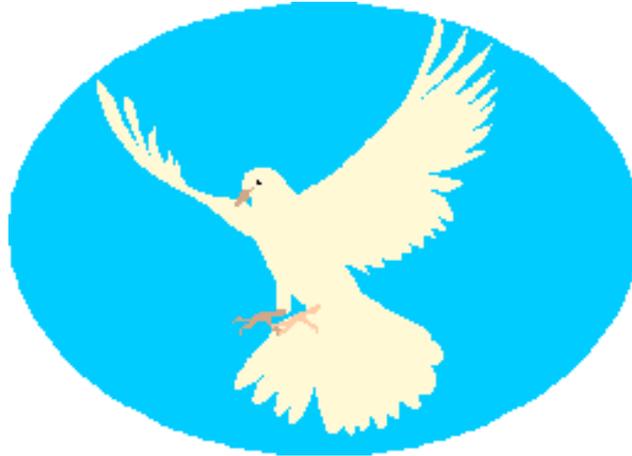


**Progressing Together**



PRAT 202

## **New Identity and New Conduct by the Spirit**



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## **Syllabus for PRAC202 - Practical Christian Life (2)** Certificate Level

### **Course objectives**

To work with elders, discipleship group leaders and church planting pastors in newly responsive areas to come to an understanding of continual victorious living in Christ, trusting in the Holy Spirit's help and guidance in teaching and leading their people.

### **Course description**

This course begins by examining the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Subjects covered include the work of the Holy Spirit, baptism in the Spirit, fullness of the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit. The course also deals with the believer's identity in Christ, the process of sanctification, spiritual battle, and growth in grace, all essential elements of a fruitful Christian life.

### **Learning Outcomes**

**Content:** By the end of the course, the student will be able:

- To communicate the meaning of becoming a new creation and of finding one's identity in Christ.
- To explain human and divine elements of our progress in sanctification

**Character:** Through this course, the student will be encouraged:

- To embrace the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in conviction, baptism, sealing, teaching, gifting, leading and filling the believer.
- To demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in life and character
- To embrace his or her responsibility to use one's spiritual gifts for the edification of the church.
- To progress towards victory over sin and temptation, standing firmly in one's new identity in Christ.
- To embrace a life of prayer and dependence on God in every circumstance.

**Competency:** By the end of the course, the student will be able:

- To communicate a biblical perspective on various aspects of spiritual gifts, including the issues of hierarchy and superiority of particular gifts.
- To clearly articulate the difference between the fruits and gifts of the Spirit, and to identify examples of fruits and gifts in the life of a believer
- To explain to someone else, with biblical support, how to live a victorious Christian life.

### **Credits earnable**

- 2 hours of credit towards a Certificate in Christian Studies

### **Prerequisites**

(Progressing Together PRAC201, or equivalent)

### **Textbook and related materials**

- Required - Progressing Together Manual for PRAC202
- Additional readings may be required at the instructor's discretion
- Recommended - Books and materials related to the Holy Spirit and Christian maturity

## Course methodology

The student will work inductively, reading texts, answering questions concerning knowledge, application and analysis, and drawing conclusions which will be applicable to local context. After answering the questions in each lesson, students will gather to discuss answers and practical application. When possible, the course leader will give additional talks to reinforce what the students are learning through the lessons.

## Course requirements

### Certificate Level

- To demonstrate knowledge of course material through
  - answering questions at the end of each section
  - completion of the final exam
- To attend 18 of 20 instructor-led sessions (27 contact hours minimum)
- To participate in discussions by listening, contributing as appropriate, and responding when asked a specific question
- To make a chart of at least 20 spiritual gifts, along with a brief description of each one.
- To make a chart of the fruits of the Spirit, along with two practical applications for each one.
- In groups of two or three, students will spend time each day in meditating upon and discussing the fruits and gifts of the spirit
- Students will give class presentations on a key aspect of course teaching as identified by the instructor
- To memorize key verses, chosen by the facilitator, for gaining and maintaining victory (over the sinful nature, the world, and demonic forces), and growth in one's spiritual life.

## Course schedule

To be announced.

## Evaluation methodology and scale

- Student performance and mastery will be assessed according to the following scale:
  - 20% on completion of reading and of responding to questions in lesson manual
  - 20% on assignments (5% chart of spiritual gifts, 5% chart of fruits of the Spirit, 10% memorization of key verses)
  - 10% on student participation and attitude in discussions
  - 10% on attendance (percentage equals number of classes attended, divided by number of classes held, times ten)
  - 40% on the final written, or oral, exam.
- The evaluation scale is as follows
  - passing grade - 70-79%
  - good grade – 80-89%
  - excellent grade – 90% or above

## Policies

- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, because it is deemed contrary to Christian teaching and academic integrity.
- Absences in excess of 3 class hours will lead to a reduced grade; no student missing more than 6 class hours will receive credit for the course. Students who show little or no interest in completing course work will first be warned, then asked to leave the course if they do not change their conduct.

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## Lesson 1: The Spirit of God: His Work and His Person

### Prepare the following exercises for group discussion:

1. The Holy Spirit is not merely a force, or an influence. He is a person with an intellect (the capacity to know), emotions (the capacity to feel), and a will (the capacity to act). In the following verses, check the box that corresponds with the revealed characteristic of His personality:

	Intellect	Emotions	Will
1 Corinthians 2:10-12			
1 Corinthians 12:11			
Ephesians 4:30			

2. Demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is God in you with the help of the following verses: Acts 5:1-4; Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

3. The Holy Spirit has all the characteristics (all the attributes) of divinity. Find the verse that matches the correct attribute here below:

Psalms 139:7-9; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

Eternal existence -

Limitless knowledge -

Omnipresence -

4. The Bible sometimes uses illustrations or symbols to describe the Holy Spirit to us: the wind (John 3:8), fire (Acts 2:3,4), water (John 7:37-39), oil (Leviticus 8:12; Acts 10:38), and a dove (Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:22). What do these illustrations teach us concerning the Holy Spirit? (An example has been provided.)

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Wind	
Fire	
Water	
Oil	<i>He dedicates God's service to us</i>
A dove	

5. Choose one of these symbols, and explain how you can apply its characteristics to your life.

6. What effect did the Holy Spirit have in the life of the following servants of the Old Testament?

<b>Text</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Function/Ministry</b>	<b>Effect of the Holy Spirit</b>
Genesis 41:38-40	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Responsible for Pharaoh's business</i>	
Exodus 31:2-5	<i>Bezalel</i>		
Judges 3:8-11	<i>Othniel</i>		
1 Sam. 10:1,6,9-11; 11:6	Saul		

7. Read Matthew 3:1-11 and answer the following questions:

a. What was John the Baptist's ministry according to Matthew 3:1-3?

b. What did he announce regarding Jesus' coming according to Matthew 3:11?

c. What are the differences between John the Baptist's baptism, and that of Jesus?

8. During His ministry on earth, Jesus accompanied and taught his disciples. Before dying, Jesus promised to return and live in them. Read John 14:16 to 20. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this promise? (v.16, 18 and 20)

**🕊 Following his resurrection, Jesus' presence is communicated to us on earth through the mediation of the Holy Spirit. This is why Paul can say "the Lord is the Spirit", because the Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:17)**

9. Read Acts 1:3-8.

a. What is promised to the disciples concerning the Holy Spirit? (v.5)

b. What effect will it have upon them? (v.8)

10. What is the action of the Holy Spirit in the life of people according to the following verses of the New Testament? Who is concerned?

Text	(Christian/non Christian)	Action of the Holy Spirit
John 3:5,6	<i>Non Christian</i>	<i>To carry out new birth</i>
John 16:7-11		
Acts 10:19-20		
Acts 13:6-12		
Acts 13:6-12		

11. Study the verses of the following table, and write down what they say concerning the work of the Holy Spirit for each corresponding period.

<b>Before Pentecost</b>		<b>After Pentecost</b>	
<b>O.T. period</b> (from creation to John the Baptist)	<b>The period of the Gospels</b> (from John the Baptist to Pentecost)		<b>The Church period</b> (from Pentecost to today)
			
<b>Law of Moses</b>	<b>Birth of Christ</b>	<b>The cross</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
1 Sam. 16:13-14; Ps 1:13	Luke 3:21-22; 4:1, 18-19		Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19

12. What changes do you see in the Holy Spirit's ministry before Pentecost compared to after Pentecost?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

**Other manifestations of the Spirit in the O.T.**

We saw that the Spirit of God descended upon God's servants in the O.T. However, there were also other manifestations of the Spirit in the O.T. We see the Spirit already at work at the time of creation (Gen. 1:2). Later on, we see Him manifested several times in the form of a cloud of glory. This cloud sometimes appeared in the form of fire, other times as a huge cloud. We can imagine a fire creating its own cloud as it burned.

1. Recount the story of this "burning cloud." Explain the circumstances of some of its appearances.

**Ex. 3:2** -

**Ex. 13:21** -

**Ex. 24:15-17** -

**Ex. 40:34-35, 38** -

2. What does the presence of this cloud of glory in the Temple mean?

3. These appearances of God in the form of fire/cloud prefigure an important event in the New Testament. Explain which one and demonstrate the relationship between **Mat. 3:11**, **Eph. 2:20-22** and **Acts 2:1-4**.

4. What are the implications of this for you personally? (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

## Lesson 2: Baptism of the Spirit

### A. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The word “baptism” comes from a Greek word that means “to plunge into” or “to immerge under”, and in a more general sense, “to wash”. What does it mean to “be baptized of the Holy Spirit?”

1. Read Acts 2:1-11. How did the events of the day of Pentecost fulfill the promises of Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:3-8?

 In the story of the early Church in the book of Acts, the Pentecost experience (Acts 2:1-4) reoccurs three times according to the promise in Acts 1:8. The day of Pentecost feast, the first group was comprised of Christians of Jewish origin who were in the temple with their fellow countrymen gathered in Jerusalem from all the nations.

2. In the following passages, what groups of people does the Holy Spirit progressively touch thereafter?

- a. Acts 2:1-4        -the Jews in Jerusalem.....
- b. Acts 8:14-17     -
- c. Acts 11:1-4,11-18;-
- d. Acts 19:1-7      -

3. Demonstrate how these baptisms fulfill the prophecy of Acts 1:8

 Some churches encourage believers to a “second experience” of the Holy Spirit that they call “baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Several Christians have without a doubt discovered that since some event or a specific commitment in their Christian life, they have progressed in intimacy with God and in their service towards Him. But it is important not to confuse these experiences with the baptism of the Holy Spirit promised and accomplished once in for all in every believer in Jesus Christ from the time of his conversion.\* (to study this teaching in more depth, refer to section “For Further Study”)

4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

- a. The apostle Paul explains whom the baptism of the Holy Spirit is destined to. To whom?

b. Paul also mentions one of the purposes of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What is it?

5. In Romans 6:1-10, who is Paul speaking to? (v.2-3) What is the result of baptism in Jesus Christ?

**🕯 It is not specified whether this passage is talking about water or Spirit baptism. We find other biblical passages where the word “baptism” could mean one or the other or both baptisms at the same time (Eph. 4:5; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21). In biblical thought both baptisms are associated (related) for at least two reasons:**

**1) Water baptism is the outer, visible sign of the interior and invisible baptism of the Holy Spirit**

**2) Water baptism serves as a confession of faith, and is supposed to follow conversion through the baptism of the Spirit closely (Acts 2:41; 8:35-37; 10:47)**

6. According to Romans 8:9-11, are there any Christians who have not received the Holy Spirit?

7. In Galatians 3:26-29, what effect does our baptism “in Christ” have:

a. on our relationship with Christ?

b. on our relationship with other Christians?

8. In Colossians 2:9-13, the act of baptism is associated with circumcision. According to Genesis 17:9-14, what did circumcision represent?

**🕯 As circumcision was the outward sign of belonging to the community of Israelite believers, water baptism is also the outward sign of the believer’s union with Christ and His body that is accomplished through the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion.**

**Summary/Review**

1. Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How do you know?
  
2. As a believer in Jesus, what is your relationship with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
  
3. What is your relationship to Christians throughout the whole world by the Holy Spirit?

**B. The consequences of the Spirit’s baptism in the life of the believer**

1. Who were we before our conversion, according to Ephesians 2:1-3?

2. Study the verses of the following table, and give an appropriate answer, following the example.

Bible verses	What does the Holy Spirit do for us?	The importance for us as believers
John 3:5-8		
Romans 8:15-16	<i>He makes us adoptive sons of God                      He reassures us that we belong to God</i>	<i>We are part of God’s family                      We are secure in God our Father</i>
Ephesians 1:13-14		

Ephesians 4:30		
1 Corinthians 3:10-17		
Titus 3:5-6		

 **At the moment of our conversion, we are “born again” according to John 3:3. But that is not all. The Bible speaks of many other changes that come with our salvation.**

3. Study the following passages and answer the questions to identify more changes that accompany our new birth.

a. Romans 6:5-9,16-18,22. (1) From what influence have we been freed?

b. (2) Of whom have we become “slaves”?

c. Galatians 3:23-29 (1) To whom are we united? (2) Who is included in this new union?

d. Romans 8:9-11, 15-17. (1) To whom have we become a dwelling? (2) What does He do in our lives thanks to His presence in us?

e. 2 Corinthians 5:17. (1) What does God say concerning what happens in us at the time of our conversion? (2) What are the implications of this truth for your life?

4. A few definitions.

The following biblical terms describe one of God’s actions that begins or is performed at the time of our conversion and baptism by the Spirit. Complete these definitions by placing the words in the appropriate spaces.

Regeneration  
Adoption

Conversion  
Sanctification

Justification  
Union

**Sanctification:**

The work of the Holy Spirit by which the believer becomes holy. (As we will see in Lesson 6) It has three aspects – past (positional), present (progressive) and future (perfect).

\_\_\_\_\_:

God’s work through which our soul is made alive and by which we pass over from death to life (Ephesians 2:1,5).

\_\_\_\_\_:

God’s work through which we are united to Christ or legally baptized in Him (Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:21) and spiritually (1 Cor. 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17).

\_\_\_\_\_:

Man’s response to God’s call that includes two aspects: repentance (turning from sin) and confession of faith (to turn towards Christ) (Mark 1:5).

\_\_\_\_\_:

God the Father’s declaration that we are now without blame before His Law (Romans 5:1,16-18; 8:1,33-34).

\_\_\_\_\_:

Act by which we become children of God, members of his family and co-inheritors with Christ (Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:4-7)

5. Besides justification, which represents a legal declaration, the above actions describe an interior transformation performed by the Holy Spirit in the life of believers. Since your conversion, what changes in your life testify of the Holy Spirit’s action in you?



The Samaritans are not a good example to demonstrate that there are Christians today who do not have the Holy Spirit, and are in need of individually seeking “baptism”. Also, John the Baptist’s disciples were not Christians before receiving the Spirit as a group through the laying on of the apostles’ hands in the midst of extraordinary signs. Today, no believer has received John’s baptism, and no one can say they have never heard of the Holy Spirit.

We must say that some Christian groups picture baptism by/from/in the Spirit in a completely different way. They claim that this baptism is a more spiritual, deep, consecutive and distinct experience from the new birth, which is usually manifested through speaking in tongues... However, their interpretation of the baptism of the Spirit contains several problems:

a. They confuse and freely interchange words that are not synonymous. For them, the expression “to be filled with the Spirit” that we find in Ephesians 5:18, for example, is equated to the word “baptism”. However, this verse means “be continually filled with the Spirit.” Therefore it cannot pertain to a single event such as baptism. Furthermore, several were filled with the Spirit even before the establishing of baptism. A same person is filled several times with the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 3:1). Baptism is a single event. Believers are encouraged to be filled with the Spirit. No one is exhorted to seek baptism of the Spirit or even to speak in tongues. The confusion of these words can be explained by the fact that fullness and baptism happened simultaneously at Pentecost.

b. They believe that the Samaritans, the gentiles and John’s disciples are the example of weak Christians today, who although saved have not experienced the baptism of the Spirit. They completely ignore the historical context of Acts, and the need to keep in mind these groups in a collective way. They also ignore that none of the epistles, and more specifically the passages talking about spiritual life, bring any teaching on the seeking of the baptism of the Spirit.

c. The Bible does not divide the Body of Christ into “charismatics” and “non charismatics”. Scripture does not teach that there are two baptisms: one in Christ (at conversion) and one in the Spirit (following conversion).

### Lesson 3: The Fullness of the Spirit

**🕯 At the time of our conversion we become a dwelling (the temple) of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19-20). With the arrival of the Holy Spirit, our life begins to be transformed and our spiritual objective becomes to grow in our faith (Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Pierre 3:18). And yet Christian life is not lived on our own strength, it is driven by the Holy Spirit. This dependence could be called “the fullness of the Spirit”. When a believer is filled with the Spirit, he is under His influence and guidance. According to Ephesians 5:18, believers are called to be under the influence of the Spirit to fulfill God’s purposes instead of being under the influence of alcohol to perform sins.**

The Holy Spirit is a person. He has always filled certain people at specific times for specific purposes according to His infinite wisdom. Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit lives in each believer in Jesus and also wants to fill, inspire and lead the believer at every moment. For this, He also asks for our collaboration.

**A. How can we be filled with the Spirit?**

1. Read Luke 11:9-13. To whom did God promise to give the Holy Spirit?

**🕯 This promise is just as valid for the believer who seeks to submit himself to the control of the Holy Spirit, as for the sinner who wants to be regenerated and indwelt by Him. We must: confess our sins, forsake them and recognize our own inability to live for God. Commit ourselves by submitting to God’s will. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit (and then thank Him by faith). As soon as we are aware of some sin or the smallest drift from our walk with Christ, we are to renew this request to be filled again.**

2. Read Ephesians 5:18-21 and write down God’s commandment concerning the Holy Spirit. (v.18)

In verses 19-21, Paul identifies certain actions which characterize Christians filled with the Holy Spirit. These actions are also means through which a Christian can remain filled with the Spirit. Write them down, following the example.

Verse	Consequences/Meanings
v. 19a	<i>Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs</i>
v. 19b	
v. 20	
v. 21	

**🔑 The normal life of the believer involves being filled with the Spirit and being controlled by Him, for He is the one who gives us the strength to live the daily Christian life. He is the one who produces in us all obedience and good works through His power. Without His strength, Christians can do nothing pleasing to God. If we try to obey or serve the Lord on our own strength, all the merit and glory go to us, and not to God.**

3. Other ways can help Christians to be and remain filled with the Holy Spirit. These, in addition to those we have just studied are often called “means of grace,” or “spiritual disciplines.” These disciplines have helped Christians throughout the centuries to progress with perseverance in grace and in likeness of Christ (sanctification). We find the directions and promises tied to their practice in the Bible. Read the verses of the table and write these directions and promises down by following the examples provided.

<b>Discipline/ Means</b>	<b>Bible verses</b>	<b>Instructions</b>	<b>Promises</b>
Prayer	Phil. 4:6-7	Make all your needs known to God with prayer and petition	
Meditation	Joshua 1:8		If we practice what we meditate in the Word, we will be blessed.
Obedience	John 15:10	Keep the Father’s commandments	
Bible study	2 Tim 3:14-17		The child of God will be apt and ready for every good work
Service	Matthew 25:34-35	Act in favor of the most disadvantaged and destitute	
Confession	1 John 1:9		God will forgive us our sins and purify us
Fasting	Matthew 6:16-18	Do it in secret so that men will not see it	
Fellowship	Hebrews 10:24-25		We will spur one another to love and good works
Testimony	Matthew 28:19-20	<b><i>Make disciples: baptize them; teach them</i></b>	
Forgiveness	Matthew 6:14-15		<b><i>God will forgive us</i></b>

## B. Mastering Forgiveness

One very important discipline is that of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the door through which every Christian has entered into God's family. In a sense, forgiveness is what determines who we are – we were sinners (Romans 5:8), but thanks to His forgiveness we are now children of God (John 1:12). So, just as God has forgiven us, we must also forgive others (Ephesians 4:32). Not to forgive can hinder the work of the Spirit. But how should we do it? What are the steps of forgiveness?

1. Read Matthew 18:23-35, and answer the following questions:

a. How much did the servant owe the king? What did he do before the king? (v23-26)

b. What was the king's response, and why did he act the way he did?

c. After he obtained grace, what did the servant do to the man who owed him money?

d. What is the state of the "evil servant" at the end of the story? What should he have understood concerning the principle and practice of forgiveness, (See also Luke 7:40-48)

2. Complete the following sentences with one word to summarize the main steps of forgiveness.

a. Recognize that God has forgiven us an \_\_\_\_\_ debt

b. Therefore we must \_\_\_\_\_ others.

c. Forgiveness involves \_\_\_\_\_ the other's debt.

### C. The strength to witness

1. It is also the fullness of the Spirit that provides us with the strength to witness to others. Read the passages and fill in the table.

Text	Effect on the person	Result in the person's ministry
Acts 2:4-14		
Acts 4:31		
Acts 13:9-12		

### D. Life permeated with fullness

 **As we walk with God throughout our life being filled with the Holy Spirit, our view of God will grow and our life will be transformed.**

Read Eph. 3:14-19.

1. Complete the sentence: Paul prays that God will illumine the hearts of the Christians in Ephesus that they may be “filled \_\_\_\_\_” (v19).
2. What knowledge is necessary to arrive at this fullness? (v18-19)
3. Through what means can we deepen this knowledge? (review the spiritual disciplines in section A, questions 2 and 3 above)
4. How do you think such knowledge and fullness should impact our lives?
5. By creating a synthesis of the passages studied in this Lesson, write down what you can expect from the fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life.

**E. How can I avoid hampering the fullness of the Spirit?**

 **As opposed to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a commandment. If Christians practice spiritual disciplines with faith, the Spirit is free to work. However, believers can place obstacles which hinder the fullness of the Spirit in his life. This does not mean that he loses his salvation, but he is no longer under the influence of the Spirit**

1. What phrases are used to describe this obstruction in our fellowship, and in the work of the Holy Spirit? Read the texts and fill in the table.

Text	Effect on the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer
1 Thessalonians 5:19	
Ephesians 4:30	

2. Define the words used to describe the obstacle in our fellowship with the Holy Spirit and his work in our lives.

- a. What does it mean to “put out”?
  
- b. What does it mean to “put out the Holy Spirit?”
  
- c. What does it mean to “grieve?”
  
- d. What does it mean “to grieve the Holy Spirit?”

3. How can we sadden the Holy Spirit in our lives? Give specific examples. See Ephesians 4:21-32

4. Read the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32.

- a. According to this story, what did the younger son do to sadden his father (v11-19)?

b. What did the older son do to sadden him (v25-32)?

c. According to the end of this story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:20-21), what did the son do to restore his relationship with his father? As Christians, what must we do to restore our relationship with God (see 1 John 1:9)?

5. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? What obstacle most frequently hinders you from being filled with the Holy Spirit?

6. What are you going to do to restore and maintain the fullness of the Spirit in your life?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Saul and the Holy Spirit. Read about an episode of Saul's life, the first king of Israel, in 1 Samuel 15:1-9.

a. According to this story, what did he do or not do to quench the Holy Spirit?

b. What result did this bring in his life (1 Samuel 15:20-23)?

2. "Do you know the fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life?" This is the title of a small booklet which explains in a basic and illustrated manner what we have studied in this lesson.

You may obtain it by writing to Agapé BP 29- 77831 Ozoir la Ferriere Cedex - France

## Lesson 4 The Fruit of the Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

 With the coming of the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion, everything in our lives has changed. We have become the “temple” of the Holy Spirit, He has come to live in us and we have been made able to be filled by Him. We have received spiritual gifts. Plus, as we shall see in this Lesson, our behavior will also change under His influence: the Spirit will begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Prepare the following exercises for group discussion.

### A. The fruit of the Spirit/The deeds of the flesh

1. Read Galatians 5:16-26:

a. Fill in the table

The deeds of the flesh (v19-21)	The fruit of the Spirit (v22-23)

b. Before becoming a Christian, what was your life motivated by?

c. On the other hand, according to this passage, who should be the most important person (influence) in our lives once we have become a Christian?

d. What should this new motivation produce in our lives?

e. What are we commanded to do? (5:16,18)

2. In John 15:1-15, Jesus speaks of our relationship with Him using the illustration of a grapevine. Read this passage and answer the following questions.

a. Who does the vine represent?

–

b. Who does the gardener represent?

–

c. Who do the branches represent?

–

d. What is asked of the “branches” in relation to the vine (v4)?

–

i. Why?

–

ii. Who then, is the source of the fruit?

–

e. What are the consequences of “abiding” (v6)?

–

f. What are the consequences of “abiding” (v7-11)?

g. What is the purpose of our prayers when we abide in Him? (v7-8)

h. In your own words, how would you explain “abiding in Him” according to v7-14?

### **Personal application**

3. What fruits of the Spirit have you experienced in your personal life since your conversion?

4. What can you do for the fruit of the Spirit to appear more and more in your life?

5. Read Galatians 2:20 and comment upon this verse in light of the two passages we have just studied.

**B. Spiritual Gifts**

**🕊 The Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit is given to Christians to make them holy as well as to allow them to do good works to the glory of God (Ephesians 2:10). For this to happen in the life of every believer, the Holy Spirit fills each one, produces His fruit in each one and gives each one spiritual gifts.**

1. Gifts are specific abilities allotted by the Holy Spirit to believers. What is the purpose of these gifts according to each of the following verse groups provided?

a. 1 Corinthians 14:12,26; Ephesians 4:11-13

b. 1 Corinthians 14:20-25, Hebrews 2:2-4

2. Make a list of the different spiritual gifts according to these verses.

1 Cor 12:8-10	1 Peter 4:8-11	Romans 12:3-8	Ephesians 4:11

3. According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, who is the author of spiritual gifts, and who determines the gifts of each Christian?

4. Answer by “true” or “false” in light of 1 Cor 12:4-30:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Only very spiritual Christians have gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7).

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ We must pray in order to receive a gift (1 Corinthians 12:11, 18).
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ All the gifts are for everyone (1 Corinthians 12:28-30).
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a hierarchy of people based upon whether they possess a more or less important gift (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

5. Following this lecture on gifts, Paul explains what matters most in matters of gifts. Read 1 Cor. 12:31 to 13:8, and describe what Paul says concerning the practice of gifts.

6. According to the following passages, what attitude should we have when using our gifts?

Text	The attitude to have
Romans 12:6-8	
1 Timothy 4;13-15	
1 Peter 4:8-11	

 Some gifts are recognized as miraculous gifts (i.e. “charismatic”) such as the gift of speaking in tongues, the gift of interpretation of languages, the gift of healing, the gift of prophecy (sometimes connected to words of wisdom or the understanding and interpretation of dreams), and the gift of miracles. The purpose of this gift category, as we previously saw in question 3b, is to confirm the testimony of the apostles.

The legitimacy of the exercise of these gifts by the Church today is the object of at least two conflicting schools of interpretation. One school says we should expect the Holy Spirit to distribute these gifts in the same way He did for the disciples of the New Testament; the other affirms these gifts were only applicable to the time period of Jesus and the first apostles who laid the foundation of the Church’s teaching in the New Testament.\* There are also intermediate positions between the two. It is not within the scope of this course to reconcile this doctrinal question, nor to identify one’s own gifts.

However, the following question remains: “How can I exercise the gifts the Lord has given me with the spirit (attitude) we have just mentioned, and with the sole purpose of building others up as members of the church of Jesus Christ?”

7. What is (are) the spiritual gift(s) that you have received?

8. How do you use this(these) gift(s) to serve others?

9. In question No.6, in the previous table, what attitudes are particularly important for us to apply in the exercising of this (these) gift(s)?

\*Note: We may illustrate the way both positions read a same passage two different ways. In Hebrews 2:3-4 we read, "This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

-By "those who heard him", the first position understands all those who received the proclamation of the gospel and seek to pass it on. They believe they can expect God to confirm their testimony through signs and miracles by the power of the same Holy Spirit, who is in us (Acts 1:8, John 14:12).

-On the other hand, the second position understands by "those who heard him" Jesus' first witnesses who received a special authority to communicate Jesus' teaching to the Church (John 15:13-15), and who, consequently, received in a special way miraculous gifts to back up their authority (2 Cor. 12:12). 1 Cor. 13:9-10 is often cited to show that there would be a cessation of miraculous gifts shortly following the composition of the letter (and in the entire Bible).

## Lesson 5: New creation and our identity in Christ

 At the moment of our conversion, the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ (Eph. 1:1; 2:1-7; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1). This union involves many things for our lives on earth and for us in heaven. But the most important thing in helping us live this new life is to understand that we haven't only been freed from condemnation through the forgiveness of our sins, but that we have also entered into a new kingdom through our adoption into God's royal family. Now, in Christ, everything that belongs to the greatness and richness of God also belongs to us, as well as the privileges and responsibilities entrusted to the members of God's "family". Yet, our task is to learn to live in a manner reflecting our new identity and our belonging to our new family.

But first, what has changed for you? Who are we in Christ?

### A. A New Creation

1. Genesis 1:26-31 describes man at the time of creation. According to the Scriptures, how was man at the time of his creation? (See also Psalm 139:13-16)
  
2. What role did God give us (Gen. 1:28-29; 2:15)?
  
3. In the 3rd chapter of Genesis, we see that the Fall and man's sin drew God's judgment on man and woman. Following this event, what have we become in God's eyes, according to Romans 1:18-24 and 3:9-18?
  
4. Review who we are according to 2 Corinthians 5:17. What changed in our lives when we became Christians?
  
5. According to John 1:12-13 and 3:1-8, how does Jesus describe what happens in the life of one who is converted?
  
6. What does this "birth" involve for our spiritual lives? (Eph 4:32-5:1)

**B. A New Identity**

1. Read Romans 8:14-17 and Galatians 4:1-7. The apostle Paul describes the acquisition of our identity in Christ as an act of adoption into the family of God. What are the implications of this for our spiritual life?

2. To discover the blessings we have received in Jesus Christ, read the following texts and fill in the tables. An example has been provided.

**a. I am accepted in Jesus Christ**

Eph. 1:1-14

Verse	Blessing
v 1	<i>I am holy</i>
v 3	
v 4	
v 5	
v 7a	
v 7b	
v 9	
v 11	
v 13	
v 14	

1 Cor. 6:15-20

Verse	Blessing
v 15	
v 17	
v 19	
v 20	

**b. I am secure in Christ**Rom. 8:28-39

Verse	Blessing
v 28	
v 29	
v 30	
v 31	
v 32	
v 33	<i>I am justified by God, so no one can accuse me</i>
v 34	
v 37	
v 38-39	

**c. I have value in Christ**

Connect the following texts with the right blessings:

Text	Blessing
	I can approach God's throne with assurance where I will find grace
	I have more value than the birds that God feeds
<i>2 Cor 5:18-21</i>	I am an ambassador for Christ and a minister of reconciliation
	I have in me the Spirit of strength, love and wisdom
	I am a witness of Jesus through the power of the Spirit
	God chose me to bear fruit
	God guards me against the hold of sin and the devil's attacks
	I can do all things through Him who give me strength

**Application.**

3. You are practicing a teaching ministry among the children of your church jointly with a brother or a sister. This person accuses you of lacking in seriousness and openly doubts your ability to teach. However, he (or she) himself is not faithful in reading the lessons in advance when it is his (her) turn to lead them. It seems like the root of his accusations against you comes from jealousy.

By applying the truths mentioned in this chapter,

a. What perspective should you adopt towards yourself?

b. What attitude should you have towards the colleague?

4. How can you answer someone who says that you are a “good for nothing”?

5. Learn 2 Corinthians 5:17 by heart.

## Lesson 6: Sanctification: our growth in Christ

### A. The calling to sanctification

 Throughout the Bible, we find many illustrations of our new life in Christ: a new birth, a vine branch, etc. These illustrations suggest that we must grow and progress in our daily spiritual life. The purpose of every Christian is to resemble Jesus Christ by letting go or leaving behind his (her) old way of living and conform to the nature of Christ. This transformation is called “sanctification.” Through this lesson, we seek to understand what God did for us and what he expects of us, so that we may attain the purpose of our current journey of sanctification.

1. “To sanctify” means “to make holy, to purify, to set apart for God.” The Bible gives three aspects (times) of sanctification. Make the following verses correspond to the different aspects.

2 Cor. 3:18                      Rom. 3:23-24      Eph. 2:5,10                      1 John 3:2

Verse	Aspect	Term	Description
	Past	Justification	We are already 100% purified by our position in Christ, by His justice which has been imputed to us
	Past	Regeneration	We are already 100% purified and transformed in our being, recreated according to the justice and holiness of God (the new birth)
	Present	Sanctification	We become more and more “righteous” – in conformity with Christ in our daily behavior
	Future	Glorification	We will be completely sanctified when we arrive in heaven

2. The “past” and “future” aspects of our sanctification, as to our position in Christ and our eternal glorification, depend on God (He is the one who makes us “holy”); in the same way, progressive sanctification in our spiritual life depends on God, but there is something more. Read Phil 2:12-13 and write down what has been added.

3. How does Paul call those to whom his epistles are intended? (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2 (See also 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; and Colossians 1:2))

4. What does this “title” depend on? (Hebrews 10:10)

5. How can we obtain it? (Acts 26:18, John 3:16)

6. Since we are saints in Christ, new creatures adopted and baptized in Him, God’s dwelling, we could think that we have nothing to do, and that everything should unwind in our Christian life without a problem. However, as long as we are in this world, we have three dreadful enemies. Read the following verses and identify them.

- a. 1 Pet. 2:11 –
- b. 1 John 2:15-16 –
- c. 1 Pet. 5:8 –

**B. The flesh / The “old self”**

1. Our first enemy comes from inside us. It is our “old self” inclined towards sin. The New Testament uses several different words to speak of the influence of sin in our lives. Although these terms cannot always be defined with accuracy, here are a few explanations. Connect each word with its biblical explanation.

The flesh                  the new man                  the old man                  sin                  the natural man

Reference	Term	Explanation
Rom 7:14-17		The strong desire to act against God or independently from Him. This rebellious tendency resides in each person born since Adam’s fall. (Rom 5:12)
Rom 1:3 Rom 7:18		(at least 2 biblical uses) 1) Nature or everything human and physical (John 1:14; 3:6; 1 Cor 1:26) 2) The corruption of human nature since the Fall and its inclination towards sin. (Eph 2:3; Rom 7:5,14).
1 Cor 2:14		Any man who has not been born again—who does not have the Spirit of God. He behaves according to his flesh which is dominated by sin. (Eph 2:1-3)
Eph 4:22		-The old identity of the believer before his conversion with his carnal tendencies. (Col 3:9) In the believer, he is already crucified. (Rom 6:6) It is sometimes translated by “the old nature.”
Eph 4:24		The new identity we receive when we are born again at conversion with its desires to please God. (2Cor 5:17; Col 3:10)

2. Read Colossians 3:1-17 and answer the following questions.

- a. Colossians 3:1-4. Whether he is conscious of it or not, what is true of the Christian in relation to
  - i. His past?
  - ii. His present?

iii. His future?

iv. What must the Christian do?

b. Colossians 3:5-9

i. What must we do with our “old self” (the old nature)? (v5)

ii. What does the sentence: “Put to death your earthly nature” mean?

iii. What practices of the old nature must we give up? (v5-9)

c. Colossians 3:10-17

i. What must we do with our “new self”? (v10,12)

ii. How should we view ourselves now? (v10-12,15)

iii. What practices should we engage ourselves into now?

d. If we are saints, why are we in such need of bearing one another and mutually showing grace to one another?

3. Paul uses various illustrations/comparisons to help us understand the nature of our struggle against sin. Read the following passages and fill in the table, following the examples.

Text	Illustration/ Comparison made	To do	To avoid
Eph. 4:21-24 (Col. 3:9-10)	<i>The wearing of clothes</i>	<i>Put on the new nature, tell the truth, being renewed in Spirit</i>	<i>The former way of life Deceit, lies</i>
Romans 6:11-13 (Col 3:5)	<i>Putting to death (execution)  The use of weapons</i>		
Romans 12:1-2		<i>Offer our bodies to God. To be renewed in the Spirit (to discern God's will)</i>	
1 Cor. 9:24-27			<i>Everything that hinders us from moving forward in our race.</i>

4. According to the texts we have just read,

- a. what is our responsibility in relation to our spirit (in our way of thinking)?

 **God does not ask us to forsake our intellect (or our reason), but to renew it. This requires effort, discipline, study, and meditation of God's Word.**

- b. what is our responsibility towards our body?

5. After reading Romans 6:11-13 and other passages of the previous table, what specifications can you add to the meaning of the expression in Col. 3:5, "Put to death your earthly nature"?

6. Choose an illustration for the previous table and explain how it helps you to progress in your own walk towards sanctification.

7. Sanctification, what a challenge! Read Rom. 8:13 and Gal. 5:16-17 and remind yourself where the strength to do all that is asked of us comes from.

### C. The steps towards sanctification

 **The newborn Christian begins a life of growth in his likeness to Jesus Christ. In his second letter, Peter the apostle lays down the gradual steps of sanctification (2 Pet 1:3-11).**

Read the following passages and answer the questions:

2 Pet 1:3-4

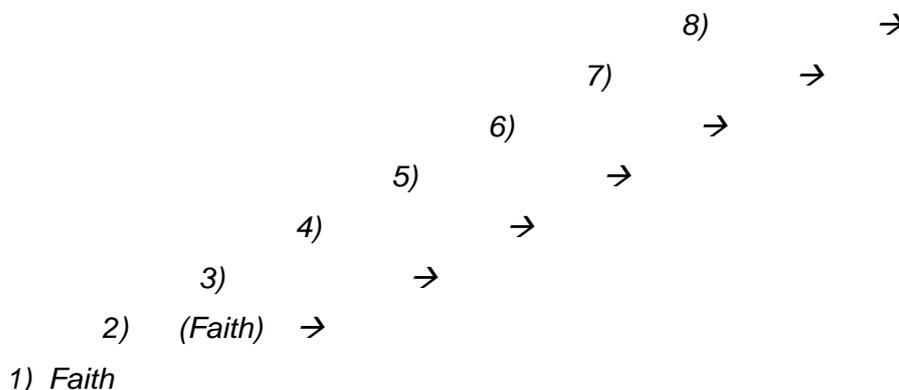
1. What did God do so that we could take part in His glorious nature?

2. With the help of what you have studied in this lesson until now, identify at least 3 of these “great and precious promises.”

2 Pet. 1:5-8

 **Because of what God has already done for us, and on the basis of these promises, Peter exhorts us to grow in our faith. Each newborn Christian begins his life in Christ with faith (v5). Then he must add the qualities listed in this passage which can be indicators of the progressive stages of his spiritual maturity.**

3. What are these qualities in order?



Write each quality in front of its corresponding definition here below.

\_\_\_\_\_ -the capacity to control one's actions.

\_\_\_\_\_ -a disposition to seek the well-being of others in all circumstances to the point of sacrificing ourselves for our enemies, following Christ's example.

\_\_\_\_\_ -a good understanding of God's will through His Word (the Bible).

\_\_\_\_\_ -tenderness and affection towards our brothers and sisters in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ -a behavior strongly influenced by the fear and knowledge of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ -confidence in the promises of God regarding personal salvation.

\_\_\_\_\_ -inner strength that desires the best.

\_\_\_\_\_ -the capacity to endure hardships (self control practiced over a long period of time).

4. What is the climax of these qualities?

5. Which quality currently describes your main struggle?

2 Pet 1:9-11

6. How can we explain the lack of these qualities? (v9)

7. What is our responsibility? (v10)

8. What hope motivates us to progress?

9. Read Phil. 2:12-13 once more, and find another encouragement that will motivate us to grow.

#### D. The Importance of a Good Conscience

We have seen that sanctification in the Christian's life is a progressive transformation towards the glorious image of Jesus Christ. Therefore we may ask ourselves the following question, "What level of holiness can we attain?"

As long as we are in this world, we cannot achieve a behavior void of sin (1 John 1:8, Jam. 3:2). But at each stage of our growth, we are called to maintain a good conscience before God (1 Tim. 1:5,19). To have a good conscience, two conditions must be met.

1. By looking up the verses of the following table, fill in the conditions that correspond to each reference.

Bible passage	Conditions to maintain a good conscience
Heb. 10:19-22  (1 John 1:9; Heb. 9:14)	
2 Cor. 1:12  (Heb. 13:18)	

 **Having a good conscience does not guaranty that we are without sin. There is often a disconnect between God's will and our understanding of His will. But the more we renew our spirit through the knowledge of God and obedience to His Word the more our conscience will be able to show us truthfully the state of our walk –our conformity to His will (Phil. 3:15-16).**

2. Mention an example of some practice to which you paid no attention as a young Christian, but that you were led to give up later on.

3. What passage in this study has encouraged you to pursue sanctification? How so?

## Lesson 7: Spiritual Warfare

In our study of sanctification (Lesson 6) we saw that until death or Christ's return, the old man, although dead, remains an enemy inside of ourselves. In this Lesson we will study two other enemies of our souls which attack us from the outside: the world and Satan.

### A. The world

One might think that in order to progress in sanctification, it would be easier to withdraw from the world to escape all its temptations and its opposition to our faith. Yet, God left us here to be a witness of His glory to the world. So how do we live in the world without ourselves being tainted?

1. What is God's attitude towards the citizens of the world according to John 3:16-21? (See also John 8:23-24, 1 Cor. 11:32)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the relationship between the Christian and the world (John 15:18-20, 1 Cor. 2:12-14)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to 1 John 2:15-17,
  - a. What are the things that the world seeks?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Give examples of these things from the life surrounding you.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What warning is given to the Christians in this text?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Who runs the system of the world? (Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 5:19)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Give a definition of the world:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What guarantees have we received from God in our struggle against the world? (1 John 5:18-20, John 16:33)

## B. Satan and Demons

🔑 Following our old self and the word, the third enemy of our souls is Satan with his army of demons—originally angels created to serve God who rebelled before the creation of the world. They are already defeated and condemned at the cross, and the Christian has victory over them in Christ. But during their sojourn on earth, they deliver an intense and crafty struggle against God’s children, although desperate as to its conclusion. The Christian has the responsibility to resist Satan with the help of the Holy Spirit with the weapons He provides us with.

### Knowing the enemy’s strategies

1. Read Genesis 3:1-7 and answer the following questions:

a. How did Satan (in the form of a serpent) try to lead the man and the woman astray? What tactics did he use?

b. How did the man and the woman respond?

c. What was the result of this strategy concerning their relationship with God?

2. These strategies of the devil and others can be found in various Bible passages. Lies are what are at the root of all his strategies. Fill in the table below with the following Bible references. Read each of the 5 texts and choose the setting that corresponds to his strategy, as demonstrated by the example.

Zech. 3:1

~~John 8:44~~

2 Cor. 12:7

Luke 4:1-4

1 Pet. 5:8

Strategy	Description	Biblical References
Lies	Satan is a liar and “the father of lies.” He challenges, obscures and conceals the truth and glorious goodness that are found in God. We find that lies are at the root of all of his strategies.	<i>John 8:44</i>  (see also 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-14, Gen. 3:4; 2 Cor. 4:4)
Temptation	Satan prompts us to please ourselves and the desires of our flesh (auto satisfaction): the thrill of sensations, envy, pride. He wants to make us believe that we can take the most out of life by remaining our own master. (Seduction)	(see also Gen. 3:5)
Accusation	He bears the name of “devil” (slanderer). He seeks to blame the character and actions of both God and His children. He also seeks to tempt us to judge in order to see us sink either into guilt and discouragement, or in bitterness, distrust and division.	(see also Rev. 12:10, Gen. 3:1; Eph. 4:26-27)

Intimidation	“Satan” (the adversary) tries to terrorize us to paralyze us and submit us. As a lion roars—like a strong man he threatens very well—but in reality he is tied down thanks to Christ’s work.	
Oppression	Called “murderer”, he would like, if possible, to destroy all of God’s children. He makes people suffer and seeks to kill in order to make us doubt of God’s goodness and erase our testimony. He uses the persecution of men, physical and emotional oppression, the destruction of property, and opposition to the projects of God’s servants, but he is always limited by what God allows him to do.	(see also John 8:44, 1 Thess. 2:18; Mark 5:2-5)

3. Here are a few deceitful “attacks” of Satan. Identify the tactic used and the lie tied to each statement.

Satan’s statement	Tactic/Lie	Key verses to contradict them
“ A real Christian would never do that.” (doubting one’s salvation)	<i>Accusation/Real Christians never commit certain sins</i>	Romans 8:1 1 John 1:10
“There is no other way of doing” (it is necessary to live peacefully in our society/my family).		Eph. 4:25; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 Jer. 4:1-2
“Satan/this Charm can do me harm.”		1 John 5:18; Eph. 1:19-23 John 16:33; Matt. 10:26-31
It’s the way I am. There’s nothing I can do about it” (changing).		Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; 4:13; Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 3:9-10
“I have the right not to forgive.” or “I cannot forgive”		Matt. 6:14-15; 18:32-33; Eph. 4:32
“I would be happy if only...”		Jer. 2:13; Ps. 23:1; Matt. 6:32-33; 2 Cor. 12:9

- 4.
- a. Which lie is the most dangerous for you personally?
  
  - b. With what Biblical truths can you oppose this lie (refer to the verses in the table above)?

5. To summarize, what is Satan's objective in the life of unbelievers? What is his objective in the life of believers?

6. While Satan has his objective in the life of believers, God has his own reasons to allow Satan to act in the lives of his beloved children. Let us discover them.

a. Read 2 Cor 12:7-9. Paul explains why he can rejoice and commend himself in the trial Satan has brought against him. What reasons does he give? (v.9)

b. Read the following verses, and find other reasons why God allows trials.

Heb 12:10-11 –

Jam 1:2-4 7 –

1 Pet 1:6 –

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Be freed from occultism

(This section is reproduced from Lesson 5, of the 109 course of the Program "Progressing Together" Level 1. If you have not taken it yet, we strongly recommend that you study the following section.)



### **Read Deuteronomy 18:9-13 attentively**

- ①  Find the different occult practices mentioned, and the meaning of the words that are used. Use a dictionary if necessary. In the table of the following page, write down for each occult practice whether or not (to your knowledge) it is practiced in your country today, and how.

In Deuteronomy	Today

②  What does God think of occult practices?

 What commandments does he give to his people concerning these practices?

 **Read Acts 19:11-22 attentively**

③  The events related in Acts 19 happened in the city of Ephesus, where occultism was practiced in various forms. For this reason and because of the many idols that the people worshiped, evil spirits were very active.

 Why was Paul capable of casting out the demons when the seven sons of Sceva were unable to? (They were even beaten by the demons they were trying to cast out.)

④  According to Acts 19:18-19, some of those who had practiced occultism believed in Christ. What two things did these new believers do concerning their former occult practices?



Are there any occult practices that you should give up in this way?

	If you have any doubts concerning some matter, pray with two or three other believers about this matter, confess these things and forsake them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Here are a few practical words of advice taken from B. Collinson* booklet: "Occult practices come from Satan's realm; they transcend or rather appear to transcend every perception of our five senses. Occultism has existed from the most ancient times. In its various forms, the underlying principles remain the same. Occultism is blasphemy towards God, rebellion against His authority, disobedience to the first of the ten commandments."
	Here are a few practical examples of superstition, mysticism and occultism that you may encounter: the evil eye, Fatima's hand, amulets, special ceremonies concerning newborn babies, the fear of djinns, astrology, cartomancy, chiromancy, mediums, potions, sorcery, spells and counter-spells, magical healings, exorcism, invoking of the dead, fortune telling, spiritism, dervishes, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	An oppressed person must be led toward Jesus Christ, his/her unique hope. In a spirit of repentance, everything concerning occultism must be confessed to God. Then, he/she must cut off all contact with occultism. This may involve cutting off friendships or contact with family members who had dragged him into these practices. The person must declare before witnesses that he believes in the purifying power of Christ's blood. He must declare that he is separating himself from the evil. He must inform the spirit or demon that henceforth he has no power over his former victim. Then, that person can be fully confident in God's forgiveness, in his support and protection, and thank Him for His grace.



Bernard Collinson: Occultisme en Afrique du Nord, Marseille 1992

If you have persisting difficulties connected to occultism, study in a "Les étapes vers la liberté" of Neil Anderson in depth. If possible, take along a more mature brother or sister. Visit our website [www.takwin-masihj](http://www.takwin-masihj) to obtain it in Arabic.

## Lesson 8: Spiritual Warfare (2)

### A. Knowing our strength in the face of our enemies

1. Where does our strength come from? (Eph. 6:10)

2. How does Paul describe this strength? (Eph. 1:18-20)

3. Read Eph. 3:14-20

a. What must we do to access this strength? (Eph. 3:14-16)

b. Where does this strength manifest itself? (Eph. 3:20; see also Col. 1:28-29)

c. What can we do with this strength? (Eph. 3:20; see also Phil. 4:13)

4. In each of these texts, write down the sentence or idea that can encourage you in the face of Satan's tactics, following the example.

Text	Encouragement
Job 1:12	<i>Satan can do nothing against believers without God's consent</i>
Rom. 8:1	
1 Cor. 10:13	
2 Cor. 2:14	
Col. 2:9-10	
Col. 2:15	
2 Tim. 4:17	
2 Tim. 4:18	
1 John 4:4	

1 John 5:18	

## 5. The weapons of the Spirit

**📖 Read Eph 6:10-18.** In this passage, Paul explains to us that our battle is not fought against human enemies, but against spiritual beings. Therefore he exhorts us to strengthen ourselves in the Lord and through his sovereign might. In verses 13-17, he tells us how: by taking up the weapons of God, weapons through which the Lord demonstrates his strength. These weapons are designed to help us stand firm; some of them are also given to us that we may fight offensively.

a. Identify each weapon and its use by referring to Eph 6:12-17. An example has been provided. (*Each weapon is not necessarily linked to a specific strategy.*)

The weapon at our disposal	D (defensive) O (offensive)	Against what strategies of the enemy is it designed for?
v14 The belt of truth	D (defensive)	Lies
v14 The breastplate of righteousness.		
v15 The sandals of the readiness of the gospel of peace		
v16 <i>The shield of faith</i>		
v17 <i>The helmet of salvation</i>		
v17 <i>The sword of the Spirit</i>		

b. However, it is not sufficient to merely put on all these good weapons. They must be made effective. Find out how by reading v.18 again.

**B. Learning to resist with God’s help**

1. Read the passages of the following table. Choose only 1 text and identify Satan’s strategies, along with the weapons that are used to counter attack. An example has been provided.

Biblical narrative Text	Biblical Character(s)	Satan’s strategies	The weapons used to counter attack
Job 1:6-22	<i>Job</i>	<b><u>Accusation:</u> He is only righteous because of his comfort. v. 10-11</b> <b><u>Oppression:</u> Death of Job’s children and loss of all his property</b>	<b><u>The shield of faith—</u>confidence in God’s plan.</b> <b><u>Prayer—praise to God</u> (The sandals—confessing the goodness and righteousness of God before the others.)</b>
Luke 4:3-12			
Acts 4:23-31			

🕯️ “Before receiving Christ, we were slaves of sin. But, thanks to the work accomplished by Christ on the cross, the power of sin over us has been annihilated. Satan no longer has any right of ownership or authority over us. Hereafter he is a conquered enemy, but he still seeks to keep us –and by all means– from becoming conscious of it. He knows that he can hinder our effectiveness as a Christian if he manages to persuade us that we are nothing but a result of our past, subject to sin, predisposed to failure and dominated by our sinful habits. As long as he manages to spread confusion among us and blind us by his sinister lies, we will be incapable of seeing that the chains that once held us are now shattered. We are free in Christ, but if the devil can persuade us of the contrary, we will not be able to know the freedom which constitutes our heritage” Neil Anderson, « *Le Libérateur* », p.10.

2. It is therefore necessary to be renewed in our way of thinking, that is in our beliefs, because we act in accordance with what we believe.

- a. Read Rom. 12:1-2 and Eph. 4:21-24 and find what Paul says concerning this.
  
- b. In Phil. 4:8, Paul gives instructions concerning the renewing of our mind. Describe them.
  
- c. Where can we find all these things mentioned by Paul? (John 17:17)

 **It is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17) that renews our mind (Eph. 4:23), and He does this through His Word. We must therefore learn to examine our thoughts, recognize the lies and reject them (Eph. 4:25) with the support of biblical verses. The Word of the Spirit is the truth that transforms our way of thinking and believing.**

3. Referring to Lesson 5, choose three biblical truths that you wrote there (page 10), and explain how these truths can counter potential lies from Satan. An example has been provided.

Truth	Potential lie
<i>I can approach the throne of God with confidence</i>	<i>You have sinned too much. God no longer wants to listen to you nor answer your prayers.</i>

One sister felt strong oppression from Satan after she followed God’s call to begin a Bible study in her neighborhood, and several of her neighbors had been touched by the Word. She said: “Several times, I was afraid of staying home alone. I needed God’s peace to sleep. I confessed to God my lack of faith in His power, and asked him to strengthen me by His Spirit. I found a refuge in John 10:28 that says that we are Jesus’ flock, that Jesus knows us and gives us eternal life, and that nothing can pluck us from His hands. God the Father is greater than all. I placed the helmet of salvation upon my head and knew that even Satan’s most dreadful oppression could not tear me away from God’s protection over my life.”

4. In the same way, how are you going to use Biblical truths and spiritual weapons to defend yourselves from those attacks/lies of Satan that are most dangerous for you (see Lesson 7, question 4)?

**Be filled with the Spirit**

🕯 It is important that we be careful to remain full of the Spirit, to secure our strength and joy in the Lord. (See Lesson 3, pages 20-27) When you have a hard time resisting temptation or growing in your spiritual life, you can check whether or not you have forsaken one of the means through which God fills us with His Spirit. You will find a summary of these means, the spiritual disciplines, in the section “For Further Study.”

**C. Proceed to the offense!**

1. Read Acts 4:8-31. When the church was threatened, it did not merely defend itself but also took the offense. Demonstrate how the church used the three offensive means mentioned in Eph. 6 to lead the offense against the enemy.

2. As sons of God, we are called to participate in the progress of His kingdom on earth, so that the nations may come to the obedience of the Gospel of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). Which situation in your personal life, where God has placed you (family, work, church, neighborhood, school, ministry), would you like to see change and the glory reclaimed for Jesus Christ? How are you going to *lead the attack*?

3. Learn by heart: John 8:31b, 32, then find and memorize 1 or 2 other Biblical passages directed towards the lies to which you are most vulnerable (see the table of section B, question 4, or the table of Lesson 7, section B, question 3).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Be filled with the Spirit

- **The request for fullness:** Do you pray to be filled with the Spirit and His strength? Do you seek to let Him guide you?
- **Faith:** Do you really believe all of God's truths concerning your new identity and position? Do you really believe all His promises? Do you really trust Him?
- **Confession:** Have you named, recognized and forsaken all your sins? Have you cut off all ties with occultism? (see question 4, Lesson 3)
- **Truth/the Word of God:** Do you study the Word regularly? Do you meditate upon it? Do you learn key verses by heart to resist temptation?
- **Prayer:** Do you set some time aside to pray each day? Have you removed all obstacles to your prayers?
- **Worship:** Do you regularly worship God and sing when you are under trials?
- **Thankfulness:** Do you thank the Lord without ceasing for your current situation, even if it is a difficult one? Do you thank the Lord for his blessings towards you?
- **Forgiveness:** Have you given over any right to judge over to God concerning all those who have offended you?
- **Mutual exhortation/fellowship:** Are you member of a church? Do you attend regularly? Do you enjoy an intimate relationship and deep sharing with a brother/sister in Christ?
- **Obedience:** Have you neglected to put God's will into practice, such as it is revealed in His Word? Do you refuse to forsake one sin in particular?

2. Write down one or two of the resources mentioned above that you would like to develop in your spiritual life in priority.

3. What similarities do you see between these means of being filled with the Spirit and the weapons of God that we studied in Eph. 6?



## Lesson 9 Thriving in grace

### A. Works and Faith

 **We have seen throughout this lesson that many blessings in our Christian lives are tied to our practice of spiritual disciplines and our obedience: the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the joy of our salvation, peace, the awareness of His presence and power in our lives. Disobeying can deprive us of these daily blessings. However, we must never forget that our works of righteousness never award us any merit (Isaiah 64:6; Titus 3:5).**

1. Read James 2:14-19. Explain the relationship between “faith” and “works.” What role do works have in our Christian life? (See also Ephesians 2:10)

2. Read John 14:15,21,23-24. Describe the relationship between the love of God and obedience. How do we show our love for God?

### B. Walking by faith

1. As good as it may be, obedience –including the practice of spiritual disciplines, is useless if not accompanied by a continually renewed faith.

a. Read Col. 2:6-7. Paul says we must walk in Jesus in the same way we received Him. How do we receive Jesus Christ?

b. How therefore should we walk in Him?

c. Read Heb 11:1, 6, and explain how these verses apply to sanctification. (See also Gal 5:5-6)

🕯️ Christian faith always believes what God has said; it does not rest upon its own power, but upon the cross. Truly living by faith in close communion with God, living by faith as if we were already dead, and then coming back into the world as if we were raised from the dead, all these things are not completed once and for all: it is a matter of every instant. It is a faith that is lived out moment by moment. This morning's faith is not sufficient for noontime. The faith we had at noon is not enough for the evening...

This having been said, there is, of course, no premade formula to live a true spirituality. Any conception of a mechanical functioning of the Christian life, no matter how small, is a mistake.

One cannot say, "Read so many chapters of the Bible every day, and your sanctification will reach such and such a level." It is no more possible to say "spend so many hours every day in prayer, and you will attain this or that degree of sanctification." This attitude has a purely mechanical way of thinking that has nothing to do with a Christian attitude. The true answer is to live in a personal communion of every moment with God himself, and to allow the truth of Christ to flow in us through the action of the Holy Spirit ...

Believing in God, not only at the time of our conversion, but at each instant, and moment after moment, this is the Christian life, true spirituality.

*Francis Schaeffer, " Libéré par l'Esprit, " pp.122-125*

🕯️ Spiritual disciplines are privileges through which God carries out His work of sanctification in our lives through His Spirit. One must not fall into the trap of considering them as obligations or works that gain us merit before God.

2.

a. Read Gal. 3:1-5 and describe Paul's caution to his readers.

b. On what basis does God carry out His work in our lives? (v 5)

### C. Depending on grace alone

The exercises of this section are taken or inspired from “Transforming Grace: A Discussion Guide Based on the Book” de Jerry Bridges, NavPress, copyright 1991. *(Cette traduction est éditée avec l’autorisation par écrit de l’éditeur NavPress, une division des Navigators, Colorado Springs, CO, USA. Tous droits réservés y compris pour cette traduction.)*

1. Many Christians believe their justification is obtained through grace, but that following this, it is their personal duty to insure their sanctification by providing good works through their own efforts. Read the following verses. What do they teach concerning the endeavor to have a relationship with God based on a mix of grace and works?

Romans 11:6

Galatians 5:1-6

2. Why do you think it is so difficult for someone to depend solely on God’s grace rather than on his or her own efforts?

**📖 Even if we recognize that our works as a Christian do not grant us any merit before God, we can be tempted to believe that God will at least bless us in accordance with our efforts. Although the practice of the different means of grace and obedience are accompanied by certain promises for blessing, this does not mean that God is required to grant us success in every aspect of our lives. God blesses us, not according to our “spiritual accomplishments”, but strictly according to His grace. A Christian can do nothing for God to love him more; he cannot do anything for God to love him less either. As a child of God, he will always be loved as God loves Jesus.**

3. Give a recent example of when you were tempted to believe that God “owed” you blessing, or that he was going to withhold it based on your conduct. For example:

- You neglected your private worship this morning. When the daily events went wrong, you concluded God was disappointed with your lack of time with Him.
- Your time with the Lord was particularly consecrated in the reading of his Word, in worship, in intercession for your friends. When you needed his help with a specific problem, you felt that God owed you this favor.

4. To believe our efforts secure us merit before God is to forget grace and slip into legalism. With the help of Phil. 3:1-11 and Luke 18:9-14, try first to impersonate a legalist who is seeking to earn God’s favor, and then a person who places his trust in the grace of God, and complete the table.

	The Legalist	He who trusts in God
What is the basis of his relationship with God?		He trusts in God's forgiveness and acceptance in Christ, and in God's work which transforms his heart into that of a "son of God". Phil 3:9
What are his feelings towards God?	He seeks God's favor through his own acts of piety. Either he demands his right or is afraid of being rejected. Luke 18:11-12	
What is his motivation for maintaining a good conduct?	He wants to glorify himself by becoming blameless before the law, in order to avoid God's punishment, and obtain privileges from Him To be respected by others. Ph 3:9	
Why do you think he is uncomfortable after his failures?		He has despised and saddened the one he loves so much.
How does he treat those who have fallen into sin?		He understands them and does not judge them. He tries to help them and show them grace. Rom 15:1
What is the source of his strength to live the Christian life?	His flesh (his own capacities), consolidated by pride, the weight of a guilty conscience, and/or the opinion of others. Ph 3:4	

**🕯 Throughout the four gospels we find many times where, through His example and parables, Jesus showed how much the motivation of the legalist Pharisees and spiritual leaders were displeasing to God, as opposed to that of unworthy sinners who repented of their sins. Once we understand that we cannot do anything to gain God's favor, nor before, nor after our conversion, our spiritual motivation has set in the right place.**

5. Read **one** (1) of the following passages and identify the legalist in the story; explain why the motivations of his service are so displeasing to God.

- |                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| The sinful women at Simon's house    | Luke 7:35-50 |
| The prodigal son and the working son | Luke 15:11   |

6. Application: Ask the Lord to help you evaluate your commitments, and the motivations behind each one. With the help of the following questions, try to discern what the Lord is doing in your life.

a. Are there "good things" that you do primarily to please people/be well looked upon. Is it possible that God wants you to forsake some of these activities?

b. Have you neglected to commit yourself in a place you know the Lord has asked you to do so?

7. Do you experience feelings of contentment concerning your self-righteousness, or spiritual pride? In what situations are you most prone to these kinds of thoughts?

#### **D. Recognizing God's Work**

1. If we experience such feelings, it is because we have forgotten something crucial.

a. Read the following verses, and write down what they teach concerning God's role in our "good works."

Rom. 8:13 –

1 Cor. 15:10 –

Gal. 2:20 –

Phil. 1:10,11 –

2 Tim. 1:8 –

b. To summarize, who "earns the merit" of our good works?

2. If we seek to live for God through our own strength, we cannot please God. Why must we always depend upon God's strength in all that we do? (1 Pet 4:11)

🕯️ **“It is never my victory, but always Christ’s. It is never my work or my righteousness; it is always the work and righteousness of Christ. If the thought of *my* victory, of *my* sanctification finds its way into my mind, there is no true victory, no true sanctification. I must always keep in mind that my sanctification is in reality the work of Jesus Christ**  
**Indeed, the only way of not taking pride in a victory – a worse sin perhaps than the one we claim we have overcome – is to consciously bring it to the feet of Christ... For is it not He who won it through us?”**  
**Francis Schaeffer, " Libéré par l'Esprit, " p134-135**

3. To summarize this lesson, think about several aspects of your life in which you would particularly like to see God’s power at work. How are you going to go about allowing the Spirit to be free to work?

“Therefore, my brothers, just as you have always obeyed, [...] continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” (Phil 2:12-13)

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

#### **Application Questions**

1. How would you apply the teaching of the work of the Holy Spirit and the sanctification of the believer in the following scenario(s):
  - a. During a conversation, for example, your spouse tells you something insensitive concerning your habit of leaving your clothes around the house; how would you answer?
  
  - b. Your child has just disobeyed you.
  
  - c. For the hundredth time, you have just received a negative response to a job application. You feel that depression is threatening to take over you. What are the Biblical truths that you can lean on? Then what will you do?
  
  - d. You are parking downtown, and someone passes you and steals your spot. Anger is rising, but right before you blow up you are kept in check by the Holy Spirit. What could He tell you?

Declaration of truth "*Le Libérateur*", of Neil Anderson, Editions Clé, 1990, pp. 192-194

1. I acknowledge there exists only one God alive and true, made up of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is worthy of receiving all honor, worship and glory, because He is the one who created all things and upholds all things. (Exodus 20:2-3; Colossians 1:16-17)
2. I acknowledge Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Word who was made flesh and lived among us. I believe he came to destroy the works of the devil, that he stripped the powers and principalities, and that he offered them as a public spectacle triumphing over them by the cross. (John 1:1-14; Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8.)
3. I believe God demonstrated his love for me in that Christ died for me while I was still a sinner. I believe he freed me from the powers of darkness, and brought me into the kingdom of His Son in whom I have redemption and the forgiveness of my sins. (Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14.)
4. I believe I am hereafter a child of God and am seated with Christ in the heavenly places. I believe I was saved by God's grace, through faith; it is a free gift, not the consequence of any works I may have done. (Ephesians 2:6, 8-9; 1 John 3:1-3)
5. I choose to strengthen myself in the Lord and through His sovereign power. I place no confidence in the flesh, because the weapons I fight with do not belong to the flesh. They are powerful through God to overcome fortresses. I array myself with all God's weapons. I take the resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the devil. (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-20; Philippians 3:3)
6. I believe that without Christ I can do nothing; consequently, I declare myself completely dependent on him. I choose to remain in Christ that I may bear a lot of fruit and glorify my Father. I declare to Satan that Jesus is my Lord. I reject any false gift or deceitful work of Satan in my life. (John 15:5, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:3.)
7. I believe the truth will set me free and that Jesus is the truth. If he liberates me, I will be truly free. I recognize the only way to be in true communion with God and men is to walk in the light. Consequently, I oppose myself to all of Satan's lies by bringing every thought captive to obedience to Christ. I declare the Bible to be the only standard having authority on things concerning life and truth. (John 8:32, 36; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 John 1:3-7)
8. I choose to offer my body to God as a living and holy sacrifice, and the members of my body as weapons for justice. I choose to renew my intelligence through the living Word of God that I may discern that God's will is good, pleasant and perfect. I strip myself of my old nature and its tendency to do evil, and I put on my new nature. I declare myself a new creature in Christ. (Romans 6:13, 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:9-10)
9. Through faith, I choose to be filled with the Spirit that I may be led in truth. I also choose to walk by the Spirit, that I may not carry out the desires of the flesh. (John 16:13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18)
10. I reject all selfish ends and choose the supreme goal, which is love. I choose to obey the two greatest commandments: to love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. (Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Timothy 1:5)
11. I believe Jesus possesses all power in heaven and on earth, that he is the ruler over all principality and power. I have everything fully in Him. I believe Satan and his demons are submitted to me in Christ because I am a member of the body of Christ. Therefore I obey the commandment asking us to submit to God and resist the devil, and in the name of Jesus Christ I command Satan to depart from my presence. (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 2:10; Jacques 4:7)