

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Our God, This I Believe, I Lift My Hands

WELCOME

Spirit-filled Life. Describe a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

WORD

JOHN 15:26; JOHN 16:1-33

²⁶ "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

Abiding in Jesus and living a fruitful life is the way a Christian's life should be. However, it is also normal for Christians to face challenges. This is the irony of the Christian life. These challenges make the Christian life not just difficult, but also impossible if not for the Holy Spirit.

The Lord gives us victory through the Holy Spirit when we are in the midst of difficulty, opposition, problems, struggles and temptations. Through the Holy Spirit who gives us courage, direction and comfort, we are sure that God's presence is with us.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sometimes, we find it hard to share Jesus to others but the Holy Spirit is always there to help us. Despite tough challenges, we can become the most effective witnesses for Jesus.

Apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, no amount of purely human persuasion or manipulation can convince anyone about Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit who will convict the world of **sin, righteousness, judgment** and the **need for a Savior (John 16:8-11)**.

The basic **sin** of the world is unbelief. It is the refusal to believe in Jesus and people's need of Him for salvation.

Not only do people refuse to believe in Jesus and their need for a Savior, they also make up their own standards of **righteousness**. However, Jesus is the right standard of righteousness.

Many people live as if there is no consequence to sin. But the Holy Spirit convinces people that there is an impending **judgment** and consequences to sin. Even when people think that evil seems to be winning in

this world, the Holy Spirit will make it clear that even the ruler of this world, Satan himself, has already been judged (**John 16:11**).

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus did not leave His followers alone when He ascended to heaven. Through the Holy Spirit, His presence remains in our lives (**John 16:5-7**). And it is through us that people see Jesus. This is why it is important for every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will reveal to us what we need to know to become effective witnesses (**John 16:14-15; Matthew 10:18-19**).

"Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share Jesus clearly, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God." – Bill Bright

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is a command. Every day, every moment we are meant to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Drunk people are controlled by the alcohol that fills them but as Christians, we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be fully surrendered to His control (**Ephesians 5:18**).

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We know if we are filled with the Holy Spirit when the fruit of the Holy Spirit is manifesting in us (**Galatians 5:22-23**). When we manifest love, joy and peace, the rest of the Spirit's fruit appear to follow as well.

Love - Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, in the face of death at the hands of hostile people, uttered a prayer for his persecutors, "Lord do not hold this against them" (**Acts 7:59-60**). Like Stephen, only a person filled with the Holy Spirit could love people who hate him even to the point of death. Through the Holy

WORD (cont'd)

Spirit, we can gain the perspective of Jesus towards others and love them even if they do not love us in return.

Joy - One of the reasons we have joy is the assurance that God our Father is listening to our prayers in the name of Jesus (**John 16:23-24**). We know we are filled with the Holy Spirit when our heart's desire represents Jesus' desires in our prayer. Even at times when we do not know what to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (**Romans 8:26-27**).

Peace – There will be times when we feel being denied or abandoned but Jesus encourages us that we will not be alone because He will be with us in the person of the Holy Spirit living inside of us (**John 16:32-33**). Jesus has already overcome the world, and we can have peace in the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

When we are able to love difficult people and have the joy and peace even in difficult situations, we are experiencing a Spirit-filled life evidenced by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Triune God.** How did Jesus speak about the Triune God in **John 16:26**?
- 2. A Fruitful You.** How is the Holy Spirit manifesting in your life?
- 3. Loving the Unlovable.** What makes love a fundamental fruit of the Holy Spirit? How have you been loving people even if they don't love you in return?

WORKS

PRACTICE SPIRITUAL BREATHING

Spiritual breathing (exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure) is an exercise in faith that enables us to continue to experience God's love and forgiveness.

We **exhale** by confessing and agreeing with God that we have sinned, and repenting to change 180 degrees.

We **inhale** by praying and by surrendering our life for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, that He may direct, control and empower us.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends