, and all that He is!

God has stored up such tremendous things for you that it will take forever to disclose them. They are inexhaustible, because God is infinite.

But it is the Holy Spirit who draws you into deeper relationship with the Father by showing you more and more of the Lord's goodness.

Scripture Study: Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. What a passage! (*15 minutes*)

What do you read here of your need for more revelation? _____

Try summarizing Paul's thoughts in this passage, using your own words.

Paul makes some powerful faith statements about your life in this passage. What positive things does he speak here about you? _____

As you read this passage, what thoughts come to your mind about how you could miss out on some of the amazing things God intends to give you?

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Humble yourself before your Father and tell Him of your neediness.

By faith, embrace the positive things said here that apply to you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to quicken fresh love in your heart for God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to apply God's gifts to your life.

Lesson 27

The story of how 120 followers of Jesus Christ mushroomed into the humble but powerful “yeast” that turned the world upside down clearly reveals a sovereign God orchestrating the entire operation behind the scenes.

Luke tells the amazing story of the Church’s impact upon the Roman world and he clearly wants you to see the role of the Holy Spirit in all this, for the Church today is desperately needed in our world.

The Holy Spirit was poured out in order to apply Christ’s victory to the needs of man.

Scripture Study: Read the exciting account of how God reached down and transformed the life of a military leader in Acts 10. Notice how carefully God prepared him for this as compared to Paul’s conversion. *(15 minutes)*

What impresses you most about this story? _____

What do you see of the Holy Spirit’s work in this account? _____

How did Peter and his team know that the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon Cornelius’ household? _____

What more are you expecting from the Holy Spirit? _____

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God again for sovereignly choosing you.

Ask the Holy Spirit for fresh fire in your love for God!

Pray for your own extended family to receive more revelation.

Worship God by the Spirit this morning!

Lesson 28

God sometimes takes us through profound paradigm changes; and He accomplishes these life-changing seasons by giving us more revelation from His Spirit, thus causing us to suddenly see things differently.

He may change our perspective, our viewpoint, how we work, or how we relate to certain people. It is always exciting, and it usually brings some upheaval at the same time.

You should expect God the Spirit to be leading you and changing you as long as you are on earth. In this way, you will stay a flexible wineskin, and you will constantly be filled with more new wine of the Spirit.

Scripture Study: Watch how Peter explains to his brethren the sudden, radical changes he has just experienced. Read Acts 11:1-18. *(15 minutes)*

How did God change Peter's paradigm? _____

How has God moved in your life to change a paradigm? _____

While Peter moved to obey the Lord, you will notice some important things that can instruct us today. It took several revelations for Peter to "get it." Also, he submitted his revelations to his team. He was not a loner, and his new paradigm was confirmed by others. What other things do you see in this passage that might help you in times of transition?

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Submit yourself afresh to the hand of the Lord upon your life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to quicken to you the shepherding work of Christ.

Pray through the 23rd Psalm.

Lesson 29

God's heart is to bring all the ethnic groups together into His family. The Church in Jerusalem was tasked by God to reach the Jewish community, while He raised up another center to begin the cross-cultural work of taking the news of Christ to the Roman Empire.

God has created the Church to reveal His love for the whole world; and the Holy Spirit, who anointed Jesus, has come to anoint His people for wonderful works of turning our world upside down!

Expect the Holy Spirit to use you and your local church to do amazing things!

Scripture Study: Check out the supernatural in the church's first cross-cultural outreach!
Read Acts 13:1-12. (*15 minutes*)

What do you see of the Holy Spirit's work in this passage? _____

What do you see of teamwork in this passage? _____

What lessons can you draw from this passage for your own church? _____

What ways might you assist your local church to fulfill its mission? (Remember, it takes every part of the body working together.) _____

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Wait upon the Lord.

Take delight in Him.

Listen. Give Him room to love you, to speak, to bring something to your attention.

Honor Him by trusting Him in every place you are challenged.

Lesson 30

God's Spirit first gave you faith as a gift. (Ephesians 2:8) He did this because God's grace and life flow into you, as you trust Him.

Why would God choose to place such importance upon faith? Because it is faith that honors God or treats God as He really is. Faith says about God what God says about Himself.

For this reason, Jesus prays for your faith, and the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and inner man fresh thoughts about the greatness of God and His desire to help you.

Scripture Study: Finish this month by reviewing Romans 1:16-17. *(15 minutes)*

What is the power of God? _____

How does the gospel help you today as one who already has eternal life?

What is the righteousness of God? _____

In order to live day-by-day in faith, what is being revealed to you? _____

Rewrite Romans 1:16-17 in your own words. As you write it, apply it to yourself.

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank Jesus for giving you His righteousness.

Give Him any imagined claim to your own righteousness.

Trust Him for deliverance in any area of bondage.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of Jesus to you so that you might trust Him in every situation.