

# DISCIPLESHIP BOOK 2

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**Multicultural Christian Fellowship of  
Australia**

## **Introduction**

The reason why we will study the Holy Spirit is to know Him better as a person. It is important to know him relationally and experientially. I know we have discussed some of this in Book One, but I believe we need to know Him more. The Holy Spirit must be given a proper place in every Christian fellowship. We hope through this study we would understand better His work and ministry. In his book, *“The Day of the Spirit”*, Geoffrey Bingham points out, “...every day is a day of the Spirit. In creation, redemption, in sanctification and the ultimate renewal of all things, no day passes by without the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Yet in another sense, ‘Pentecost was the Day of the Spirit.’ All history had been moving towards that hour, the time when God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. His promise that He would do this is truly amazing.” To some people He is only considered as an influence, energy or power. Yet, the Holy Scripture highly emphasises and presents Him as a person, a member of the Godhead who is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. Jesus Christ affirms His personality, ascribing personal characteristics to the Holy Spirit and speaking of Him with the personal pronoun.

### **Let us begin by reading John 16:13-15**

“When **HE**, the Spirit of truth, is come,  
**HE** will GUIDE you into all truth: for  
**HE** shall not SPEAK of HIMSELF; but  
Whatsoever **HE**, shall HEAR, that shall **HE** SPEAK; and  
**HE** will SHEW you things to come.  
**HE** shall GLORIFY me: for  
**HE** shall RECEIVE of mine, and shall SHEW it unto you...  
**HE** shall TAKE of mine, and shall SHEW it unto you.”

Try to notice the pronoun **He** in these verses John 15:26; 16:7, 8, 13-15.

How many times is the pronoun “**He**” mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek masculine pronoun (skeinos) “He” is used of the Holy Spirit.

The devil is doing his best with all his might to discredit the person of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age. If the devil can put into your mind that the Holy Spirit is just an influence and discount Him as a distinct person of the Trinity, I doubt, if we can do an effective ministry for the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is the One who talks and acts, thinks and guides, breaks down and builds up, challenges us for the Lord and frustrates that which is against the Lord. He is the One we can have fellowship with, One who plans and works with you to accomplish great things. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord God.” (Zech. 4:6)

The Father and the Son are now both in heaven. But God the Holy Spirit, who is the Comforter, was sent down to earth, by God the Son, through the divine wisdom of, God the Father.

It was necessary for the Lord Jesus Christ to go back to heaven and to send the Holy Spirit. God in the person of Jesus Christ was sent into the world taking upon himself in the likeness of man, so that He would redeem mankind from the bondage of sin. At Calvary, on the cross in the shedding of his blood, God the Son our Lord and Saviour paid for every man and woman, eternal redemption. This was Jesus Christ’s main purpose in coming upon this earth.

When Jesus came upon this earth His human body was limited only to a certain place and time. He laid aside His divine quality of omnipresence (being everywhere). When our Lord sent his Holy Spirit, not in human form, is omnipresent and can live within every believer and be with every group of believers. He loves to court every unsaved person, through their conscience, nature, circumstances or even contact with the Word of God. The Holy Spirit witnesses in various ways to every human heart, and as the Spirit of Truth enlightens those who are searching, He draws them to the truth of God’s Word.

This wonderful Person, personally dwells in the lives of every individual who has put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit first brings you to salvation and then continues to sustain and feed you, guide you in your daily walk with God. God provides a Spirit filled life for each one of us, but we must surrender ourselves to Him and He will fill our lives until we are overflowing.

We have access to God the Father and God the Son through the medium of the Holy Spirit. He is the Paraclete, the tutor, the comforter, the one who walks beside us every moment of the day. The Holy Spirit of God draws you to Himself so that you may become more like the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And because He dwells within us, we have the potential for greater and wonderful service in the body of Christ and to the world around us.

## **Some Titles/Names of the Holy Spirit**

(use these as your general reference)

As we don't have enough time here, try to look at these verses during your private study or devotional time, or in your groups study if you agree as a group.

**Spirit of God.....1 Cor. 3:16, Gen. 1:2**

**Spirit of Jehovah (LORD).....Judges 6:34**

**Spirit of the Lord Jehovah (God) .....Isa. 61:1**

**Spirit of the Living God.....11 Cor. 3:3**

**Spirit of Christ.....1 Peter 1:11**

**Spirit of Jesus Christ.....Phil. 1:19**

**Spirit of His Son.....Gal. 4:6**

**The Holy Spirit.....Luke 11:13**

**Spirit of Judgment.....Isa. 4:4, Matt. 3:11, 12**

**Spirit of Burning..... Isa. 4:4, Matt. 3:11, 12**

**Spirit of Grace.....Heb. 10:29**

**Spirit of Truth.....John 16:13**

**Spirit of Life.....Rom. 8:2**

**Spirit of Promise.....Eph. 1:13**

**Spirit of Faith.....11 Cor. 4:13**

**Spirit of Wisdom.....Eph. 1:17**

**Spirit of Glory.....1 Peter 4:14**

**Spirit of Holiness.....Rom 1:4**

# Chapter One

## The Person of the Holy Spirit and why He came?

### Expected outcome:

1. To know that the Holy Spirit is a person
2. To know the reason why He was sent to earth
3. Memorise verses: John 16:13-14

**Reading preparation:** John 3:1-6-The Holy Spirit and work of regeneration; Romans chapter 8 speaks of life in the Spirit.

**Note:** As mentioned in the general reference, He is the Third Person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is not an 'energy' or any impersonal force as some believe. He is a living Person, the Holy God, equal to the Father and Son. He ought to be worshipped as they are. We often mention this in our benediction, water baptism, Doxology and songs. 2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19. Thus a personality indicates as having intellect, emotions and will.

### Study Questions:

1. What in 1 Corinthians 2:11 indicates that the Holy Spirit has intellect?

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2. What in Rom.15:30 indicates that He has emotions?

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3. What in 1 Corinthians 12:11 suggests He has a will?

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4. Consider these verses concerning the nature and operation of the Holy Spirit and please put the key word or phrase on the line:

John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor. 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb. 10:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Reasons why the Holy Spirit came**

5. According to John 16:14, what is the main reason the Holy Spirit came?

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6. What then do you consider to be a logical reason of the Holy Spirit controlling our lives?

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7. Finish this verse in John 15:8

“By this My Father \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_  
much fruit; so you will be my disciples.” (NKJV). You may use other versions.

**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. Write one new insight you have gained from this lesson concerning the Holy Spirit

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2. In what area of your life do you believe the Holy Spirit needs to be more in control?

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3. What will be the result when He is in control?

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## Chapter Two

### Why some Christians are not filled with the Holy Spirit?

#### Expected outcome:

1. To find out why “I am empty”
2. To memorise 1 John 2:15-17

**Reading preparation:** Galatians Chapters 5 and 6; Acts 5:1-11 Sin against the Holy Spirit

**Note:** The disciples were to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Lk.24:49)

Acts 2:4 was the fulfilment of this promise when the Holy Spirit came to abide.

Every believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit does not control each believer.

Sometimes a believer has this stubborn behaviour. He may pray or not, give or not, witness or not, surrender or not. He may obey or disobey and grieve the Holy Spirit.

The strong evidence of man’s faith is to surrender himself to the Lordship of Christ; and allow the Holy Spirit to take control of his life.

This is a not a requirement for salvation (he is already saved), but it is essential for the Spirit- filled life. The infilling is received by the believer when he is fully aware that the Holy Spirit is in full control of his life. In other words, he is constantly and continuously willing to be governed by the Spirit every detail of his life.

#### Study Questions:

1. What is the description of some believers based on Rom. 7:19-20, 24?

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2. Why do you think there are so many unhappy believers, see Gal. 5:16-17?

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3. What are some of the reasons so few (some) Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit?

a) Due to lack of knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:10

b) “ \_\_\_\_\_ goes before destruction, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ .spirit before the fall.” Prov. 16:1

c) “The \_\_\_\_\_ of man brings snare, but whoever  
\_\_\_\_\_ shall be safe.” Prov. 29:25.

*Additional question:* How will Christ feel toward us if we are ashamed of Him? Luke 9:26 help to answer.

4. Is there another barrier you can think of, between us and the Lord, that keeps us from being filled with the Holy Spirit? Try Psalm 66:18

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5. Write in your own words 1 John 2:15-17

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6. To be sure, lack of trust in God will keep us from being filled with the Holy Spirit. In salvation, you fully trusted God. You trusted Him 100% from John 3:16. Please read it again. Now, do you believe you could trust a God like this again, when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Why?

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(Rom.8:32 and John3:16 may help you)

**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

**Concluding note:** Essentially, the reason most believers are not filled with the Holy Spirit is because they are unwilling to surrender their will to God. Sometimes we say, “God has his ways, I have my own way.”

1. Is there anything in your heart that needs to be sorted out, so the Holy Spirit can flood your soul?

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2. Do you still like to ‘drive’ your own life?

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Why?

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3. Remember one of your memory verses 1 John 1:9?

4. Picture yourself and share with everyone. How do you see yourself at the moment?

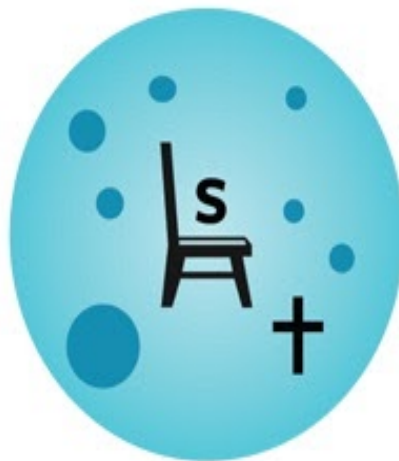
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**Refer to the diagram below, please. (Courtesy by Campus Crusade for Christ)**

## Self-Directed Life

- Legalistic attitude
- Impure thoughts
- Jealousy
- Guilt
- Worry
- Discouragement
- Critical spirit
- Frustration



- Aimlessness
- Fear
- Ignorance of spiritual heritage
- Unbelief
- Disobedience
- Loss of love for God and others
- Poor prayer life
- No desire for Bible Study

## Chapter Three

### How can a believer be filled with the Holy Spirit?

#### Expected outcome:

1. That every child of God needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. To know the conditions to being filled with the Holy Spirit
3. Memorise verses: Rom.12:1-2; Eph.5:18

#### Reading preparation: 1 John 5:14-15; Acts 6:8-7:60

**Note:** Someone told Billy Graham that a church disciplined an elder for being drunk. Graham asked, “What would you do with an elder that is not Spirit-filled?” Both things are mentioned in the same verse (Eph.5:18).

At conversion, it is clear in the Scriptures that a Christian is complete in Christ, but generally does not enter into fullness of his spiritual inheritance until much later.

Because of his conversion every Christian possesses the Holy Spirit according to Rom.8:9. This is the best definition of a Christian, one who is possessed by the Spirit. Otherwise, “he is none of His.”

#### To further illustrate:

This is concerning the occupancy of a house. The Spirit may be kept as a guest in the parlour (sala), but never given the control of the kitchen, bedroom or storeroom. This means the Spirit resides but does not preside. He is simply the resident and not the president.

As we yield the control of our lives, He fills us more and more with Himself.

#### Study Questions

1. What is the command found in Eph.5:18?

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2. As believers, why do we need to be filled with the Spirit?

a.) Gal. 5:22-23

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b.) Acts 1:8

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**Note:** The Bible speaks of two fruits: Fruit of the Spirit, and fruit in service. The fruit of the Spirit is never an end in itself, but only a means to the end that we win people to Christ, which in turn will bring glory and honour to Him (John 15:8).

3. What is a prerequisite to being filled with the Spirit according to John 7:37?

\_\_\_\_\_ let him come to me and \_\_\_\_\_”

Matt. 5:6 says, “Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness; for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_”

4. If a Christian genuinely and sincerely desires to be filled with the Spirit, what shall he do according to Rom. 12:1-2?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** This means we have to go back to our previous lesson (chapter two). Any unconfessed sins in our lives can be a hindrance. The Holy Spirit will not fill an unclean vessel (or glass, cup). The Holy Spirit lovingly waits to fill you with power.

5. How then can a Christian be filled with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 7:7-11)?

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6. Do you think the Holy Spirit will fill you if you ask Him?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know (1 John 5:14-15)?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What then must you do when you ask Him to fill you (Heb. 11:26)?

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8. Maybe you made a decision today and asked to be filled with His Spirit? Thank Him. God does and cannot lie. His Word is true. If you are sincere, He has filled you.

**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. What should be your attitude from this day forward? See 1Thess. 5:18.
2. Do you prefer to live the Christian life filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. How do you understand the concept of “living an abundant life”?
4. Do you still prefer to live a life according to the diagram of chapter two? Or the diagram below? Share your thoughts to everyone.

**Final word:** The secret of being filled with the Holy Spirit is surrender, surrendering our wills, bodies, possessions, time, effort and every aspects of our lives to His Control.

## Christ-Directed Life

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness



- Life is Christ-centered
- Empowered by Holy Spirit
- Introduces others to Christ
- Has effective prayer life
- Understands God's Word
- Trusts God
- Obeys God

## Chapter Four

**How can you be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit? What are the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit?**

### **Expected outcome:**

1. To know with certainty that you are filled with the Spirit.
2. To know the results of being filled
3. Memorise John 15: 5

**Reading Preparation:** Galatians 5: 16-26; John 15:1-11

**Note:** Let us dig deeper into the notion of being filled with the Holy Spirit. This chapter will be more meaningful if you did something positive concerning the “Life Application” in Chapter Three.

The picture given to us in Eph. 5:18 is a contrast between man under the influence, completely directed by another power, either wine (alcohol) which means earthly or the Spirit which means heavenly.

**To Illustrate:** As we all know geographically and historically, the Nile River is Egypt’s life. This means that Egypt has always the Nile, but waits every year for its overflow. Having the river is one thing for Egypt, but having the overflowing Nile is completely another. When the Nile overflows, Egypt is refreshed, plants grow and plenty of food and fruit for sustenance. Let consider the overflowing Spirit according to **John 7: 37-38**. “On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

### **Study Questions:**

1. According to 1 John 5:14-15 what is the primary way that we know if we have been filled with the Spirit?

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2. When you asked to be filled with the Spirit did you feel any different?

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**Look at the diagram and its order:**

**Facts**—God’s promises

**Faith**---in the trustworthiness of God and His Word

**Feeling**—may be an emotional experience or a calm assurance



3. What are some of the evidences of the Spirit-filled life.  
(Leader must ask everyone to share, when possible, just be discerning)
- a.) Do you have a new and greater love for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.) Do you have a greater love for God and His Word? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c.) Do you have a greater love for those who do not know Christ as Saviour? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d.) Do you have a greater love for your brothers and sisters in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e.) Do you love your enemy or your former enemy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f.) Are you experiencing a greater boldness, liberty and power in sharing Christ to others?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - g.) Do you have a greater desire to live a holy life? \_\_\_\_\_

If your answer to these questions is “Yes”, then you are filled with the Spirit.



### What are the results of the Spirit-filled life?

4. What will the Holy Spirit demonstrate through and in your life, as a result of His filling, Galatians 5: 22-23?

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- a.) Make a list of the fruit (not plural)

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- b.) Acts 1:8 What do you have?

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5. **Read John 15: 8, 16** Can you see these evident in your life?

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6. **Read 1Corinthians 12:1-11; Eph. 4:11** Every Christian has spiritual gift or gifts. Have you discovered yours? What is/are they?

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**Note:** This is another big study topic which we did at Camp before.

Tonight just find out what you have. Do not be bogged down here, otherwise you are missing the point of our study.

7. **Read Eph.4: 11-13**, Some are people gifts to the Church. Together with other spiritual gifts- What is the chief purpose?

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**Note:** Final word, Galatian 5:17-23 is a sharp contrast between the works of the Flesh and Fruit of the Spirit. The works of the flesh (17 of them) are the natural outcome of the Adamic nature. The fruit of the Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit operating in the new life. The fruit of the Spirit (9 of them) is spoken of in the singular signifying the Oneness of the fruit. It is not complete until all nine graces are present. The Christian's goal is to manifest all of them.

**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. What behaviour, language, activities and inconsistencies are in your life, which you feel hinder the Holy Spirit's fruit, power and gifts?

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2. **Read 2 Cor. 3:18** and answer this question applying it to your life. What happens as we are occupied with Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to work in us?

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3. How do you show the fruit of the Spirit in your daily relationship-to your wife, husband, etc?

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## Chapter Five

### How can we continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

#### Expected outcome:

1. To know how to be filled by the Spirit continually
2. To memorise two verses John 14: 21; 15:10

**Reading preparation:** Acts chapter 10 Peter and Cornelius story (to chapter 11 if you wish).

**Note:** If we are continually filled with the Spirit:

- There is power to witness, power to live victorious life and His Name is glorified.
- It is the indispensable qualification for holy living.
- The Spirit quickens our intellect, affections, conscience, will and whole personality.
- The filling is the secret of abiding, obeying and God-honouring trust in the Word.
- We are not reservoirs, but channels. We must overflow. Blessings must pour out.

#### Study Questions:

1. **Read Eph. 5:18** and notice the phrase “Be filled” in the original language (GK.) means “keep on being filled.” That is to say, constantly and continually.

2. How to continue being filled with the Spirit?

- a. In prayer we need not only pray for ourselves, but

\_\_\_\_\_ see Eph 6:18; 1Samuel 12:23

- b. We must \_\_\_\_\_ daily Acts 17:11.

- c. What does the Word of God do for us? \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:11

- d. We must constantly abide in Christ. How can we abide in Christ, John 14:21 and John 15:10?

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How do you understand the word “abide”? Give some examples:

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e.) How do we **not** grieve the Holy Spirit Eph.4: 30-32

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f.) We grieve the Holy Spirit by sin in our lives. How do we get rid of sin, 1 John 1:9?

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g.) What does the Holy Spirit want to do for us, Romans 8:14?

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**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. Remember the filling is not a once-for all experience. It must be repeated daily as you yield to Him. Is this a burden or a delight to you?  
Please answer and share to everyone. Your thoughts may bless others.
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2. Conversion first, then filling, and overflowing. This is beautifully portrayed in Biblical pictures of the working of the Holy Spirit.

- a.) An overflowing spring, John 4:14
- b.) Overflowing fountain, John 7:37-39
- c.) An abundance of sap in the tree, Rom. 8:11
- d.) As overflowing waters, Eph. 5:18

3. Do you think this notion of ‘constantly and continually’ being filled with the Spirit will make a big difference in your life?

# Prayer

**Note:** Chapter 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 of this booklet will be about prayer, so fasten your belt before we take off.

**Note:** Prayer has been defined in various ways, but basically:

Talking with Jesus.

The soul of man talking to God.

It is a conversation: You talk to God and God talking to you.

It is worship addressed to the Father, in the Name of Christ, and power of the Holy Spirit

“It is offering up our desires to God for all things lawful and needful, with humble confidence that we shall obtain them through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Dr. H. W. Frost)

**Basically**, our prayer should at least consist of 4 parts, we call **ACTS:** (Remember?)

**Adoration**- praise and worship of the soul to God, Psalm 95:6

**Confession**-repentance from known sin, Psalm 32:5

**Thanksgiving**- Be thankful for everything and anything, Phil. 4:6

**Supplication**- intercession, requests, petitions, and desires, 1 Tim. 2:1

Our prayer should be addressed to God the Father, (Acts 12:5), in the Name of Jesus (John 14:13), through the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:18)

## The challenge to believers

**a.) Claim these promises for a start (there are more).**

**John 15:7** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you<sup>[a]</sup> will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” (NKJV)

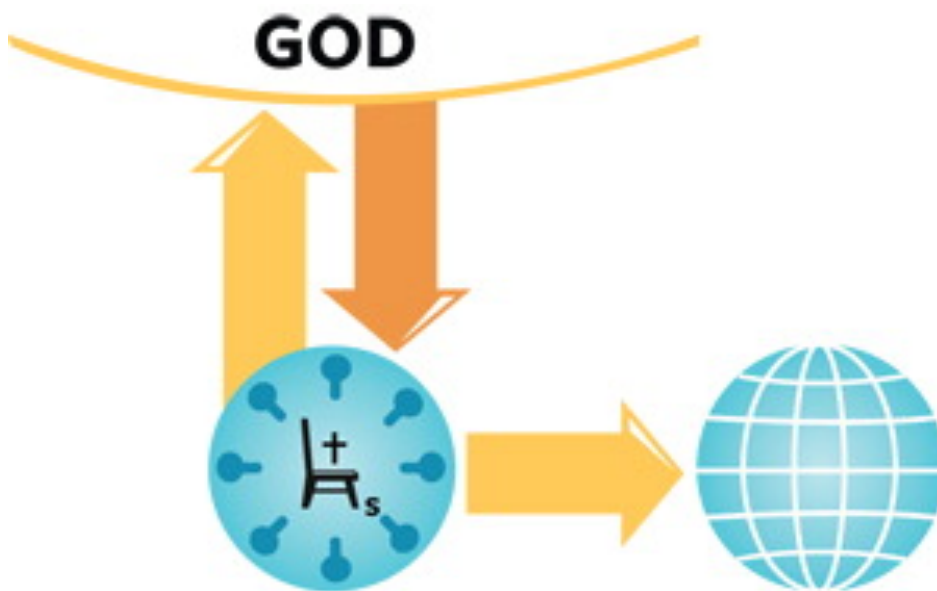
**1 John 5: 14-15** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.<sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

When you pray, you normally take the Word of God with you. Traditionally called ‘devotional time.’ So you read and meditate the Word and you pray. Often, it happens that we pray without the reading the Word especially when we are driving etc. I reckon we pray more than we read the Word. You just have to provide a balance, it is a discipline.

## **b.) The example of Jesus and others**

According to Bill Bright, Jesus set the perfect example of obedience in prayer.

“Although His day was filled from morning to night with many pressures and responsibilities -- addressing crowds, healing the sick, granting private interviews, traveling, and training His disciples -- He made prayer a top priority. If Jesus was so dependent upon His fellowship in prayer alone with His Father, how much more you and I should spend time alone with God.



The lives of the disciples and other Christians who have been mightily used of God through the centuries to reach their world for Christ all testify to the necessity of prayer. They are examples of obedience to our Lord's command to pray.

Someone has wisely said, ‘Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees.’ Prayer is God's appointed way of doing God's work.” (Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ)

## Chapter 6

### Lord, teach us to pray

#### Expected outcome:

1. To learn how to pray effectively
2. Memorise verses Matt. 6:9-13

#### Reading preparation: Read Matt: 6: 1-15

**Note:** Learning to pray probably doesn't stand at the top of our Christian "wish lists." Prayer seems too remote, too far removed from the practical concerns of everyday life. Yet the problem is not with prayer but with our inadequate concept of prayer. Jesus taught that prayer is vital, dynamic – the heartbeat of our daily activities. If your prayers are lifeless, you may need to go back to 'school', learning how to pray from the Lord himself.

The early disciples, sensing that Jesus possessed keen spiritual insights, and having witnessed his own prayer life in action, went to him and said: "Lord, teach us to pray." Matthew 6 records his response. (James and Martha Reapsome)

#### Study Questions:

1. What fears or misconceptions about prayer make it seem difficult or uncomfortable to learn?

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2. Read Matthew 6:1, 5-8. What are some wrong motives and methods of praying?

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3. When we pray in that way, what rewards do we get?

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4. What rewards do we miss (vv. 1, 5-6)?

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5. How and to whom are we to pray (vv.6-8)?

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6. How would thinking about prayer as a conversation with your Father keep you from worrying about how your prayers sound to others?

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7. Jesus introduces the radical idea of calling God “Our Father” (vv. 1, 6, 8.). How might a good human father show that he knows his children’s needs and is eager to reward them?

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8. Read Matthew 6:9-15. Jesus gives his disciples a pattern for how we should pray. How is the focus of the first three requests different from the last three?

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9. How does this prayer compare with how your prayers usually begin?

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10. What does it mean for God's name to be hallowed (v9)?

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11. In Hebrew poetry the second line often explained or expanded the first line. How does this help you understand verse 10?

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12. With what different attitudes might you pray, "will be done"?

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13. What is the value of praying for our daily bread (v.11)?

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14. What does it tell you about the Father? About yourself?

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15. After praying for God's name, kingdom, and will, we ask for our physical and spiritual needs. Why do you think forgiveness and protection are the two requests Jesus includes?

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16. How are giving and receiving forgiveness related (vv.12,14-15)?

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17. How are our present, past, and future needs represented in the requests in verses 11-13

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18. What encouragement or insight does this passage give you about prayer?

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**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. Are you happy to spend some time thanking your Father and telling Him your concerns for his name, His kingdom and His will.
2. Follow thoughtfully this pattern when you pray every day or the ACTS
3. Will you make a commitment to having a special 'devotional time' with God?

## Chapter 7

### Prayer: Learning to Confess

#### Expected outcome:

1. To learn how to be honest with God and confess my sins.
2. To enjoy the power of forgiveness, and a restored spirit
3. To memorise Psalm 51: 1, 10 (put them together)

**Reading preparation:** Psalm 51 and 2 Samuel 12:1-12 (the whole story is from 2 Samuel 11: 1 to 12:1-12). Very interesting story; why don't you read it?

**Note:** Confession never comes easily. Most of us have never been interrogated by the police, but deep down we admit that we are guilty of breaking God's laws. Fresh from our crime, we cringe before that accusing voice within. But if we ignore the voice for a couple of days, it usually goes away and we breathe easier.

Yet Christians who enjoy God's presence don't deny and gloss over their sins; they confess them to God in prayer – probably the hardest, most humiliating kind of prayer.

Psalm 51 records King David's prayer of confession. David wrote the Psalm after committing adultery with Bathsheba, arranging the murder of her husband, and being confronted by the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1-12).

#### Study Questions:

1. What feelings does an awareness of sin produce in you?

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2. Read Psalm 51:1-17. What feelings did David's sin produce in him?

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3. What specific things does David ask God to do for him (vv.1-9)?

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4. What do these requests reveal about sin's effect on us?

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5. What does David know about God that gives him hope (vv. 1-6)?

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6. David repeatedly accepts full responsibility for "my sin," refusing to blame others or circumstances. What does he understand about his sinful nature as well as his sinful deeds vv.5-6?

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7. David wants more than forgiveness or a clean slate. What do his requests in verses 10-12 reveal about his relationship David wants with God?

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8. How have you enjoyed these benefits of restoration after confession and forgiveness?

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9. What does David promise to do as a result of God's forgiveness (vv. 13-17)?

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10. Why a broken spirit and contrite heart sacrifices, God will not despise vv.16-17?

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11. What kinds of offerings have you tried to bring instead of a broken spirit and a contrite heart?

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12. Which of the results of forgiveness in verses 13-17 are happening in your life? Why or why not?

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**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. Ask God to show you what you need to confess. Silently confess your guilt and your specific sins to God. Pray the requests from Psalm 51 that express what you want God to do for you.
2. Prayer and confessions is like breathing. You inhale (filling of the Holy Spirit etc.) and you exhale (confess your sins etc) It is a daily exercise and a way of life. “Confession is good for the soul” someone has said.
3. Each day, as soon as you are aware of sin, immediately confess it and the claim the promise of 1 John 1:9. (This is one of your memory verses in Book one, remember?)

## Chapter 8

### Learning to Ask

#### Expected outcome

1. Learning to ask the Lord for specific request.
2. To pray more and learn to worry less
3. To memorise: 1 Peter 5:7 (shorter this time)

#### Reading Preparation: Consider the context, Philippians 1:1-10; Acts 4 1-31

**Note:** “Why pray when you can worry?” is one of those remarks you occasionally find on church bulletin boards. We laugh, but not for long, because most of us do worry more than we pray. You’ve probably seen people in airplanes nervously fumbling their “worry beads” or rosary beads.

We will never escape circumstances to worry about, but we can overcome anxiety by praying. Too often we look for help elsewhere and pray only as a last resort. In our secular age so many helps are available that many people tune out God and refuse to pray. But whatever the cause of our anxieties, we should seize them as a call to prayer.

The early Christians realized that vital prayer is not like a case of the “gimmies” but is like placing the foundation of your life on a solid rock. This study gives us a general pattern for prayer and a specific example of how the church applied it in an emergency.

#### Study Questions:

1. What kinds of requests do you pray about freely?

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What do you hesitate to pray about?

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#### Read Philippians 4:6-7.

2. Paul urges us not to be anxious. Why do Christians need to be told what not to do as well as what to do?

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3. How has anxiety encouraged or hindered your prayers?

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4. What difference would it make if you prayed with thanksgiving instead of anxiety?

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5. How can you pray with thanksgiving before your request has been granted?

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6. Why is no request too small or too large to bring to God?

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7. What is the promised result of bringing all your requests to God (v.7)?

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8. How has the peace of God guarded your emotions and thoughts?

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**Read Acts 4:23-31.**

9. When Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple, they were arrested and warned not to preach again in the name of Jesus. What impresses you about their prayer – the beginning, the requests, the results?

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10. How would you have prayed in their situation?

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11. How did they use Scripture to get perspective on their situation (vv. 25-28)?

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**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. How does their example encourage you to bring all your requests to God with thanksgiving?
2. Think of one request that causes you anxiety or that you hesitate to pray about. Present it to God with thanksgiving and claim the promise of his peace. Share the request with the group and pray for each other.
3. Define or describe a worrier. Ask yourself: Am I this kind of person? What will I gain?



## Chapter 9

### Learning to Pray for Others

#### Expected outcome

1. To share the burden of others
2. To reaffirm that good citizens pray for their government.
3. Memorise: 1 Timothy 2: 5 (part of the context of our study)

**Reading Preparation:** Consider the context, 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Colossians 1:1-29

**Note:** Seven years I stood at the church door after the morning service. What did I hear most often, other than something like, “That was a good sermon”? Those plaintive words, often uttered with a look of pain or despair, “Pastor, please pray for me.”

We know our needs are too heavy to carry alone. When we know someone is praying for us, the weight of our problem seems lighter. Like those old jungle explorers, we all need a train of burden-bearers.

Strong comfort also comes from learning that the Lord himself continually prays for us: “(Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Hebrews 7:25). “We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” (Romans 8:26)

Because praying for others is so vital, the apostle Paul gives top priority to that kind of prayer both in his instruction to the churches (1 Timothy 2) and by his example (Colossians 1).

#### Study Questions:

1. For whom do you usually pray, and for what needs?

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2. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4.**

How do the four forms of prayer Paul urges in verse 1 differ from each other?

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3. For whom are Christians to pray? Why?

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4. What is the relationship between a peaceful society and godly living (v.2)?

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Why do both please God?

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5. What requests and intercessions can you make for authorities?

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6. What encouragement do verses 3-4 give you to pray for your unbelieving family and friends?

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7. Based on this passage, what requests can you make that you know are the will of God?

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**8. Read Colossians 1:9-12.**

Paul not only taught Christians to pray but often told them how he prayed for them. What do you learn about Paul's prayer habits from verses 9-12?

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9. How would you briefly summarize each of Paul's requests in verses 9-12?

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10. Which requests concern thinking? Emotions? Actions?

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11. What impresses you about the description of God's power in verse 11?

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12. What can we expect that power to produce in those for whom we pray (vv. 11-12)?

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**Life Application:** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. Pray by name for authorities in governments, in courts, in business, or industry.
2. Pray for one person you know who needs to come to knowledge of the truth. If you are in a group, pray the requests in Colossians 1 for each other.

# Chapter 10

## Learning to Persevere and Trust

### Expected outcome:

1. To learn the power of Persistence and Trust
2. To show that our Heavenly Father loves to answer our prayers
3. To memorise: Luke 11: 9-10

### Reading Preparation: Luke 11:1-13; Mark 9:14-29

**Note:** A story is told by a father. “When our son was growing up, he asked again and again for a motorbike. He plastered a picture of one on our refrigerator, just in case we forgot what he wanted. He was insistent around the clock. Like a perpetual motion machine, he asked and asked and asked. No one had to teach John to persevere.”

Christians need that kind of persistence in prayer – the ability to keep on keeping on in spite of discouragement or doubt. Effective prayer is seldom a sprint; it’s a marathon.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them the pattern you looked at in another study. Then he focused on two vital issues in prayer – perseverance and trust.

### Study Questions:

1. How do you react to waiting for answers to your prayers?

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2. **Read Luke 11:1-13.** Where did the disciples get the idea that they need to learn to pray?

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3. What basic elements of prayer does Jesus want them to learn (vv.2-4)?

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4. What is the point of the parable in verses 5-8?

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5. What encouragement does the parable give you to obey the commands in verses 9-10?

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6. How have you benefitted from persistently asking, seeking, and knocking?

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7. In contrast to the sleepy neighbour, what is God like (vv.11-13)?

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8. What point is Jesus making in this parable (vv. 11-13)?

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9. What difference would it make in your praying to think of God as your heavenly Father who gives the best?

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10. What did you learn from this passage about your part in prayer and God's part?

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**11. Read Mark 9:14-29.**

In your efforts to trust God's character and power, you may question whether your faith is strong enough. What do you learn about the father's faith (vv. 17-18, 22, 24)?

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**12. How does this mixture of belief and unbelief affect Jesus' response (vv. 23, 25-27)?**

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**Life Application** (Leader, please encourage everyone to share)

1. What requests seem beyond the limits of your faith? Why?
2. When we focus on a problem, it seems to grow and faith shrinks. How can focusing on God rather than a problem stimulate your faith?
3. Based on this study, confess any lack of persistence or trust in your prayers. Thank God for his eagerness to give you the best. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to keep asking.

## **Sources:**

Bill Bright: "Campus Crusade for Christ"

A.J. Josier: "The Holy Spirit"

Alban Douglas: "100 Bible Lessons"

James and Marth Reapsome: "Effective Prayer"

Louis Berkhof: "Systematic Theology"

R.A. Torrey: "What the Bible Teaches"

***\*\*Note: Not to be sold, only for small group study\*\****



## Why Study the Bible:

- To understand Cultural literacy
- To learn firsthand information
- Inspired writing
- To know God and have Eternal Life
- To grow personally in the Body of Christ
- To encourage others
- To know the claims of Christ
- To avoid error
- To be loyal for His cause