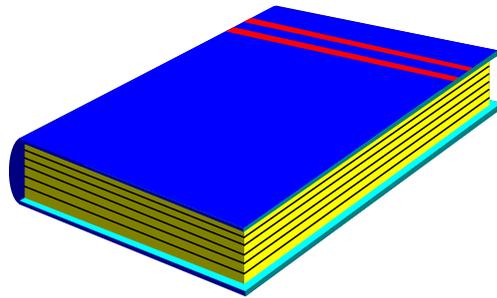


# THEWORD

## BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



## FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

### PART NINE

#### THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in The Spirit  
(Galatians5:25)

Now the Lord is The Spirit; and where The Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17)

## The object of this study is

### **TO DISCOVER AND PROVE:-**

The reality of a life filled with The Holy Spirit

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On completion of this study you will have:-

- An understanding of the purpose of Baptism in The Holy Spirit
  - Learned to use God's total provision
  - An understanding of the changes that The Holy Spirit brings
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### **NOTES**

There are four practical aspects to these courses; exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

- 1. Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
- 2. Bible reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
- 3. Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
- 4. Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers can be sent back to your Course Administrator or e-mailed or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to [stangain@btinternet.com](mailto:stangain@btinternet.com) for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

Stan Gain  
The Word Bible Training Course  
285 Montrose Avenue  
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## **The Purpose of Baptism in The Holy Spirit**

The purpose of this study is to understand that the baptism in The Holy Spirit is not given to be just another Christian experience. It is not intended that we should just sit back and say “Well! That’s another Christian experience that I have had. Now what?” Although it is given as an enjoyable experience, God has a reason for wanting His people and His churches full of His power.

Let us begin by clearing up another misunderstanding about the person of The Holy Spirit. He is not a dictator. He does not force Himself upon anyone. He does not control anyone so that they are forced to do something against their will. When Jesus promised that The Holy Spirit would come, He said that He would come as ‘a helper’ and ‘counsellor’ and ‘teacher’ and ‘guide’. He always keeps Himself within these limits. He came to be alongside us as a friend and not behind us pushing us where we do not wish to go. In Hebrews 10:29 He is called the Spirit of Grace. He is far too gracious to force himself upon anybody or into any area of a believer’s personality. If anybody is in a situation where they are unwillingly out of control it is not the working of The Holy Spirit.

### **Exercise 1**

Read the following Gospel stories:

- a) Luke 8:26-36. A demon possessed man healed
- b) Luke 9:37-42. A boy is healed
- c) Luke 13:10-17. A spirit of infirmity
- d) Acts 16:16-19. A spirit of divination

In all these situations the possessed person is not in control, but is controlled by demons. Sometimes, a person may willingly submit to the control of The Holy Spirit to enable Him to speak, minister, deliver or heal. Suggest ways in which we can know what is the unwilling control of demons and what is willing submission to The Holy Spirit.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:17 that ‘The Lord is The Spirit; and where The Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom)’. Paul puts an emphasis on the freedom that is experienced in our relationship with The Holy Spirit. It follows therefore, that the amount to which The Holy Spirit will control and direct the life of a person depends on the amount to which the believer willingly yields to Him. John 3:34 tells us that ‘God does not give the Spirit by measure’. In other words, if any believer is not experiencing the full power of The Holy Spirit in his life then it is not God that is limiting The Holy Spirit but the believer himself.

The mistake that is so often made is that when The Holy Spirit comes that He will do all the work. That we can just sit back and do nothing. For example they believe that He will move so forcefully upon them that they will be forced to speak in tongues. This will

never happen. It is only our willingness that enables Him to speak through us. The situation has been summed up in this way:-

“The believer **cannot** do it without The Holy Spirit and The Holy Spirit **will not** do it without the believer.”

Another misunderstanding that often occurs is to think that once the initial filling of The Holy Spirit is received, that He will go on to take full control of their being without any response or cooperation on their part. However, in order to make the lordship of The Holy Spirit effective in daily life, there must be a daily and continual submission to Him in every part of our lives. His power comes from our response.

The baptism in The Holy Spirit is not a final goal to be reached. It is rather a gateway through which we pass that leads us on to a new realm of Christian living from which we press on.

### **God's Total Provision**

God has given us full provision for all that we need to live in wholeness in this world and the next.

**Learn** the following two passages.

‘God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work’  
(2 Corinthians 9:8)

‘His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3)

God's grace and power, through our knowledge of Jesus Christ has made provision for every need of every believer for every occasion. There is no need in the life or personality or ministry of any believer for which God has not already made provision. This provision is deep and varied but it is all for us and we need it all. One part of God's provision cannot be a substitute for another.

The baptism in The Holy Spirit is not intended to be the answer to every Christian problem or discipline. It is not a substitute for prayer. It is not a substitute for obedience to the Word of God. If we do not put on the full armour of God we will be neither fully equipped nor fully protected.

If we have taken hold of one part of God's provision in baptism in The Holy Spirit we must also and equally take hold of every part of His provision. Some Christians emphasize the need to witness daily but neglect the practical aspects of Christian living.

Some read and study the Word of God but do not put it into practice. Some pray but do not fast.

Some receive the baptism in The Holy Spirit and do nothing else. Baptism in The Holy Spirit is not a substitute for personal Bible study, prayer and fasting, self-denial, church commitment, discipleship, obedience ..... etc. A Christian who is faithful in these areas who has not received the baptism in The Holy Spirit is probably more effective than one who has received the baptism and ignores the other areas.

**(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINISTRATOR.)**  
**There are many areas of the Christian Life that need personal discipline. Take time and ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life where you may be giving less than you should be. Maybe you have been strong in the past and have let certain areas of your life slip. Allow Him to speak to you about these things.**

### **Spiritual Battle!**

To seek the blessing of the baptism in The Holy Spirit for the experience, without actually using the power can lead us into a very serious spiritual situation. Increased power from God will almost inevitably lead to an increased opposition from satan. He is opposed to all the works of goodness and will challenge the believer in this new found power.

The believer who uses the power received when baptised and filled with The Spirit will be in a position to meet and overcome this opposition. Those who neglect this opposition will find that they are open to new degrees of attack or oppression and will lack the ability to discern effectively any counter-attack. Often there will be attacks in the areas of our mind through doubts, fears or depression; maybe there will be an increase in moral or spiritual temptation. Without fully using the power that comes with the baptism it is possible that the believer may fall back to a level of spirituality that is below that at which he started.

**Read** Matthew 4:1-11.

After Jesus was baptised The Spirit led him into the desert for forty days of fasting and temptation. Notice that Jesus was led by The Spirit to be tempted. It is part of our Christian walk God allows us to be tempted so that He and we may know what is in our heart.

Many times when we are tempted or tested and a trial comes our way it is not always because we have fallen into sin. Jesus was severely tested by the devil, led by The Spirit, and yet He had not sinned! It is for our strengthening that we are tested.

## Exercise 2

Read the whole of the Book of Job. Study in particular chapters 1 and 2.

There are many parts of the story of Job that many people find difficult to understand. The key to understanding the book is that it is about the suffering of the godly and not about the anger or punishment of God. Jesus himself said “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

- a) From your study of chapters 1 and 2, what verses show that Job was a righteous man and was tested because of his righteousness?
- b) Give an illustration of a time when you have been tested but not because of sin or wrong doing.

The remainder of this study will look at six areas in the life of the Spirit baptised and Spirit filled believer. Our lives should be improved by these experiences.

### **1. Power to Witness**

Just before Jesus was taken up into Heaven we find the following words:-

“Behold, I send you the Promise of My Father upon you; but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49)

“But you shall receive power when The Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Here is a clear record of Jesus’ plan for the spread of the Gospel. But it is only to start when the disciples are equipped with power from on high. This they needed for the task. From the time that we become Christians we have the authority to do the job. We are told in John 1:12 ‘but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God’. The word in the early Greek translations used for ‘right’ is EXOUSIA that has the meaning of carrying authority. So from the time that we are born again we carry the authority from Heaven to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ but it is not until we are baptised and filled with The Holy Spirit that we are empowered for the task.

## Exercise 3

The Day of Pentecost bears witness to this fact. Read Acts Chapter 2. The disciples who had been given this authority when Jesus breathed on them after his resurrection were suddenly transformed into bold witnesses for the task as The Holy Spirit came in power upon them. This was a continuing giving of power as

can be seen by reading through the whole book of Acts. Look up the following references and write them down.

- i) Acts 4:31
- ii) Acts 4:33
- iii) Acts 5:28
- iv) Acts 8:8
- v) Acts 13:44
- vi) Acts 16:20
- vii) Acts 17:6

There is always a reaction when the Gospel is preached. Maybe whole cities are turned upside down. Perhaps revival will break out..... or maybe riot and confusion! However, whether positive or negative, there is never indifference.

## **2. The Glory of Christ**

We have been looking a lot at Acts 2 since this is the account of the first outpouring of The Holy Spirit upon believers. Whatever we find at the beginning we should expect to find in our own experience. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is no shadow of turning with Him. The Day of Pentecost left Peter and all the disciples with a complete reassurance that the risen and ascended Lord was now exalted and seated at the right hand of God the Father. Only from the Father's presence could Jesus have received this wonderful gift which he gave to his waiting and expectant disciples.

“This Jesus, God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of The Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see”  
(Acts 2:32-33)

Receiving the gift gave them full assurance that Christ had been glorified. There are many scriptures that give us, through the Holy Spirit, the same assurance.

**Learn** the following scriptures:-

‘God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but in the age to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.’(Ephesians 1:20-23)

‘God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every

tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

The baptism in and fullness of The Holy Spirit gives a new reality and assurance about the exaltation and glory of Christ and about this life in the life of Christians and the church. What may have been at one time historical facts or a point of doctrine becomes a living truth reflected in the life of the believer.

The Holy Spirit could not have been given until Jesus had been glorified, and therefore the outpouring of The Holy Spirit is living proof that He has been glorified. It is another aspect of the ministry and work of The Holy Spirit reflected in the life of the Spirit baptised and filled believer.

“He (The Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you.” (John16:14)

This is also a good way to test prophecy, preaching and teaching and indeed any other ministry that comes to you:-

### **Does it glorify Jesus?**

### **3. A Gateway to the Supernatural**

This is another result of the baptism in The Holy Spirit. The book of the Acts of the Apostles is a record of the supernatural lives of the disciples. Their preaching has become supernatural; their praying has become supernatural; they are guided, transported, protected..... all supernaturally. If you remove the supernatural from the book of Acts you remove its meaning. If we are seriously looking for a ‘New Testament Church’ our experience should be the same today.

Note that there is a difference between **super-spiritual** and **supernatural**.

Super-spiritual is acting in the flesh and pretending that it is from The Holy Spirit.

Supernatural is receiving from The Holy Spirit and naturally ministering through the body.

If we are genuinely baptised in and filled with The Holy Spirit then there is no need for us to pretend that we have something or that we are someone. Our desire is to give glory to Jesus and not to take credit for ourselves. The super-natural becomes natural. It becomes a part of our every day experience. We do not need to try to impress others with our spirituality (that is super-spirituality and is a sin!). If we remove the supernatural from the life of a believer then that life loses much of the EXOUSIA that Jesus wants each of us to use.

## **Read** Hebrews 6:1-6

This passage talks in verse 5 of ‘tasting the powers of the age to come’. These powers are powers of eternity. When God created the heavens and the earth He set certain limits – put in certain rules – so that this world would be ordered. Time, for example, can only go in one direction; when we throw something up into the air it will always come down. We know where we stand. God lives outside of these limits and with greater powers than in this age. He lives in eternity. His powers are in eternity – the age to come for Christians.

Before we were saved we may have had a taste of the powers of the age to come. Maybe we were healed through the power of prayer; maybe God gave us a miracle; maybe we saw something supernatural in the life of a Christian. This was a **taste** of the powers of the age to come. When we are saved and receive The Holy Spirit we certainly taste more of these powers. Once we have been baptised in and filled with The Holy Spirit we are able to experience more than just a taste of these powers. We can experience the fullness of these powers as The Holy Spirit has revealed them to us.

‘For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.’ (Colossians 2:9-10)

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of full participation in the powers of the age to come. Ephesians 1:13-14 tells us that we have been sealed with The Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession.

## **Exercise 4**

What do you believe to be the ‘powers of the age to come’ that we can experience in our lives. List them and give a Bible reference to support your view.

### **4. Spirit Empowered Prayer**

When The Holy Spirit is poured out into our lives it should have a powerful effect on our prayer life. In the book of Acts we see that when the early church was at prayer that rooms were shaken, prison doors opened, chains snapped, visions received, lies saved and more.

‘The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of The Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.’ (Romans 8:26-27)

In ourselves we do not know how to pray. The only person we can turn to is The Holy Spirit. He knows our needs, He knows the needs of the world and He knows fully the will

of God. It is only through the power of The Spirit that we can fulfil the commands that tell us to pray continually. The Holy Spirit never sleeps. If we are fully submitted to God, He is able to use us and pray through us even as we sleep. Through the power of The Holy Spirit we are continually in communication with God. The Song of Solomon tells us that even when we sleep our heart is awake! (Chapter 5, verse 2).

One of the gifts of The Holy Spirit is the Gift of Tongues. This is probably one of the most misunderstood of all the gifts – and probably the most abused. This study will not look in depth at the Gift of Tongues but at that aspect that is for prayer language. There is a place for the public speaking of Tongues in a church environment when there is the gift of interpretation and those able to discern the gifts.

For the purposes of this study we are concerned with the gift as a prayer language.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 14:1-19.

Consider the following verses from this passage:-

He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him: however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. (verse 2)

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. (verse 4)

Let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he might interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. (verses 13-14)

I will pray with the spirit and I will also pray with the understanding. (verse 15)

All these references suggest that as a private prayer language we should speak in tongues to edify and build ourselves up. This is one way that the Holy Spirit will assist our own spirit to pray for those things that we need. We should also ask for an interpretation of those things so that we may know also what we have prayed. We should not speak to each other in tongues but only to God.

## **5. Revelation of the Scriptures**

This is another great purpose of baptism in and filling with The Holy Spirit. He becomes our guide and teacher in respect of the Bible. This is in fulfilment of the promise of Jesus in John 14:26.

“But the Helper, The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to remembrance all things I said to you.”

The things of God are foolishness to the wise and difficult to understand for those who are not saved – whose eyes have been blinded by satan. Before we can begin to understand the revelation that God has given us in the Bible we need the life of the Holy Spirit. We need His witness alongside our own witness to interpret and understand the Bible. We are told in 2 Timothy 3:16 that ‘All scripture is given by the inspiration of God’ It is God breathed – a spiritual book. It takes the mind of the Spirit to understand. ‘The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them for they are spiritually discerned.’ (1 Corinthians 2:14). Without The Holy Spirit it is impossible to understand the Bible.

## **Exercise 5**

Select a passage of the Bible that you have not been able to understand. Read that passage and meditate on it. Ask The Holy Spirit to help you to understand the passage in accordance with the promise of Jesus in John 14:26 above.

## **6. Continual Guidance**

‘For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.’ (Romans 8:14)

In order to become a Christian one must be born again. In order to be an effective witness for Christ one must be baptised in and filled with The Holy Spirit. But that is not the end. In order to live an effective Christian life one must be led by The Spirit of God. We must depend on The Holy Spirit for moment by moment direction. This is not to say that there is only one path that we can walk. We are given free will and we know what the will of God is. He will direct our paths, but He can only do that if we are walking!

For example, we are commanded to go into all the world and to preach the Gospel. We have free will as to how we will achieve this. We must start walking. He cannot direct our paths if we are not on a path but sitting at home or in church doing nothing. We start to witness and He will direct us in the way that we should go. If we are going in a wrong direction He will direct us. We will not know God’s will for our lives if we do not move. We cannot step out in faith without taking a step.

Do not sit back waiting for God to show you what to do. Study the Bible and you will know what to do. Then as you step out to do it God, through The Holy Spirit within you, will lead and guide you.

# Questions

## Part 9

1. With what four functions did Jesus say that The Holy Spirit would come?
2. In what verse does it say “God does not give the Spirit by measure”?
3. Complete the following: “The believer cannot do it without The Holy Spirit and.....
4. Has God provided for every need of every believer?
5. What is the full armour of God?
6. When Jesus was tempted of satan in the desert in what way was He able to answer him and what was the result?
7. God said that Job was a righteous man. What did he do wrong that caused God to allow satan to test him?
8. What do you understand the meaning of the Greek word EXOUSIA to be?
9. Give two examples of the power of God in action in the Acts of the Apostles.
10. How can we know for certain that the Father had glorified Jesus?
11. Complete the following verse and give the Bible reference. “He will glorify me, for He will.....”
12. What is the difference between super-spiritual and supernatural?
13. What are the powers of the age to come?
14. How does the gift of tongues as a prayer language help us?
15. Why should there be an interpretation of tongues if the message is given publicly at a church meeting?
16. How can we more fully understand the Bible?
17. Finish this verse. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is.....  
Where in the Bible is this verse found?
18. If we wish to be led by the Spirit of God we must do two things. What two things?