



### Introduction

It has been said that the only qualification for becoming a Christian is that you must be a sinner. We all came to Jesus with a nature prone to sin. But God does not intend that we remain as prisoners to that sin nature. He has begun a process of change in us that will ultimately result in pure and holy lives. This study will look at the means God uses to change us.

### Change is in Your Future

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

- Circle those who are a new creation.
- Underline that which has gone.
- Frame that which has come.
- *“Old” and “New” can refer to any aspect of your life. It can be habits, it can be the words we use, it can be the addictions we have or the things we value. One of the characteristics of every believer in Christ is that something changed when Jesus came to live in them.*

The change that takes place when a person places their trust in Jesus is just the beginning.

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...*

**Ephesians 1:4**

- Circle the point in time when God chose you.
- Frame the two characteristics He plans for you to possess.
- *Becoming holy and blameless is a lifelong goal that God will help you attain.*

### The Agent of Change

When you became a Christian, God came to live within you in order to help you in the change process.

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

**Romans 8:9**

Place a check mark (✓) in the box next to true statements from Romans 8:9:

- You can be controlled by the Spirit of God
- If you are a Christian, The Spirit of God lives in you.
- You can be a Christian and not have the Spirit of God.
- Those who are controlled by the Spirit of God are also controlled by their sinful nature.
- If you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you do not belong to Christ.
- The characteristic of a Christian is that God’s Spirit lives in you.



Can you identify anything that has gone from your life as a result of Jesus coming to live within you?

**Holy** means to be set apart without any foreign elements mixed in. So one who is holy is set apart for the purposes of God, without any contaminants mixed in.

**Blameless** means to live in such a way that no one looking on could find fault with you.

When you invited Jesus to come and live in your heart, the Spirit of Jesus was that part of God that came to live in you.

Notice in Romans 8:9 that the Spirit is alternately called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus.

Christians typically refer to Jesus’ Spirit living within them as the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit wants to accomplish some important changes in your life.

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**Galatians 5:22-23**

- Circle the one who is the source of the fruit.
- Underline those fruit that you feel are lacking in your life. God has a plan to supply them in your life!
- Notice that the word "fruit" is not plural (fruits). The nine different characteristics all describe various aspects of the fruit that comes from the Spirit.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in your life results in more than just righteous characteristics.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

**Acts 1:8**

- Circle what you receive when the Holy Spirit comes.
- Underline the way that power is to be used.

While those of the world seek power as a means of controlling others, God uses His power as a means of accomplishing His purposes.

*<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,*

**Romans 8:11-13**

- In verse 11, notice the power the Holy Spirit exhibited in Jesus life. He raised Him from the dead. That is real power!
- In verse 11, circle the action the Spirit will take in your body.
- In verse 13, underline the activity we are to do with the Spirit's help
- Circle the result of putting to death the misdeeds of the body.

Change can be a painful process. The habits of a sinful past are not easily changed. And yet, the Spirit is continually present and will remind you of your new nature. He will help you each step of the way so that the old will indeed pass away and the new will come.

## Steps Toward a Changed Life

While the Holy Spirit is the one who enables and brings about change, there are some very specific actions that every Christian must take in order to release the Spirit's influence in their life.

## The Nature of Fruit

Fruit is the natural byproduct of a healthy tree. The tree does not work or labor to generate the fruit. The fruit just happens as a natural outcome of the tree's life. So it is with the fruit of the Spirit. This does not require effort on the part of the believer. It is the byproduct of the Spirit's presence in your life.

Notice the ever-increasing scope of the witness's outreach. You start where you are (Jerusalem) and spread out to the areas nearby (Judea and Samaria) before you go to the ends of the earth.

Colossians 3:5 suggests some areas of life that need to be put to death.

- Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
- > sexual immorality,
  - > impurity,
  - > lust,
  - > evil desires and
  - > greed, which is idolatry.

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

**Ephesians 4:30**

\* \* \*

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire;*

**1Thessalonians 5:19**

- In each verse circle the actions we are not to do.
- The word “grieve” is a translation of the Greek word **lupeite**, which means to sorrow. In other words, we are not to do things that make the Holy Spirit sad.
- To “put out fire” is a translation of the Greek word **sbennute**, which means to extinguish or stifle.

We make the Spirit sad by allowing sin to go un-confessed in our life. And we stifle or extinguish His influence by ignoring the promptings that He gives.

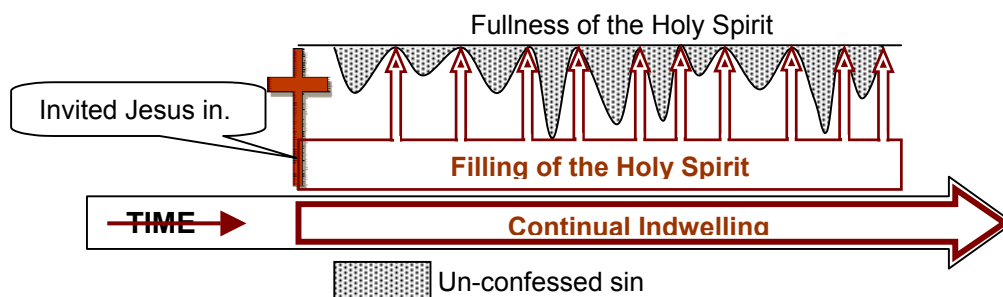
*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

**Ephesians 5:18**

- Underline the course of action we are not to take.
- Circle the action we are to take.

You can be filled with the Holy Spirit only so long as sin is confessed

When the Holy Spirit first comes to live inside of you, it is described as the **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**. Indwelling simply describes the fact that He is within you, never to leave. But unconfessed sin robs us of the **Fullness of the Holy Spirit**. The Spirit is present always, but the Filling of the Spirit occurs as often as we remember to confess our sin. Indwelling happens once, but filling is an on-going process.



As soon as sin is confessed, the Holy Spirit is freed to fill you and continue His process of life changing activities.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is always your responsibility. No one can do it for you.

The Holy Spirit is a person. He has feelings and desires. Though He desires to be in control of your life, He is a gentleman. He will never force you to do anything. He will prompt you, remind you, and guide you into paths that are pleasing to God. But he does not force His will upon you.

Refer to the **Getting Started** Study Number 3, **Assured Forgiveness**, for more information on confessing your sin.

A helpful resource in further understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit is a booklet available for Campus Crusade for Christ entitled, “Have you Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit Filled Life?”. The booklet is available free of charge at the Campus Crusade web site <http://www.greatcom.org/spirit/lang uages.html>

**Review**

We know that change is in our future because

- God causes old things to pass away and new things to come.
- He wants us to be holy and blameless.

Did you memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17? If not why not stop and memorize it right now?

The Holy Spirit is God’s agent of change

- Every one who is a Christian has the Holy Spirit living in him.
- The Holy Spirit wants to control and fill you.
- When you let Him control you, he will generate the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
- God grants power to those who have the Spirit of God within them.
- The Spirit will help you put to death the sin nature.

To release the Spirit's power in your life you must

- Let Him be in control
- Not grieve or put out His fire.
- Practice the filling of the Spirit by confessing sin

**Application**

Is there something God wants you to do as a result of this study? Describe it.

What is your need?

What are you going to do?

How will you check-up on your self?

Writing down your thoughts will help make them a permanent part of your thinking.

Remember that God is not simply interested in our hearing His word but also in our doing his word.