

## Lesson 1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit

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'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.  
Zechariah 4:6

### Introduction

I remember going out to mow our lawn. My husband wasn't home, so it was up to me to start our temperamental machine. I filled it up with gas, primed it and started pulling. I pulled and pulled and nothing was happening except that my hand was getting blistered and my arm felt like it was going to fall off... oh yeah, it was smoking a bit too! To my embarrassment, our neighbour came over and asked if he could help. It wasn't the help offered that was embarrassing, it was what he found in the gas tank... I had put in something other than gas. All I knew is that I used the red container that I thought we always used... Talk about feeling female!

This analogy is not unlike us and how we are made to tick. God has created us in His own image and we are made to operate by His principles and His Spirit. He is more than fuel though for our lives, He is our life. He is more like the operating system for a computer. Without it, all you have is a box (and that goes for Mac's too!).

*We are spiritual beings in a physical body.*

The bonus for us is that we live after Jesus in the course of history. We have the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit that has been offered to us to not only guide us from the outside but from within. Let's take some time to realize (through God's Word and His Spirit) what He has given us... this beautiful, priceless gift of the communion of His Holy Spirit.

"Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favour and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation)."

[Ephesians 2:5](#)

### God is Spirit

**Read John 4:1-26 and answer the following questions:**

- a. Why was the woman there? – *she needed water*
- b. Why was Jesus there? – *He was tired*
- c. What did Jesus ask of her? – *for a drink*
- d. What did Jesus reveal to her?

vs. 10 *He had living water, He started to reveal His identity to her*

## Leader Notes

vs. 14 *that He had eternal, living water to give*

vs. 24 *that God is Spirit and must be worshiped in spirit & truth*

vs. 26 *He finally revealed that He was the Messiah Jesus was always taking people to the truth, to the heart of things, to the eternal. I love what He says in vs. 14, that the 'water He gives will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life!' Does that mean He will literally pour water into her? He is obviously not talking physical here (although this will affect her physical being and bring health to her), He is eager to have this woman understand that as she believes in Him, this living water (His Spirit) will actually come into her and grow into a fountain of life...*

Jesus talks more about this in [John 7:37-39](#). Write out what Jesus says in verses 37 & 38:

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

- we must realize that Jesus is talking spiritually here.
- we need to come to Him, to dwell in His presence and to drink deeply from His living presence allowing Him to saturate, feed and restore us.

Here are some scriptures that Jesus was most likely referring to:

-Zechariah 14:8 (On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea [and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.)

-Isaiah 44:3 (For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants ;)

-Isaiah 55:1 (Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; ...)

-Isaiah 58:11 (And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.)

Look at verse 39. What do you think Jesus was talking about?

"But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor)." AMP

- He was prepping them for when the Holy Spirit would come upon them as prophesied in the book of Joel and also foretold by John the Baptist.

You might want to look up John 1:33 and Joel 2:28 as well.

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Joel 2:28

John 4:26

That is the first recorded declaration of his Messiahship made by Jesus. He was not confessed to be Messiah by Simon Peter till the last year of his ministry ([Matthew 16:16](#)). Jesus spoke more freely as to his office in Samaria than in Judea or Galilee, for, (1) the Samaritans would make no effort to take him by force and make him a king ([John 6:15](#)); (2) his short stay in Samaria justified an explicit and brief revelation.

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## Leader Notes

“I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'”  
John 1:33

- This is fulfilled after Jesus ascends into Heaven as recorded in the book of Acts. (John 20:22; Acts 1:4; Acts 2:4; Acts 2:33; Acts 19:2)

*OK. I don't know about you, but if all I was doing was looking at this with my eyes I would be confused. I pray for you what Paul prayed for the Ephesians. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of your understanding (mind, thoughts) would be enlightened (bring to light, made to see) that you may know... (Eph. 1:17-18a) For these are spiritual things, not necessarily seen with our eyes but by faith in Jesus, they are seen with our spirit.*

## We are made in His Image.

God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. ([Genesis 1:27](#) MSG)

We were made differently than the animals.

- The Bible uses the phrase 'and God made the (sea creatures, animals) according to their kinds' several times.
- But when it comes to us, God said "Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness..." [Genesis 1:26](#)

*"Man has an intelligence beyond that of animals. He is aware of himself and his surroundings. Man is an architect, a planner, an artist, a poet, musician, creator, thinker, and philosopher." (Tm 2, Old Testament Survey, Session 3, isom.org)*

God is Spirit. We are made with a spirit.

- We have already read this in John 4:24. God is Spirit, but if we are told to worship Him 'in spirit' that it stands to reason that we are spiritual as well.

We were not created as an evil, fallen creature.

- When Adam & Eve were created, they were without sin. They were in pure, intimate fellowship with God. God is always endeavouring to restore us to this original state.

## We died when sin entered.

There's nothing wrong with God; the wrong is in you. Your wrongheaded lives caused the split between you and God. Your sins got between you so that he doesn't hear. (Isaiah 59:2 MSG)

- a. God didn't change. We did.
  - Read [Genesis 2:17](#).
  - What does God warn Adam of if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
    - they would die
  - When would this happen?
    - the process would start on the day they ate of the fruit

## Leader Notes

- We know that Adam & Eve did not physically die that day. In fact, Adam lived to be 930 years old (Genesis 5:5). Was God lying? *God cannot lie* (see [Titus 1:2](#))
- The Bible is clear that their eternal spirit died that day and this is where things get exciting!! For in Adam & Eve, we see the incredible gift of God to us because of His love. We were left hopeless when sin entered the world through Adam, BUT Jesus came...

Look up the following scriptures:

- [1 Corinthians 15:22](#) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
- [Ephesians 2:1-5](#) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ...

## We must be born again.

“The greatest gift ever given to you and me is a gift from God: the atoning sacrifice of His only begotten Son. This gift was free to us, yet it cost our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ everything. The only requirement to receive the greatest gift is to be born a second time, a birth that Jesus described as a spiritual birth.” (pg. 113, *The Greatest Words ever Spoken*, Steven K. Scott)

- a. God was born in the flesh. John 1:14
  - God entered our world through Jesus, to redeem us and bring us back to Him. (John 1:12,13)
- b. We must be born in the Spirit. (John 3:5)
  - Take time to read the account of Nicodemus in John 3:1-21
  - The only way we can enter the kingdom of God is by being born again (vs.3)
  - This birth must come from the Holy Spirit (vs.6)
  - This is intangible, but real. (vs. 8)
  - Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life. (vs. 15)

## Look closely at the phrase ‘eternal life’ in John 3:15.

- the Greek word for ‘eternal’ is ‘Aionios’ (ah-ee-oh-nee-os) meaning: without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be, never to cease, everlasting
- the Greek word for ‘life’ is ‘zoe’ and means ‘the life of God’

Remember the scripture that we started with in John 4? Now, look again at verse 14: a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. Jesus used this same phrase with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

**God is offering us the gift of LIFE,  
His life,  
His Spirit,  
The Living Water  
That will flow through us for all eternity if we'll have Him.**

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.  
The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

- Jesus in John 6:63