

## MAILBOX BIBLE COURSE

### WELCOME PAGE

Welcome to our Mailbox Bible Study Course. We are glad to be able to serve the Lord and you in this way. Many are being saved and helped through these simple Bible lessons.

We suggest that you try to do one lesson each week. This will keep your interest in them active. We send all lessons in plain text, or PDF which is much better to print

We suggest that you print these out and put them in a binder to study and for future use.

Here's all you do:

- 1.. Read the lesson carefully.
- 2.. Fill in the answer sheet.
- 3.. Email it back to us.

Always follow the instruction in filling out the test. Your full name and address should accompany your first test. To do the test page, highlight the page and then copy and paste it to me. If you have any difficult please email me We will grade your lesson and return it to you with you next lesson.

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May God richly bless you as you proceed.

Your Instructor:

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### **LESSON 1 SPIRIT'S MINISTRY**

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**THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY** by John Green

### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Howbeit 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."John 16:13

**AN OUTLINE OF THE STUDY THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY**

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY TO THE UNSAVED,

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY TO THE BELIEVER

A. God's Word the Only Source

B. Aspects of the Holy Spirit's Work

1. Regeneration

2. Baptism

3. Indwelling

4. Sealing

5. Anointing

6. Leading

7. Filling

C. Believer's Response

1. Negative

a. Grieving

(1) Bitterness

(2) Wrath

(3) Anger

(4) Clamour

(5) Evil speaking

(6) Malice

b. Resisting

c. Quenching

2. Positive

a. Characteristics

(1) Kind

(2) Tenderhearted

(3) Forgiving

b. Reactions (obeying)

(1) Cleansing

(2) Yielding

(3) Abiding

(4) Walking

D. Review

1. Accepted in Faith

a. Regeneration

b. Baptism

c. Indwelling

d. Sealing

2. Received Through Obedience

a. Anointing

b. Leading

c. Filling

LOOK FOR THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS YOU STUDY THIS LESSON. The answers will help you gain an insight into just a few of the many spiritual truths taught in this lesson.

1. What is the Holy Spirit's ministry to the unsaved person?
2. What is the source of information about the Holy Spirit?
3. In the Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer, what is meant by the following terms:  
regeneration    baptism    indwelling    sealing  
anointing       leading    filling       walking
4. Which activities of the Holy Spirit must be accepted by faith?
5. Which activities of the Holy Spirit are received through obedience?
6. What are the positive and negative aspects of the believer's relationship to the Holy Spirit?  
Many of the Scripture references in this lesson are left blank for the student to locate in the Bible and write in. Fill in the whole verse, or verses asked for.

In the lesson text we have shown our respect by beginning pronouns and attributes referring to Deity with capital letters. Your Bible may not capitalize these. Emphasis used in some Scripture quotations are the author's.

## **1. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY TO THE UNSAVED PERSON**

**VERSE:** "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8

This verse explains the threefold witness of the Holy Spirit to a world lost in sin, without God or the knowledge of how to find Him.

1. Reprove (convict) the world of sin (of unbelief)
2. Reprove the world of righteousness (man's need of God's righteousness)
3. Reprove the world of judgment

It was Satan's lie that tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. Satan implied that God was holding out on them by refusing to let them know the difference between good and evil (Genesis 3:2-5). Adam and Eve believed that lie and sinned, disobeying God by eating the forbidden fruit. The wages of sin death; therefore, "death passed upon all men" (Romans 5:12), because Adam was the ancestor of all men.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict the unsaved person of his hopeless condition. All man's works, no matter how noble, just, and good, cannot bridge the gulf between man and God. In His mercy and wisdom, God bridged that gulf by sending His Son into the world to be the Redeemer of mankind (Titus 3:5). Christ, by His death and shed blood, has provided a new and living way back to God. His blood is the basis and the means of reconciliation and forgiveness (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The work of the Holy Spirit is also to show the unsaved person his sinful condition caused by the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as his Saviour. In John 16:9, Jesus makes it clear that unbelief condemns the sinner and bars him from heaven and eternal life (John 3:18). Any sinner who believes that Jesus died for him, and in repentance receives Jesus as his Saviour, is immediately regenerated (Born Again). The new birth gives him a new nature and relationship with God, the Holy, Righteous One. He becomes a child of God and a member of the household of faith. He has the right

to call God "Father," and to look to Him for daily light and guidance (See also 2 Corinthians; Ephesians 2:19).

## **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY TO THE BELIEVER**

**VERSE:** "Howbeit 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 show you things to come." John 16:13

### **A. GOD'S WORD THE ONLY SOURCE**

God's Word is the only source from which we can gain knowledge about Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer. Human wisdom cannot attain knowledge. The Bible declares that the "world by wisdom knew not God (1 Corinthians 1:21). Peter's admonition is timely, (1 Peter 2:2

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There is to be a two-fold growth--grace and knowledge, and it can come only by the Word of God (2 Peter 3:18). This growth is to produce the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ in each believer.

Paul had this desire for those whom he had led to the Lord: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Galatians 4:19). His desire was that they should show Christlikeness in all things. This growth (maturity) in each of us is the goal of the Holy Spirit's ministry. Ask God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to make your life Christlike in meekness, gentleness, and holiness. Then others will see "Christ in you" as an example of what God's power can do.

### **B. ASPECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK**

Certain words are used in the New Testament to describe the work of the Spirit in bringing about the new birth. These words are: Regeneration or New Birth, Baptism, Indwelling, Sealing, Anointing, Leading, and Filling. Without the first, life with God is impossible; without the seventh, no acceptable service is possible.

## **FIRST WORD**

### **1. REGENERATION--The new birth (John 3:3,5,7)**

As the first birth is necessary before life on earth is possible, even so, spiritual birth is necessary before life with God is possible. How is this new birth accomplished? Peter explains the difference between the two births in 1 Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed (the first birth), but incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." Apart from faith in God's Word, the new birth is impossible.

Two verses will help us to understand what God requires. The first is Romans 10:17, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The second is John 6:63, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth [makes alive]; the flesh profiteth nothing, and the WORDS that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." It is God's Spirit acting upon the Word of God in the heart that accomplishes the new birth. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Jesus gives an illustration in the parable of the sower of how the devil seeks to prevent the seed

(God's Word) from becoming fruitful. He said, ". . . then cometh the wicked one [Satan], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. . ." (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12). This leaves the Holy Spirit with nothing to work upon in that heart; therefore, the new birth cannot come to pass. If you have repented and believed the Word of God, and because of this received Christ as your Saviour, then you have been Born Again by the Holy Spirit as God's Word promised (1 Peter 1:23). You have become a new creature in God's sight. The Word of God says that old things (of the old life) will be passing from life and new things (from the Word) will characterize your new life in Christ. You will find no pleasure in some things you once enjoyed, and you will love the things of God which you once thought foolish (2 Corinthians 5:17) (See also Colossians 3:10 and Ephesians 4:22.)

Before we leave this truth of the new birth, ask yourself the following questions:

### **THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS - A changed life**

- a. Have you truly believed God's Word and received Jesus as your Saviour?
- b. What changes, if any, have taken place in your life?
- c. Think of three things to demonstrate that you now love the things of God.
- d. What changes, if any, have others noticed in your life style?
- e. Has there been a change in your love for God's Word?  
How has it affected your life?

### **SECOND WORD**

#### **2. BAPTISM--Placed in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12, 13)**

A word of caution. There is an erroneous teaching that speaking in tongues is the indispensable evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is misinterpretation of the Scriptures. A careful reading of these verses (above) will show that the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to place one in the Body of Christ. It is wholly the work of the Holy Spirit; no action to the believer but to believe what God has said. Accepting Christ immediately places the believer into the Body of Christ--also called the Church. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13). This is not the local church, but the WHOLE body of believers from the Day of Pentecost until the moment of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). At that time, all believers will be presented to Christ as "a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle. . ." (Ephesians 5 :27). could not be said of any local church.

### **QUESTIONS - BEING A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

- a. Have you accepted the Bible truth that you are a member of Christ's Body, His Church?
- b. Does the realization that you are a member of Christ's Body make any difference in the way you are now living?
- c. As a living member of Christ's Body, could you justify living after the flesh and expecting the Lord to be pleased with your conduct?
- d. Is the Bible the sole reason for you to believe that you are a member His Body, His Church?

### **THIRD WORD**

### **3. INDWELLING--Christ in you (1 Corinthians 6:19,20)**

Christ dwelling in you is an important and vital truth. It must be accepted by faith. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit (the Comforter) was given in fulfillment of Jesus' promise to His disciples (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit came to live in each believer. He dwells in the Christian's body--His Temple--until death or the Rapture. In the key verses for this spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20) the Apostle Paul reminds the Christians at Corinth that Holy Spirit now indwells them. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

The Christian life is to be lived in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. How we live will either please or grieve the Holy Spirit. We should be careful that nothing we do or say will hinder or mar the Spirit's work in making us Christlike. We are admonished, in 2 Corinthians 7:1, to do certain things to make this possible. First, we must "cleanse [purge out]" what is called, "filthiness of the flesh," (See 1 John 1:9) and second, "perfect holiness (make complete)--a continuous act of making our lives pleasing to the Lord.

#### **QUESTIONS--Indwelling Holy Spirit**

- a. Do you still indulge in some habit that mars fellowship with God? Name it before the Lord and ask Him to take control.
- b. Is there anything about your speech, dress, or conduct that would grieve the Holy Spirit? Where do you need to improve?
- c. Do you allow the world's language to influence your speech?
- d. Do you notice any difference in your life and conduct since you received Christ?
- e. Are your former friends pleased with this change in your life style?

### **FOURTH WORD**

#### **4. SEALING--Identified with Christ (Ephesians 1:12,13; 4:3)**

The sealing by the Holy Spirit is the evidence of the value that the Lord has put upon the redeemed soul. This too, must be accepted by faith. God's Word declares that is true. To doubt God's Word is to doubt God Himself. (1 John 5:10). In Ephesians 1:13b, this fact is set forth: "After that ye believed (having believed), ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Then, in 2 Timothy 2:19, we find this statement of what God has done: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal The Lord knoweth them that are his...." God has placed His identification (mark, stamp, seal) upon every redeemed soul. That soul is eternally linked with Christ, being united permanently to His Body--the Church. The child of God has no part in this action of the Holy Spirit but to believe that it is true. It is literally the down payment (earnest) made by God to assure that one day the child God will be fully redeemed - body, soul and spirit 1 Thessalonians 5:2. That which God has begun in each believer He is able to perform fully. (Philippians 1:6)

Therefore, rejoice, resting in the assurance that He will complete our redemption in that day when we are presented before God as sons. {Romans 8:23; See also Ephesians 1:5; 5:27; 1 Peter 1:5-7}.

#### **QUESTION - THE DOWN PAYMENT OR SEALING**

- a. What is your assurance that you are a child of God?
- b. Do you bear the Lord's seal as one of His redeemed?
- c. Do you believe that the Lord is able to keep His Word?
- d. What is the purpose of this sealing? (Ephesians 1:13)
- e. How long will this sealing last? (Ephesians 1:14)

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE INSTRUCTIONS

Each question is followed by three answers, lettered (a), b) and (c). ONE of the answers is correct. Read each question carefully; then, select the correct answer and write the letter on the line provided.

#### QUESTIONS      TEST PAGE      LESSON 1

- \_\_\_\_ 1. The ministry of the Holy Spirit to the unbeliever is:  
(a) To reprove the world of Adam's sin  
(b) To reprove mankind for its waywardness  
(c) To reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment
- \_\_\_\_ 2. The source of information about the Holy Spirit is:  
(a) Human wisdom  
(b) God's Word  
(c) A new revelation
- \_\_\_\_ 3. In Regeneration, the Holy Spirit:  
(a) Brings the believer to the new birth  
(b) Gives energy to one who is saved  
(c) Saves succeeding generations
- \_\_\_\_ 4. In this lesson, the term "baptism" means:  
(a) Being immersed in water  
(b) Being "placed into" the Body of Christ  
(c) Being sprinkled by a priest in infancy
- \_\_\_\_ 5. The "indwelling of the Holy Spirit" refers to:  
(a) The cleansing of a person's life by his own efforts  
(b) The Holy Spirit living in the believer  
(c) The believer living in the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_\_ 6. The "sealing" of the Holy Spirit is:  
(a) God's mark upon the redeemed soul  
(b) God sealing all sin out of the believer's life.  
(c) The Holy Spirit keeping a person obedient.

Name:

Questions & Comments:

If I have made corrections that you do not understand, please write me for an explanation

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