

H

HOLY SPIRIT

Our Divine Comforter

Study #8

Who or what is the Holy Spirit? That has become an often-discussed question – due in part to the rise of Eastern Mysticism and New Age teaching in this country. Many cults **deny** He is a person and that He is God, saying the Holy Spirit is just a “force” or an “influence.” On the other hand, the *Charismatic Movement* within Christianity has overemphasized the Holy Spirit – elevating Him to a position that He would not seek.

As with each study in

Christian Mentoring from A to Z, our



Z, our aim

is to examine the Holy Scriptures. Who is the Holy Spirit according to the Bible, and what is His role in our lives? You will be overjoyed to learn what great provision God

Lesson Overview

- I. Who Is The Holy Spirit?
 - II. What Has The Holy Spirit Done In Times Past?
 - III. What Is The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit Before Conversion?
 - IV. What Is The Relationship Between The Holy Spirit and The Believer?
 - V. What Is The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit To Believers?
 - VI. The Discovery Of Your Spiritual Gift
 - VII. Spiritual Gifts Are Available Today.
 - VIII. What About “Speaking In Tongues” And “Divine Healing”?
- What Is Your S.H.A.P.E.?

Checklist

- This Lesson
- Spiritual Journal
- Gospel Tracts

For Next Session

- My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match Profile*

Informal

Conversation –

Ask about his week.
Ask about answers to the prayer requests you have shared.

Discuss Last Week's Assignments –

1. Ask him to share his Scriptural insights, prayers, and applications from his Spiritual Journal.
2. Share one of your Quiet Times.
3. Exchange highlights of your sermon notes.
4. Ask him about his effort of handing out a gospel tract.

Read this page together.

has made for you through the ministry of His Holy Spirit. He is God’s perpetual, indwelling gift to you.

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. Look up: Acts 5:3,4

In verse 3 Ananias is said to have lied to the _____, and in verse 4 he is said to have lied to _____.
What conclusion can you draw from comparing these facts in these two verses? _____

B. Look up: 1 John 5:7

This verse tells us the Holy Ghost is *one* with the F_____ and the W_____ (Son). Compare John 1:1 and 1:14 for an understanding of Who the Word is.

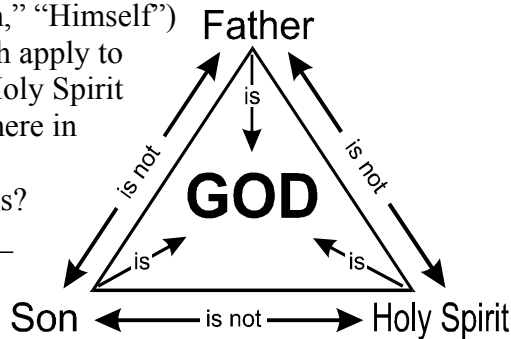
Comment:
In John 1:1 the Word is God; in John 1:14 the Word became flesh – this is Jesus Christ.
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are co-equal; they are God.

C. Look up: Matthew 28:19

Notice the word “name” is singular; this indicates that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity.

D. Look up: John 14:16, 17, 26, and John 16:7, 8, 13, 14

1. How many personal pronouns (“He,” “Him,” “Himself”) which apply to the Holy Spirit are there in these verses?



2. From this, would you say the Spirit is a person or an impersonal “force”? _____

E. Look up: Acts 5:3, Acts 7:51, and Ephesians 4:30

List three ways in which the Holy Spirit may be affected as a person. He may be: _____, _____, and _____.

II. WHAT HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT DONE IN TIMES PAST?

A. Look up: Genesis 1:2 and Job 33:4

The Holy Spirit was active in _____.

B. Look up: 2 Peter 1:21

The Holy Spirit is the author of _____.

C. Look up: Luke 1:35

What miracle was the Holy Spirit a part of?

D. Look up: Romans 1:4 and Romans 8:11

What other miracle was the Holy Spirit responsible for? _____

III. WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BEFORE CONVERSION?

A. Look up: John 15:26

The Holy Spirit testifies of _____.

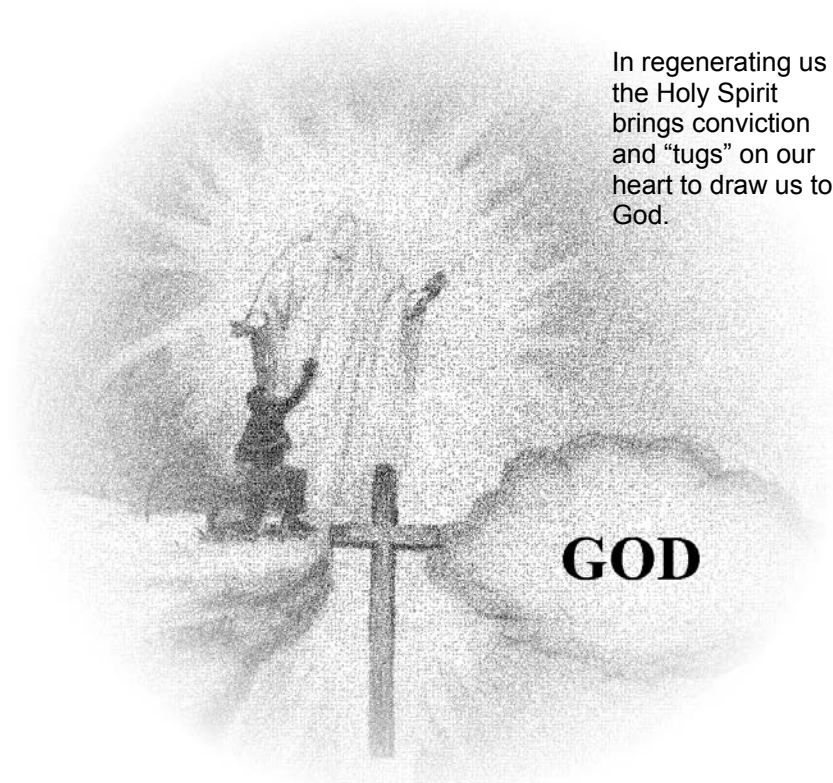
B. Read: John 16:8-11

The word *reprove* means to “convict.” Of what three things does the Holy Spirit convict unbelievers?

1. S _____
2. R _____
3. J _____

C. Look up: Titus 3:5, John 3:5, and John 6:63

The Holy Spirit does the work of *regeneration* when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, (that is, we are “born again”). In John 6:63 the word *quicken*



In regenerating us the Holy Spirit brings conviction and “tugs” on our heart to draw us to God.

Explain these verses:

- **Sin** – the Holy Spirit convicts a person of his sin. Some of these people respond with true repentance.
- **Righteousness** – Jesus was *The Righteous One* as was proved by His resurrection and return to the Father.
- **Judgment** – unbelievers cling to the lies of Satan in rejecting Christ. They stand convicted with the judgment pronounced upon the devil.

means to “make alive.”

D. What is the serious consequence of rejecting the Holy Spirit’s ministry?

Hebrews 10:29-31 _____

IV. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER?

A. *Look up: Romans 8:9*

He comes to D_____ in the believer.

B. *Look up: 1 Corinthians 6:19*

Our body is the T_____ of the Holy Ghost.
This means our body is a “dwelling place for God.”

C. *A Christian can G_____ the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).*

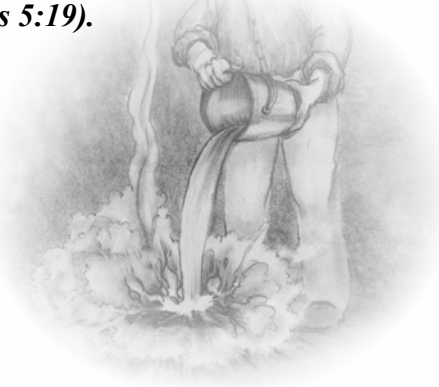
Read Ephesians 4:31,32; list six sins that will grieve the Holy Spirit, and three attitudes that will prevent it.

Sins That Grieve

Godly Attitudes

D. *A Christian can Q_____ the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).*

This means to “throw cold water” on His work within us – to stifle what He wants to do *in* and *through* us.



Comment:
God lives within us, and He doesn't approve of sin, bad habits, vices, etc. in our lives.

Ask:
Is there anything in your life that would grieve the Holy Spirit?

Review and define this list:

- Bitterness = a smoldering resentment
- Wrath = wild rage
- Anger = internal smoldering
- Clamour = public outburst that reveals loss of control
- Evil Speaking = slander
- Malice = a general term for evil that is the root of all vices

Challenge your Timothy to memorize Ephesians 4:32 and practice using it at home with family members and at work with co-workers.

E. In Ephesians 5:18, I am COMMANDED to be F_____ with the Spirit.

A Christian is to be under the influence and control of the Spirit. This is being *filled* with the Spirit, and it is God’s way of empowering you to live a victorious Christian life. You can be filled with the Spirit if you:

1. Live by faith.
(Galatians 2:20) “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
(Hebrews 11:6) “But without faith it is impossible to please him:...”
2. Confess and turn away from all known sin.
(1 John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
3. Yield every area of your life to Christ.
(Romans 6:13) “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”
(1 Cor 10:31) “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Review all of section E. In Ephesians 5:18, I am COMMANDED to be Filled with the Spirit.

Explain the filling of the Holy Spirit. It means being controlled by God’s Spirit. This is synonymous with “letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Compare Ephesians 5:18-21 with Colossians 3:16-17.

F. As I am filled with the Holy Spirit, He produces the F_____ of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23). This fruit is what God expects to see come forth in your life.

List the nine-fold “Fruit of the Spirit”:

Explain:
The Holy Spirit is the *earnest* of our inheritance. Earnest money is the down payment one makes when purchasing a big-ticket item. It is assurance to the seller that you are serious about completing the transaction. By making a down payment you are pledging to return with the balance of funds. The Holy Spirit is God’s pledge that we will receive our complete inheritance in heaven!

V. WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BELIEVERS?

A. Look up: Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30

- 1. Every Christian is S_____ with the Holy Spirit. This is our guarantee of eternal salvation. It is referred to as *eternal security*.
- 2. How should this truth affect you? _____

B. Look up John 16:7

The Spirit is our C_____.

C. Look up: Romans 8:26,27

The Holy Spirit makes I_____ - _____ for us, that is, He prays on our behalf.

D. The Holy Spirit is our P_____ to witness and serve God (Acts 1:8).

- 1. In Acts 4:23-31 the believers united in praise and prayer. They praised God in verses 23-28. What do they ask God to grant them (v.29)? B_____ to S_____ thy W_____.
- 2. What did the believers do at the end of verse 31? _____

Comment:
There will be times you will be burdened and won’t even know what to pray. The Holy Spirit knows your need and is your divine prayer partner.

3. What did God give the apostles great power to do (v.33)? W_____ of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

E. *He enables us to K_____ the things of God's Word, for He is our T_____ (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).*



When the “**light comes on**” as you are reading the Bible and you suddenly understand the passage, this is the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit.

F. *What does the Holy Spirit use to perfect (mature) believers?*

1. The S_____ of the S_____ (Ephesians 6:17). This is the Bible.
2. Other believers. What does a man sharpen (Proverbs 27:17)? The countenance of his F_____.
3. T_____ (Romans 5:3-5). This is another word for trials; they have a maturing affect.>

G. *The Holy Spirit gives spiritual G_____ to believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).*

1. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift (verses 7 and 11).

Comment:

God uses trials to help us grow deep in faith and maturity.

They may be uncomfortable, but they are necessary.

Read James 1:2-8.

Ask:

Are you facing trials in your life now?

Can you share them?

If their “trial” is actually a temptation

to sin, see James

1:12-16. Give them

biblical counsel; if

you don't know what

to counsel, get the

answer later and

return with it.

2. These spiritual gifts are NOT for personal use, but for the benefit (edification) of your church (1 Corinthians 14:12).
3. Some of the spiritual gifts listed in the Word of God were temporary and ceased when the New Testament was completed. These gifts (tongues, interpretations, miracles, and healing) were given as *signs* to the nation of Israel (Mark 16:17,18; 1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:21,22), and ceased after A.D.70, when Israel was dispersed among the nations.
4. Every Christian needs to use his spiritual giftedness to benefit others in the church.

Comment:

The church today is like a football game. Bud Wilkinson, football coach of Oklahoma University before he joined the President's Physical Fitness Program, was asked during an interview, "What contribution does professional sport make to the physical fitness of Americans?" To the surprise of no one, he answered, "Very little. A professional football game," he said, "is a happening where 50,000 spectators, desperately needing exercise, sit in the stands watching 22 men on the field desperately needing rest."
The church also has a host of spectators and a handful of participants.

VI. THE DISCOVERY OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

(Condensed from Dynamics of Spiritual Gifts, by William McRae, Lamplighter Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, chapter 5.)

The Dynamics of Spiritual Gifts is worthy of your reading time. In chapter 5, entitled "The Discovery of Your Gift", one is challenged with the priority of knowing his gift. Consider three great values in knowing specifically what gift(s) the Holy Spirit dispensed to you at salvation.

1. *It will function as a signpost directing you in God's will for your life.* God gave you the gift to equip you for your God-appointed function in the body of Christ, the church. Knowing your gift provides concrete and specific direction in many situations and helps you answer the question "What is my place of service in my church?"
2. *It will be valuable in setting priorities in your life.* To know the gift God has given you will help you not get buried in activities that don't require the exercise of that gift. Your gift provides a basis for establishing priorities.

3. *It will assist one in self-acceptance.* A young Christian who knows his gift is “helps” will not consider himself unimportant because he is not “teaching” or “preaching.”

How can you discover your spiritual gift? Consider carefully this process of discovery as you are actively serving Christ:

First, your discovery begins with prayer. We are instructed to make everything a matter of prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). God wants you to know what your gift is, and He wants you to use it.

Second, become exposed to the spiritual gifts. How? – Initially through study. Read the lists of gifts given in Scripture (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; and Ephesians 4). Gain an understanding of what each gift is; ask your discipler or other church leadership to help you with this. Exposure can also be gained by observing godly Christians who have developed their gifts to maturity. Watch them as they work out their gifts in service to the Lord. While gaining exposure ask yourself “Which one is mine?”

Third, your gift may be indicated by desire. As gifts are described, as you see them modeled, and as you are exposed to them, you can expect the Lord to touch your heart and plant desires for exercising of a certain gift. “*Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart*” (Psalm 37:4). This is the experience of every Christian who is delighting in the Lord through prayer, meditation, confession, and submission. This God-placed desire is seen in 1 Timothy 3:1 “*This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*” If you are delighting in Him, this is what you may expect: As you prayerfully study this subject in all its related areas and delight in His will and Word, God Himself will place within your heart desires in the direction of activities and service consistent with your spiritual gift. A zeal for the Lord in a given direction may well be God’s directive to you. CAUTION – our hearts are deceitful and desires may be self-induced. A desire does not necessarily mean a gift. Christians have desired ministries for

which they have no gift. This is sometimes obvious to everyone except the person himself! What is the safety check on our desires?

Fourth, it will be confirmed by ability. Act upon the desires of your heart. Try it. Get involved. Participate. If it is an area in which you are gifted, the Lord will confirm it by the ability you display. Ability improves and develops with practice. Don't judge a young lady's ability to figure skate by her first attempt – or even her second or third. Don't make premature judgments. Watch for improvement. Sure and steady progress will be reliable indicators of giftedness.

Who sits as judge of your ability – yourself or someone else? Because spiritual gifts are given for the profit of others (1 Corinthians 12:7), and not for your own profit (1 Corinthians 14:3), it would be unwise to attempt sole evaluation of your own gift. Evaluation by others is implied in 1 Corinthians 14:29. Mature spiritual men and women are reliable evaluators. Esteem their counsel highly. This is one of the responsibilities of pastors in a local church.

Key advice in discovering your spiritual gift is – be available! Be slow to refuse opportunities to serve; accept the opportunities that come your way. The evidence of ability is God's means of confirming that deep and settled desire to serve the Lord in a particular capacity.

Lastly, the crowning feature in discovering your spiritual gift is this – it will be accompanied by blessing. If a spiritual gift is exercised in the energy of the Holy Spirit, it will be accompanied by God's blessing. These blessings may include joy, salvation of souls, strengthening of believers, encouragement to the downtrodden, recovery of a backslider, successful completion of a project, and so on.

Discovery of your gift follows this path: prayer, knowledge, desire, ability, and blessing. The process takes time so don't be in a hurry. You may have instant puddings and potatoes, but discovery of your gift will come by a process – a process directed by God's timetable.

Read this and the following paragraph to your Timothy.

A spiritual gift *profile* may help you initially in beginning to discover your spiritual gift. A profile is simply a tool. Is it essential? No. None of the New Testament believers utilized one. However, that doesn't negate its value. You will be using a spiritual gifts profile entitled ***My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match***. This will get you started in considering the giftedness that God has blessed you with. The profile will provide *direction*, but true discovery of your spiritual gift follows the process of prayer, knowledge, desire, ability, and blessing. What spiritual gifts does God give to new believers today?

VII. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY

Condensed from Spiritual Gifts, by John MacArthur, Word of Grace Communications, Panorama City, California, chapter 4f.

Here is a brief explanation of the gifts available today.

Gifted Men

1. Evangelist (we call them Evangelist-Missionaries)
*(Ephesians 4:11) “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors and teachers**.”* These men evangelize an area. They preach the gospel of Christ, win souls to Christ, and plant churches to carry on that work. Philip and Titus were evangelists; notice their works (Acts 8:5; Titus 1:5; Ephesians 4:12).

2. Pastor-Teacher
*(Ephesians 4:11) “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**.”* They are given to the church to remain in a local congregation and minister God's Word. They pastor and teach God's people. As pastor they protect the flock; as teacher they feed the flock (see Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

Review this section briefly so your Timothy has an understanding of the spiritual gifts.

Review our missions program and tell your Timothy of the Evangelist-missionaries called out of our church.

Comment: Pastors and teachers are not two offices here but one office that includes pastoring and teaching.

Speaking Gifts

1. Teaching

*(Rom 12:7) “Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on **teaching**;*” This gift is a unique ability to study God’s Word and impart His truth to others. In the power of the Holy Spirit they pass on God’s truth. It is a communicative ability. The word *teach* in its many forms contains the root meaning of systematic teaching or systematic training. This teaching may be one on one, one on two, or one on many. It could be used by a lady with a group of children, a lady to ladies, a man to men or women, etc. It enables one to pass on truth in a systematic progression so that someone receives it, implements it, and a change of behavior takes place.

Comment:

Teaching opportunities available for those with this gift include:

- Sunday School classes
- Junior Churches
- Miscellaneous seminar and instructional times

See the pastoral staff for a place of service.

2. Prophecy

*(Rom 12:6) “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;”*

*(1 Cor 12:10) “To another the working of miracles; to another **prophecy**; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”*

*(1 Cor 14:1) “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may **prophesy**.”*

This is the gift to speak God’s Word publicly. It is proclaiming God’s Word before an audience, before believers and unbelievers. It was revelatory at one period of time, but when the Bible was finished, Revelation 22:18 said, “... *If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.*”

The revelatory aspect is finished for it belonged to the infancy of the church and concluded at the closing of the canon of Scripture. It ceased at that point. The non-revelatory reiteration continues. Prophecy is simply proclaiming God’s truth publicly; it is preaching.

Comment:

Several men in the church rotate preaching in our Junior Churches.

3. Word of Knowledge

*(1 Cor 12:8) “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit;”* “Word” seems to indicate it is a speaking gift. It is the Spirit-given ability to observe biblical facts and make conclusions. In other words, it is the ability to understand the Bible. Many of us would have to read what is written by those who have that gift in order to help us understand biblical truth.

4. Word of Wisdom

*(1 Cor 12:8) “For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;”* The word *wisdom* (sophia) differs from knowledge in this way: the emphasis is on the skill of application rather than the knowledge of facts. Wisdom is the ability to take the facts that the gift of knowledge has brought out and make a skillful application of it. It could belong to a Christian counselor, who identifies a problem, and then by his knowledge of the Word of God, draws out the principles that can be practically applied to solve the problem. Or it could belong to the preacher who takes from those who have the gift of knowledge and draws out applicable principles of living. The primary use of sophia is “spiritual understanding of God’s will.” It is the ability to understand God’s will and make an application to obedience.

5. Exhortation

*(Romans 12:8) “Or he that exhorteth, on **exhortation**: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.”* The word *exhortation* means “to comfort, help advise, or strengthen.” It is the gift of strengthening. The gift of exhortation is the ability to provide comfort, courage, help,

and strength to someone who needs it. The person with this gift comes alongside of someone with a problem and strengthens them to bear their load.

Serving Gifts

1. Administration

*(Romans 12:8) “Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:28) “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, **governments**, diversities of tongues.”* The word *ruling* in Romans 12:8 and *governments* in 1 Corinthians 12:28 both refer to leadership – they are synonymous. They mean “to lead, to manage, to have charge of, to oversee, to rule.” The gift of leadership is the ability to see an objective, formalize it, mobilize a group of people, and then get them to reach that objective. Pastors have this gift and are instructed to “rule well.” However, others in the church have this gift and will exercise leadership in some area or ministry of the church.

Comment:

If you are new to the church or newly saved and have this gift you will need to work under another for a period of time. The pastoral staff will help discern when and where you will be able to use this giftedness.

2. Helps

*(1 Corinthians 12:28) “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps**, governments, diversities of tongues.”*

*(Romans 12:7) “Or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;”*

The Greek word for *helps* is also translated “support” in Acts 20:35. It is the supporting gift. The word literally means “to take the burden off of someone else and place it on yourself.” This gift is the ability to come alongside of the church leadership and assist in ministering to people. People with this gift are essential; they help get the job

Comment:

The nature of Christ’s church suggests that many of God’s people will have this gift. There are multitudes of needs in a growing fellowship such as ours. Here is a sampling:

- Sunday School helpers
- Junior Church helpers
- Lawn crew
- Maintenance
- Cleaning crew
- Art and Layout Designing
- Woodworking needs
- Electrical needs
- Ministry to shut-ins and nursing home residents
- Errands run
- Painting
- Typing
- Counseling
- ETC.

done. It is a “behind-the-scenes” gift that enables the church to function.

3. Giving

*(Romans 12:8) “Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

The word *giveth* is actually a compound word meaning “super giving.” Everyone is to give according to how God has prospered him. But some people are super givers; they can give above and beyond others. They are to give with *simplicity*; that is, with singleness of motive. What is that motive? It is to meet the need present. Most of us give with two motives – meet the need but make sure there is enough left for us. Someone with the gift of giving can do so with only thought for the meeting the need.

4. Mercy

*(Romans 12:8) “Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth **mercy**, with cheerfulness.”*

The gift of mercy is the enablement to sympathize with a suffering person – to come alongside the poor, the sick, the destitute, the orphan, the widowed, those hurting and minister.

5. Faith

*(1 Corinthians 12:9) “To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;”*

This gift is a supernatural capacity for believing God; it is an intense ability to trust the Lord, to believe God in the face of enormous obstacles. Everyone is to exercise faith, but the person with the gift of faith far surpasses them. If you have this gift, spend time on your knees believing God, asking and trusting. Encourage others by allowing them to see what God does in response.

Comment:

A couple times each year the men in the church gather on a Friday night for an all night prayer meeting.

VIII. WHAT ABOUT “SPEAKING IN TONGUES” AND “DIVINE HEALING”?

The Charismatic Movement is a modern phenomenon that had its beginnings in the United States prior to the turn of this century. In the last twenty-five years it has grown into a most active movement in Christendom. One of the reasons for this is because of the spiritual deadness of most mainline denominational churches coupled with the apparent “aliveness” of the charismatic fellowships. The test of whether something is right or wrong is this – “What does God say about it in His Word?” Sincerity, good feelings, impressive results, and so on, do not determine right doctrine – God’s Word does that.

Included here are several summary statements regarding *sign gifts* and the Charismatic Movement.

A. “Tongues” means languages.

They were understandable foreign languages (Acts 2:4-11). The miraculous or *sign* element of this gift was that the person so gifted could speak a foreign language that he personally had never learned.>

B. *The sign gifts were temporary in nature.*

1. God said they would cease (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).
2. They ceased because they fulfilled their purposes.
 - a. The judicial purpose of tongues was fulfilled in 70 AD when God judged Israel by the Roman army.
 - b. The confirming purpose of tongues was fulfilled when the Word of God was complete and could authenticate the prophet’s message.

Comment:

The Charismatics do not do this. They come out with babbling gibberish, which at the least is a psychologically induced, ecstatic speech that comes about when the conscious mind loses control and the subconscious takes over.

- c. History records that the gift of tongues ceased – Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, and Augustine all confirm that tongues ceased in the post-apostolic age.
3. The sign gifts were miracle gifts and the age of miracles ended with the Apostles.
4. The gift of tongues is only mentioned in the earliest New Testament books.
5. One can observe a passing away of the gift of healing in the New Testament. Early in the New Testament era miraculous healings were not uncommon. God’s men healed through a spoken word, a touch, and the healing was instantaneous and complete. They healed people with organic illnesses and diseases. They even raised the dead. However, toward the close of the New Testament era the Apostle Paul couldn’t even heal himself; and he instructed Timothy to “*take a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.*” Why? The gift was passing away – it was only temporary from the beginning.

C. *The purpose of the sign gifts was two-fold:*

1. They were a sign of impending divine judgment to unbelieving Israel (1 Corinthians 14:21-22; Isaiah 28:11).
2. Sign gifts confirmed God’s message preached through men (necessary because people didn’t have a completed New Testament at that time in the Early Church). See Mark 16:17-18.

Illustration:

A sign is a pointing device, a marker. When you arrive at your destination the signs announcing it cease. When driving south on I-95 you will see signs Washington 50 miles Washington 30 miles Washington 10 miles Washington, D.C. Once you arrive in Washington these signs cease. Why? Because you’re there! You have experienced the reality of arriving so you don’t need the sign. The *sign* gifts pointed to judgment upon Israel and confirmed the Apostles’ message. When judgment came in 70 AD and when the Bible was completed in 100 AD the signs ceased. They were no longer needed.

D. *What occurs today in charismatic churches would not even have been allowed in the New Testament era when the gift of tongues was still a viable gift.*

The gift of tongues was regulated by God because of its propensity toward abuse. Here are God's regulations:

1. No more than three people with the gift of tongues were allowed to speak in any meeting (1 Corinthians 14:27).
2. Each tongues-speaker was to await his turn (1 Corinthians 14:27). "...by course..." (that is, *not all at once*).
3. One person was to interpret the message delivered in the foreign language (1 Corinthians 14:27).
4. If the interpreter was absent from the assembly, those with the gift of tongues were not allowed to speak (1 Corinthians 14:28).
5. Women were not to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:34).

The Holy Spirit NEVER takes anybody out of control (1 Corinthians 14:32). Letting yourself go, rolling your head, raising your hands and repeating some phrase over and over again until you burst forth with some electrifying ecstasy is both unscriptural and dangerous!

NOTE: In most cases, the Charismatic Movement violates every one of these Spirit-given restraints.

E. *Why is the Charismatic Movement unscriptural?*

1. It elevates "experiences" above the Word of God. The devil can counterfeit an experience for you. The Christian must walk

by the Word of God (2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17).

2. Many Charismatic groups say, or imply, you are not saved unless you have spoken in tongues. They claim to have the “full” gospel – but the real “full gospel” is given in 1 Corinthians 15:1,3,4. What is the gospel?
 - a. Christ D_____ for our sins (v.3).
 - b. He was B_____ (v.4).
 - c. And He R_____ again the third day (v.4).Those who add something to this are in fact preaching “another gospel” – Galatians 1:6-9.
3. A charismatic Christian elevates the Holy Spirit above the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son in every way. He does not speak of Himself but always of Christ (John 15:26; John 16:13,14).

Comment:
The Bible is our final authority – nothing else – not the church’s doctrine, not the preacher, not your own experience, not tradition Ask yourself, “What does the Bible say about this?” God’s Word always has the final word. You cannot use the argument “I know this is real because it HAPPENED TO ME.” Your experience is not the authority.

F. Does God still heal today?

Yes! God can heal, God does heal, and God can do anything else He wants to. He is not limited by our theology. However, He does not heal through the touch of a man’s hand – through the exercise of the gift of healing, for He has already stated that the sign gifts were temporary. Today, we are instructed to pray for healing (James 5:14,15).

Encourage your Timothy and cast a vision for him regarding spiritual growth.

Pray for him and have him pray aloud.

REMEMBER!!!
Turn in the “Discipler Report Back” page by dropping it off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- ❑ Complete *My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match* Profile. Discuss your profile with your discipler.
- ❑ Continue reading through the New Testament, taking sermon notes, and giving out tracts. When and where do we meet next?

H

HOLY SPIRIT

My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match Profile Session

Study #8a

First, Review My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match Profile.

Second

What is your S. H. A. P. E.?

Fill in these blanks from *C.*, *D.*, *E.*, *F.*, and *G.* on the following pages.

S = _____

H = _____

A = _____

P = _____

E = _____



Checklist

- This Lesson
- Spiritual Journal
- Gospel Tracts
- My S.H.A.P.E. & Ministry Match Profile

For Next Session

- Lesson I

SHAPE =

- Spiritual Gifts
- Heart
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experience

You will become a wise steward of your life as you begin to understand your unique “shape.” You are a wonderful and special creation of God.

A. Read Psalm 139:13-16.

1. According to verse 13, how are you made?
F _____, and
W _____.
2. According to verse 16, where are all your members written down? T____ B____.

NOTE: You are designed by God, in fact, all of your physical characteristics, your mental abilities, your personality, emotions, and will were all designed by God even before your birth. You are wonderfully complex, and are a composite of many different factors. If you don't understand your *shape*, you may end up doing things that God never intended or designed you to do. This limits the results of your life, and is an enormous waste of your talents, time, and energy. God has been molding and shaping you for ministry.

B. Read Ephesians 2:10.

1. According to this verse, you are God's
W _____.
2. You were created in Christ Jesus unto
G _____ W _____.

NOTE: The word *workmanship* means masterpiece. You are a masterpiece of God; His work of art. He has created you for a specific purpose. Fulfill that purpose by serving Him according to the special *shape* He has given you.

C. Spiritual Gifts

D. Heart

Illustration:

God created animals with a specific area of expertise. Some animals run, some hop, some swim, some burrow, and some fly. Each animal has a particular role to play based on the way they were shaped by God. The same is true with humans. Each of us was uniquely designed, or shaped, by God to do certain things.

Illustration:

Attempting to minister in a way that God didn't equip you is akin to trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.

The Bible uses the term *heart* to represent the center of your motivation, desires, interests, and inclinations.

1. According to Matthew 12:34, what determines the words that you speak? The A_____ of the H_____.
2. Your heart determines why you act the way you do. Proverbs 4:23 says that from it comes the I_____ of L_____.

NOTE: God has given you a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when you encounter activities, subjects, or situations that interest you. You instinctively feel deeply about some things; you are passionate about them. There are other things you couldn’t care less about. God purposefully gave your inborn interests to you. They are an important key in understanding His intentions for your life. 1 Samuel 12:20 says, “...serve the Lord with all your H_____.”

Ask:
What is your spiritual passion?

What really interests you about the Lord’s work of the local church? What is your passion regarding the Lord’s work?

E. Abilities

These are natural talents you were born with. Some excel with words, or numbers, others with physical prowess, some are naturally artistic, some are good with their minds and clumsy with their hands, while others are very skillful with their hands, some have special ability to make money, some are creative in other ways. People are unique.

Exodus 31:3-5 says God filled Bezaleel with the Holy Spirit and prepared him with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of all manner of workmanship. Here was a master craftsman with the ability to work with...

G_____, S_____, B_____, cutting of S_____, carving of T_____.

God gave him these abilities because God had a job for him to do!

You have all kinds of abilities that need to be put to use for God. It might be researching, writing, landscaping, interviewing, promoting, decorating, planning, entertaining, repairing, drawing, cooking, and much more.

F. Personality

God loves variety. It is obvious that He doesn't use a cookie cutter to create people. There are introverts and extroverts, there are "thinkers" and "feelers." The apostles James and John were called "sons of thunder." Along with Peter they were loud, out-in-front, in-your-face types of people. Jeremiah was definitely melancholy; he is known as the "weeping prophet." Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. An introvert with the spiritual gift of *helps* and an extrovert with the same gift will serve God in different capacities – and be fulfilled as they minister in a manner that is consistent with the personality God gave them.

Illustration:
Woodworkers know that it is much easier to work with the grain of the wood instead of against it. Likewise, ministering according to the type of personality God gave you makes your work for the Lord easier and more enjoyable.

G. Experiences

God never wastes an experience. Romans 8:28 teaches us that "*A ___ things work together for G ___ to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his P ___*."

What are your educational experiences? What subjects did you like in school? What are your vocational experiences? What have you achieved results in and enjoyed doing? What are your spiritual experiences? What have been the meaningful and decisive times with God in your life? What have been your ministry experiences? How have you served God in the past? What have

Ask your Timothy his answers to these questions.

been your painful experiences? What are the problems, hurts, and trials that you have learned from?

God determined your *shape*.

1. Don't resent it or reject it. Read Jeremiah 18:1-6. God is the P _____ and you are the C _____.
2. In Romans 9:20, Paul asks mankind who they think they are to question God by asking "Why hast thou M _____ M _____ T _____?"
3. According to Romans 9:21, the Potter has "P _____ over the clay" to make of it what pleases Him.

Accept your God-given *shape* and serve Him accordingly. You will be most effective and fulfilled in ministry when you submit to God's design for your life. You may not understand His entire plan, but you can trust His heart. He designed you in love and called you His masterpiece, fearfully and wonderfully made!

Third. Discuss page 12, My Ministry Match.

Fourth. With the profile in hand, meet with a member of the pastoral staff to discuss your future ministry.

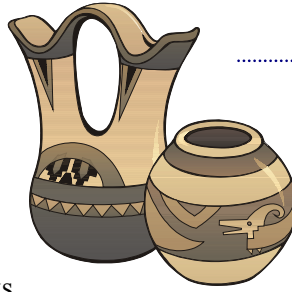


Illustration:

A potter puts a lump of clay on a potter's wheel. As it spins, he molds the clay into the vessel that he desires; it may be a cup, bowl, pitcher, vase, etc. The vessel is shaped for a particular function. A bowl is easy to eat cereal from whereas eating it from a vase would be difficult. Flowers stand up nice in a vase but would do poorly in a bowl. There is a direct relationship between shape and function.

There is also divine purpose between S.H.A.P.E. and ministry.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- Set up an appointment with a member of the pastoral staff.
- Read your I Lesson (**I**nvisible Warfare) and answer all the questions.
- Continue reading through the New Testament.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week.
- Give out a copy of *Life's Greatest Discovery*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session?

Discipler Report Back



*1st session with
H lesson*

I met with _____ on
____ / ____ / ____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being discipled.*

Thank You

**This is a
sample of
the
“Discipler
Report
Back” page
that you
removed
from the
back of your
Timothy’s
lesson.**

**Return that
sheet to the
Hospitality
Booth in the
church foyer.**

Discipler Report Back



2nd session
with H lesson

I met with _____ on
____ / ____ / ____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
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