

# HOLY SPIRIT, THE POWER TO CHANGE!

AUG 6, 2023

## WORSHIP

Not By Power, Can't Stop Singing, Lord's Prayer, The Lord is My Salvation, Spirit of the Living God, Inside Out

## WELCOME

Would you rather be the one driving or have someone else do the driving for you?

## WORD

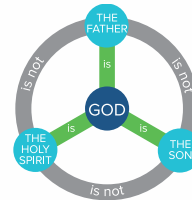
### 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16 (READ UP TO 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-15)

<sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

There was a newspaper article in the 1900s that asked, "What's wrong with the world?" G.K. Chesterton sent a reply to answer this question: "What's wrong with the world? I AM." Isn't that true for all of us even today? The church in Corinth had many problems like immorality, lawsuits, etc., but the most important problem they were facing was division, strife, and quarrelling amongst the body of believers. Just like today, many times, Christians are known because of the effort they put into criticizing and attacking each other! As we follow the story of **1 Corinthians**, Paul gives emphasis on what we have received – the Spirit who is from God, so that we can understand the things of God (**2:12**). He contrasts this to the natural man (**2:14**) who does not and cannot accept the things of God because he is not living in the Spirit. Paul then discusses three types of people: natural, spiritual, and carnal.

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Years ago, they described the Holy Spirit as a "ghost", or the "force" – but the Holy Spirit is part and parcel of the tri-unity of God. He is the third Person of the Trinity.



Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit as (**John 14:16-17**) – another (Gk. allos, another of the same kind/nature, NOT Gk. heteros, another of a different kind) Helper (Gk. parakletos) who stand alongside us. Also in **John 16:13-14**, Jesus points out the role of the Holy Spirit, which includes guiding us in all truth, speak truth, empower us, and glorify JESUS CHRIST. Paul tells the Ephesians (**Ephesians 4:30**) that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, which also is an act of love (because God loves us, we grieve Him when we sin).

### THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE

#### 1. NATURAL MAN

In **1 Corinthians 2:14** we are introduced to the NATURAL MAN. People who do not have the Holy Spirit live by circumstances. He is without God's spirit, spiritually blind and spiritually dead. An example of this is cited in **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**. They have "blinded minds", and they cannot "see the light of the gospel". We need to pray for people, that their eyes be opened, receive forgiveness of sins, and be sanctified by faith in Christ Jesus (**Acts 26:18**).



**Natural Man 1 Cor 2:14** Without God's Spirit Spiritually blind Spiritually dead No eternal Life

#### 2. SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN

The second type of person is the SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN (**1 Corinthians 2:15-16**). The Holy Spirit is in control in this person's life.



**Spirit-filled Christian Normal**  
1 Cor 2:15-16 Holy Spirit is in control Understand spiritual truths Empowered by God's spirit

This person understands spiritual truths, and is empowered b God's spirit. The word "appraises" means you know how to analyze and discern spiritually all the things you encounter. He makes decisions based on what God wants. The great benefit as cited by Paul is that "we have the mind of Christ" – the ability to see things from God's

# HOLY SPIRIT, THE POWER TO CHANGE!

AUG 6, 2023

## WORD

perspective and see truth based on His vantage point. People of this world don't understand eternity, the love of God, and these great eternal benefits. **Romans 8:9** reminds us of who the real Christian is – the Spirit of God must be present in us. Perhaps we need to examine ourselves whether we have the Spirit of Christ. Some of us may have religion, but not the power nor the Spirit. This means we need to align our lives to His Word, because God's power and transformation is achieved by being empowered by the Spirit, understanding the Word of God, and obeying His commands. When does the Holy Spirit come into our lives? **Ephesians 1:13** tells us that having believed in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit.

### 3. CARNAL CHRISTIANS

The problem as cited by Paul, is that some Christians can be CARNAL CHRISTIANS (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**).



**Carnal Christian abnormal, sick 1 Cor 3:1-3**  
Christ in Him but  
Self is in control No power no joy Wretched

Christ is in this person, but there is no power, no joy, and he keeps trying to run his own life. God wakes up these kind of people to realize the great inadequacy they have. Paul wrote it beautifully in **Romans 7:19,24** – wretched man that we are if we live this way! How can we be controlled by the Holy Spirit? We must surrender our mind and thoughts, then our emotions, and then our actions (TEA Principle). We must guard our minds every time we think of something that is not biblical!

### INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT VS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4** is where Paul expressed his perspective that these Corinthian believers are infants in Christ, for they are “fleshly”, walking like “mere men”. You can have Christ, but not controlled by Christ. He compares them to babies, and that they were living in the flesh. Notice the difference in this chart:

INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT	FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
Upon salvation when you trust in Jesus (Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 2:38)	Upon full surrender (Ephesians 5:18)
Permanent-Identification, Belonging to Christ (Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8: 6)	Moment-by-moment Empowerment, Character change (Galatians 5:16, 22) Acts 1:8
Gift of God by Grace / Faith (Galatians 3: 14, Acts 2:38)	Command - Trust and Obey (Galatians 5:16)

### BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

**Galatians 5:16-17** commands us to walk by the Spirit, and **Ephesians 5:18** tells us to be “filled with the Spirit”.

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9** shows the beautiful perspective of the Apostle Paul – it is God who causes the growth, and the fighting of God's people over personalities lack sense – the most important is God! He continues in **vv.10-11** with another analogy – the church is like a building. It is built on one foundation – JESUS CHRIST. People must be careful how they build on this and what material they use (**vv. 12-15**). Someday everything you do for God will be tested by fire. The church has one foundation, Jesus Christ, and how you disciple people, your motive – it will be tested through fire! Someday God will examine our lives, and everybody will be rewarded according to the quality of their service. Salvation is a gift, but rewards consider what you do for Jesus, and not everybody will be rewarded, some will even suffer loss while being saved. **Revelation 22:12-13** is clear – in the end, Christ is going to return with His rewards. What are we doing with what God has given us today? Are we faithful in doing what God wants us to do? Are we good and faithful servants, who will not have any regrets about what we did for Jesus? May we continue to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to build the church effectively and give our best to serve Jesus our Savior!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

#### 1. Self-Check.

In your honest assessment, are you a natural, spiritual, or carnal Christian?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

How different will your daily life be if you are always filled by the Spirit?

#### 3. Living It Out.

What is the difference between rewards and salvation as a free gift? What can I do to have eternal rewards?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for the Holy Spirit to powerfully work in and through the church, to bring many to the saving knowledge of Jesus. Be filled with the Spirit, obey Christ's command to make disciples of all the nations. Start this week, share the gospel to someone you know still needs to trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

## 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; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for the Sudanese people caught in violence and conflict.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; tension in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion 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.

## MEMORY VERSE

### 1 CORINTHIANS 2:15-16

<sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.