

# LifeBuilders

## Step Three

### Table of Contents

Overview	
Lesson 18	The Inner Anointing . . . . . 1
Lesson 19	Faith . . . . . 5
Lesson 20	Faith Blockers . . . . . 9
Lesson 21	The Outer Anointing . . . . . 15
Lesson 22	Exchanged Life . . . . . 23

## *The Inner Anointing: The Spirit-Filled Life*

### **Memorize Ephesians 5:18**

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*

1. According to 1 Corinthians 15:31:

How often are we to die to sin & the old nature? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think Paul meant by that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Ephesians 5:18, what are we **not** to be drunk with?

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Ephesians 5:18, what **are** we to be drunk with?

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Acts 2:13, what were the disciples accused of being?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The idea of being *filled* in Ephesians 5:18 has two ideas attached to it:

- To be filled means *to be filled to overflowing*—in other words: to have more than you can handle! Can you imagine having so much of God in you that He just spilled out every time you moved or spoke. You would just *ooze* Jesus! That is where God wants us to be—so filled with Him, that no matter what we were doing, He would come out. That is His plan for us—*every disciple!*
- To be filled also means *to be under the control of*. When we think of someone *under the influence of alcohol*, we think of someone not under their own control. They are drunk! With the Holy Spirit it is the same. When we are filled with the Spirit we are under His control, under His influence! ***We are not in control any more.*** Now this is very difficult for most believers. They just want to be in control. Who rules in your life today? Does Jesus? Does He control you? Does the Lord set the agenda? Does He make the choices? Does He do the living? Sadly, the answer all too often is ***No!*** It is no wonder that we live in defeat and despair.

3. The life lived in the flesh is empty and fruitless. But the Spirit-filled life is vibrant and powerful. Read Ephesians 5:18-21.

From verse 19, what should we be doing in our hearts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

From verse 20, what should we be giving to God? \_\_\_\_\_

From verse 21, what should we do with each other? \_\_\_\_\_

4. There are three attitudes that permeate the heart of a person who is filled with the Spirit:

• **Joy.** The Spirit puts a bounce in your step and a song in your heart. What melody is in your heart today? Are you complaining, unhappy, discouraged, depressed, or defeated? If so, you are *not under the Spirit's control!* One of the signs that you are filled with the Spirit is that you have a song in your heart. Read Acts 16:25-26.

Where were Paul & Silas? \_\_\_\_\_

What did they do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God do? \_\_\_\_\_

What does that tell you? \_\_\_\_\_

• **Thankfulness.** The second attitude a Spirit-filled person has is thankfulness. We live in a world of ungrateful people who seem to always want more. It is always the nature of the flesh to demand more. When the Spirit of the Lord is in control there is a sense of contentment—a calm, relaxed, and peaceful attitude. It is faith in action to live with contentment. Note that Paul says we are to give thanks to God *for all things*. Does he really mean *all*? Yes!

A thankful heart does not have time to condemn and judge others. There is a sense of gratefulness that permeates the heart of a Spirit-filled person that results in actions towards others that is consistent with the nature of God. Read Matthew 18:21-35.

Was the first servant thankful? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the master's reaction to his actions? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a thankful heart? Are you showing mercy and grace to others the way God has shown you?

• **Submission.** The third attitude of a Spirit-filled disciple is submission. This is the most maligned, misunderstood, and hated attitude in all of Scripture! Submission is the life-style of the Spirit and is best described in Matthew 8:5-10.

What was the man's nationality & rank? \_\_\_\_\_

What was his need? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus going to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the centurion's response? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Jesus describe the centurion? \_\_\_\_\_

He knew how to be *under* authority—he understood submission. It takes faith to be submissive. God has called each of us to submit to Him and then to be submissive to each other. This attitude is essential in the Kingdom because there can be only one head, one leader, one authority and that is Jesus! Imagine the chaos that would ensue if everyone wanted his or her own way!

5. The **character** of a person who is Spirit-filled is listed in Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.*

Paul here lists the character qualities that should be residing in the life of a Spirit-filled person. Note that it is **fruit** not **fruits**. To some degree they should **all** be present since the word fruit is singular. But fruit does not grow immediately; it takes time for fruit to develop and ripen. This verse actually is the goal of the Spirit-filled life. Whereas the gifts of the Spirit might manifest themselves very early in the life of a believer, the fruit of the Spirit is developed over the long haul. **Character is the sum total of a person's insignificant choices over a lifetime.** It should be the goal of every Christian to walk in the Spirit so that the character of Jesus will be developed. Here are the characteristics of a Spirit-filled Christian:

- **Love.** The quality of wanting and doing what is best for others. Jesus demonstrated love by giving Himself for us *while we yet sinners (Rom. 5:8)*!
- **Joy.** The quality of deep contentment. Never having to demand anything ever again.
- **Peace.** The quality of certainty that God is in control. There is absolutely nothing hindering your walk and communion with the Lord.
- **Longsuffering.** The quality of enduring hardships or differences without wavering or giving up. God puts up with a great deal of garbage from us without ever giving up on us!
- **Gentleness.** The quality of graceful treatment of others. There is no harshness or condemnation.
- **Goodness.** The quality of being like God. To be good in that we do what God would do—we live righteously.
- **Faith.** The quality of believing God for everything. The ability to trust God no matter what others do or say, and to believe when there seems no reason to trust.
- **Meekness.** The quality of controlled power. To act in the appropriate way at the appropriate time. Jesus demonstrated meekness by controlling His power. He chased the money-changers out of the Temple and He let the adulterous woman with only a command to stop sinning.
- **Temperance.** The quality of self control. Doing what is right because it is right takes self control.

6. ***How to be filled with the Spirit***

- ***Believe that God wants you be filled.***

It is God's command and will for your life that the Spirit control you moment by moment. You must believe Him first.

- ***Repent of walking in the flesh.***

Read Galatians 5:17. When you live in the flesh you are actually at war with God. You are in ***rebellion!*** Repent. Ask God to forgive you—He is waiting to see you throw up the white flag and submit to Him.

- ***Ask God to fill you.***

James 4:2 says, “*yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*” It is a simple matter of faith. Remember when you were saved? Did you not just simply believe and ask? Colossians 2:6 states, “*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*” Get on your knees right now and pray the following prayer:

*Lord, I know You want to control me. I now relinquish all rights to my life. I have rebelled by being controlled by my flesh and I choose now to submit to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit fill me to overflowing. Control me and develop the character of Jesus in me. Thank you.*

- ***Believe God filled you.***

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. How are we to walk? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You will be challenged by the devil to believe that you are not filled. Don't listen to Him. He is a liar! God does not lie and He will honor your faith and fill you with His Spirit. Expect to be attacked and ***to have victory!!***

***This inner anointing of the Spirit is the development of the character of Christ in you. The outer anointing is the power of God working through you in ministering to others through spiritual gifts.***

## *Faith*

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-40.

According to verse 1, faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of things hoped for, the \_\_\_\_\_ of things not seen.

The sense of this verse is that faith has **certainty** to it. The author is saying that faith always gets its goal. Faith is the actual **stuff** desired, not the **hope** of getting it. The world's hope does not have certainty—Christian faith is certain.

Remember when you were saved? When you believed and asked Christ to save you? Was there not certainty to your prayer? You actually had faith that if you asked God to forgive you, that He would do it!!! That's faith. Faith is actually having the **stuff as you asked even if you don't see it!**

Faith is an **action**. From Hebrews 11, write the action of each of the people listed:

Abel \_\_\_\_\_

Enoch \_\_\_\_\_

Noah \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham (11:8-9) \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham (11:17) \_\_\_\_\_

Isaac \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph \_\_\_\_\_

Moses \_\_\_\_\_

2. There are three elements to faith: intellectual, emotional, and volitional.

**Intellectual** faith believes that God **can** do anything. Most Christians will admit that God can meet their needs. They believe that He could if He wanted to and then they sit back and see if He will.

**Emotional** faith then adds to believing that God can do something that **it is His will to do it!** Now the believer **wants God to do it**, desires God to do it, and hopes God will do it. This emotional element moves many to even fast and pray for the result needed or desired. But this is still **not** biblical faith.

**Volitional** faith is the action element of biblical faith. The believer must act like a thing is so when it is not, in order for it to be so.

Read Mark 11:24. *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you \_\_\_\_\_ them, and you shall have them.*

Note the tense of the verb in the blank. Is it future? past? or present? It is **present!!** Faith believes God can (*intellectual*); knows that God wants to (*emotional*); and then acts like He has already received (*volitional*); and then what he hopes for is his!

3. Consider the act of sitting down. First you believe that the chair **can** support your weight (*intellectual*). Then you want the chair to support you (*emotional*). But it does not support you until you act. You then sit in the chair (*volitional*). It is an action choice you make with your will.
4. At this point we need to consider what some people do to get God to act on their behalf.

**Sympathy.** Some believers try to motivate God by playing on His sympathy. Here is an example, “*Lord, you know what I need, and if You don’t give it to me, I’m sunk. I’m done for. Please, please, please, help me!*” God does not bow to sympathy!

**Bargaining.** Others try to play *let’s make a deal* with God saying, “*Lord, if You will give me what I want, I promise You I will never get in this mess again.*” God does not bow to bargaining.

**God only moves according to faith.** Listen to Hebrews 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him.*”

5. Read James 1:5-8.

When a believer doubts he is like \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When you doubt you will receive \_\_\_\_\_  
and be \_\_\_\_\_

A double-minded man has one eye on God and the other on himself (or his need). A person of faith only sees God!

It is at the point of conflict that the believer’s faith will be revealed to be either head faith (*intellectual, emotional*) or heart faith (*intellectual, emotional, and volitional*).

6. Read Deuteronomy 1:19-46

From this story you will learn the **process of faith**. And the consequences of unbelief!!!

**Step one. Hear God.** The issue of authority is important here. You learned that wise counsel, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit are all a part of what will be your authority base. Step one assumes that you have come to the place in your walk where you have determined to follow Jesus, no matter where He might lead you, or what He might ask you to do. Hearing His voice is essential. Remember, He speaks through His written Word, the indwelling Spirit, and through godly counsel.

According to Deuteronomy 1: 21, what had God told Israel to do?

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According to Romans 10:17, faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_

and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_

Step one is complete. God has spoken and told them to take the land. Now they are simply to obey. Remember, faith is an action.

What would you expect biblical faith to do now?

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**Step two. Believe God.** Faith is a willingness to take God at His word.

Read Deuteronomy 1:26.

Moses calls the Israelites \_\_\_\_\_

Because they were not willing to take God at His word they rebelled. They grumbled and complained. They wanted it to be easy. Just like most Christians today!

The devil will try to attack you in both of these two steps. Consider Eve in the Garden. According to Genesis 3:1, what was the devil's question to her?

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He questioned *whether or not God had said*. He will ask you the same question! Be aware and be certain about what God has said.

If the devil can't stop you at step one, he will try to get you to **question God's character**. Titus 1:2 says that God **cannot lie**. In Genesis 3:4 the devil questions God's character and states that,

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**Step three. Hear God again.** Many times God encourages us by telling us again what He wants. Abraham heard more than once God's promise; so did David. It is the experience of many godly people that God confirms His Word to us. Read Deut. 1: 29-31.

What does Moses tell the Israelites that God will do?

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Many times the confirmation, or second hearing, comes in Bible study, or a word of knowledge from another believer. However it comes, you will know in your spirit that it is God speaking again to encourage you to act.

**Step four. Take Action.** In Deut. 1:32 we see that the Israelites did not obey God by their actions. They did not proceed to take the Promised Land. They did not show biblical faith!



Romans 14:23 says that anything not of faith is \_\_\_\_\_

Sin must be both revealed and punished. The Israelites that did not believe were *never* allowed into the Promised Land. They attempted to go in after their judgment, but were unsuccessful. God wants us to obey not only in our mind and emotions, but in our actions. People who act on the Word receive things.

7. Remember our first Scripture, Hebrews 11:1?

***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***

- faith is the substance (stuff) of the things hoped for.  
- *faith is having what you are hoping to get*
- faith is the evidence of things **not seen**.  
- *faith is believing you have something when you cannot see it and acting as if you already have it, so that you will!*

Does all this sound confusing? Remember your salvation experience? Read Colossians 2:6. Faith is the same now as then.

8. What are you believing God for that He has spoken to you about?

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If you do not have anything to believe God for—why not? Ask God to give you something to ***“faith”*** Him for today!

## *Faith Blockers*

1. There are nine (9) obstacles a believer must overcome in the walk of faith. These obstacles we will call ***faith blockers***. They are:
  1. A wrong view of God
  2. Fear
  3. Feelings
  4. Doubt
  5. Reason
  6. Sacrifice
  7. False Confession
  8. Works
  9. Ignorance

2. Read Ephesians 6:16.  
What does Paul say that the evil one will throw at the believer?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the believer to take up to protect himself from these?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you are to be successful in your walk of faith, you must learn how the evil one keeps you from putting up your shield. Some of these faith blockers are improper thinking: wrong view of God, fear, doubt, reason, and ignorance. Other blockers are wrong actions: sacrifice, works, and false confession. Feelings can be improper emotions based on faulty thinking.

### **4. Faith Blocker 1: A wrong view of God**

Read Deuteronomy 1: 27. What did they believe about God?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is it possible to trust a God that hates you? \_\_\_\_\_

The character of God, as described in Scripture, forms the basis for a life of faith that has power. On the following page you will see a list of verses following a specific name of God. The name is the Hebrew name for God that is formed by putting *EL* (*meaning god*) and the descriptive word for the characteristic of God that applies to the situation. In the space provided, write a description of God.

Genesis 17:1; El Shaddai \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 24:19; El Qanno \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 16:13; El Roi \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Some names begin with Yahweh or Jehovah (*as we usually say it*). The word means the LORD.

Genesis 22:14; Jehovah Jireh \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 15:26; Jehovah Rapha \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 23:1; Jehovah Rohi \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 23:6; Jehovah Tsidkenu \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Judges 6:24; Jehovah Shalom \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 48:35; Jehovah Shammah \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following are descriptions of God's character that need to be deep in the disciple's spirit:

Deuteronomy 32:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Job 36:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Samuel 22:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 19:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 18:25 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 12:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 15:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Review the previous verses and write down how the character of God can help you in your faith walk.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Faith Blocker 2: Fear

### *Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7*

*“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Fear is actually the opposite of faith. Fear says that God cannot, when faith says that He can. The Bible is full of illustrations of people controlled by fear. Consider the following:

Elijah, in 1 Kings 19:1-4, was controlled by his fear of a woman.

Who was the woman? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Kings 18 and note his great feat of faith. There will be times when you will demonstrate great faith, followed by failure! Don't be too hard on either Elijah, or yourself. When you fail, God will be there to pick you up and send you along. Remember to forgive yourself and walk by faith, again!

Fear steals our confidence in God. It gets us looking at the enemy, the problem, the obstacle, the situation, and rules our emotions.

Read Numbers 13

According to verse 33, what did they view themselves as?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is a giant able to do to a grasshopper? \_\_\_\_\_

They were controlled by their fear. Were they full of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Were their eyes on God and His character? \_\_\_\_\_

***All they could see were the giants—and fear ruled their actions!***

Overcoming fear will be a battle you will fight constantly. In fact, there will be times when you will not even know that fear is ruling you. A good habit to get into is to ask yourself, ***“What is hindering me from obeying the Lord?”*** Listen for a response from the Lord, or even your own spirit. If fear is the answer, then ask what you are afraid of. Some of the possibilities could be:

- Fear of reprisal. What will happen to me if I obey?
- Fear of reputation. What will people think of me?
- Fear of failure. What if it doesn't work out?
- Fear of man. What will people do to me?
- Fear of success. What if it does work? What then?
- Fear of myself. Was it really God who told me?
- Fear of words. What they said to me makes me afraid.

## 6. Faith Blocker 3: Feelings

While it is true that fear is a feeling, I have separated it out because it is so powerful and needed to be discussed on its own. Feelings can be the enemy of faith. Your feelings are not a legitimate evidence of your life of faith.

Many believers fail to follow God, waiting for the right emotion to come along.

- Suppose God tells you to get up and read the Word at 3:30 in the morning!! Will you wait to feel like getting up?
- Suppose God leads you to teach a Sunday School class. Will you obey, or wait until you feel excited enough to do it?
- Suppose the Lord tells you to confront a brother or sister in the Lord about a sin in his/her life. Obeying will not feel good because most people do not like confrontation. Will you confront the person, or wait till you feel courageous?

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Ask the Lord to give you courage. Read Joshua 1. What did God command Joshua to have? (verses 7, 9) \_\_\_\_\_

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Courage is the ability to choose to do right even when you do not feel like it. Only a fool would say they have no fear. But a person of faith overcomes fear, and any other debilitating emotion, and obeys God anyway!

### 7. Faith Blocker 4: Doubt

God hates doubt. Doubt is the expression of the heart that attacks God's character directly. We tend to think that doubt is no big deal. But with God, doubt is very serious!

Read James 1:6-7. The picture here is of a person who is going back and forth, back and forth. Yes-No-Yes-No-Yes-No!!! God is good-no He's not! God is good-no He's not! God is good-no He's not! God is good-no He's not!

Can you imagine how that must make God feel?

Read Matthew 14:25- 31. What was Peter doing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Remember, Peter was walking on the water!!! Have you? Neither have I! **But his doubt caused him to sink.** Our doubt will de-activate the power of God in our lives. We will begin to sink just as if we had no faith at all. Our lives will be as impotent as unbelievers' lives!

Are faith blockers keeping you from walking by faith. Renounce your blockers and live by faith!

What are you believing God for today? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 8. Faith Blocker 5: Reason

There are times when God asks you to do something that appears unreasonable. When a disciple begins to question God, faith is squelched. Be assured that God knows what is best for you.

Often you will not know everything that He is doing. It is much like being in an army. You obey your orders; others obey theirs, and the general is in control. God is our General!

The world operates on common sense, never considering spiritual truths. When God calls you to obey Him, often your human nature will disagree and appear as reasonable. You will then be tempted to be more concerned about proving your faith is sensible to yourself and to others. The desire to appear right before other people will hinder faith. The only one we should be concerned about pleasing is the Lord.

There are two voltages in your home. One is 110 volts; the other is 220 volts. If you plug an appliance that is 220 volts into a 110 volt socket it will not work! You are a “220” disciple of Jesus and cannot plug into “110.”

Read Galatians **1:10**.

Paul says that if he was seeking to please men he would not be a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

You cannot *reason* your life to please others. You must walk by faith.

Read Galatians **2:20**.

Who has been crucified? \_\_\_\_\_

According to this verse, who lives in you? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you to live the life in the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_

You live by faith in the Son of God who loved you, and delivered Himself up for you.  
***Trust Him!***

## 9. Faith Blocker 6: Sacrifice

Have you ever heard a believer go on and on about how much they are suffering for Jesus—doing without this, and that, and this, and that?! Some love to talk about how they “*toil on*” for Jesus, sacrificing everything for Him.

In the Dark Ages monasteries were established so that some could escape from the evil world around them. They sacrificed worldly pleasures, clothes, food, conveniences, even relationships, in order to serve God. They ***substituted sacrifice for faith***.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-24

Did Saul obey ***all*** that the Lord commanded him? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he allow to happen? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did he blame for the disobedience? v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

What is better than sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 23, God equates rebellion (*disobeying the clear leadership of the Lord*) with divination (*using mediums to get in contact with the spirit world*). God hates divination—see Deuteronomy 18:10-12. Any time we disobey God’s leadership and replace obedience with some sacrifice, God equates our insubordination with iniquity, idolatry, and divination! ***Pretty serious, isn’t it?***

Of whom was Saul afraid? 1 Samuel 15:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Don’t look for *reason* to give you confidence. You must obey the Lord’s leading because He is God and you are His servant.

## 10. Faith Blocker 7: False Confession

Read Hebrews 4:14.

What are we to hold onto? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We can block faith by what we say; and we can build faith by what we say. You will be tempted to say that what you **see** is truth, when in fact, truth is what God says—not what you see! Remember, faith is the evidence of things **not seen!** Reread Hebrews 11:1.

It is a proven fact that children live up to, or down to, what they hear about themselves. If you continually tell a child that he or she is stupid, the child will believe it to be so, and it will be so!

If you hear from the Lord while reading the Scripture, and you intend to obey the Lord, but you speak the opposite of obedience—you will **not** obey! You cannot act inconsistent with what you speak for very long.

We become what we focus on, and our words focus our minds. If we speak words of assurance, confidence, and faith, we will become full of faith. Our actions will follow our faith-filled words! If we speak doubt, fear, and unbelief, we will fail to obey. We hear from God in our spirit, through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. But if our mind operates in the flesh we will speak contrary to our spirit. This produces anxiety and confusion. Read James 1:6-8 again.

What can a disciple expect from the Lord if his spirit speaks faith but his mind and tongue speak unbelief? \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Faith Blocker 8: Works

While studying the New Testament, Martin Luther had great difficulty with the Book of James. With his absolute adherence to a life of faith he felt that James put too much emphasis on works. In his former church, the Roman Catholic Church, he found that works were demanded to please God, contrary to the Word of God.

However, the relationship between faith and works is quite clear. Works follow faith.

Read James 2:14, 17.

Can a faith that does not have works be saving faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 14:23. If it is not of faith, it is \_\_\_\_\_

It is always a temptation to replace faith with works because works done in the power of the flesh are much easier. The mind, will, and emotions are used to obeying the flesh. It is the disciple's responsibility to choose to obey the Spirit and operate by faith. Do not replace obedience with activities of the flesh.

Giving, singing, preaching, teaching, serving, can all be done as self-righteous works of the flesh rather than faith. They become faith when they are done in the power of the Spirit and in obedience to the Lord.

Read Isaiah 1:10-20. God is tired of works without faith. The Israelites were simply going through the motions of obedience and God was sickened.

According to verse 13, what can God not endure? \_\_\_\_\_

Write down the verbs in verse 16-17.

W \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves

Make yourselves \_\_\_\_\_

Remove the \_\_\_\_\_ of your deeds

\_\_\_\_\_ to do evil

\_\_\_\_\_ to do good

\_\_\_\_\_ justice

\_\_\_\_\_ the ruthless

\_\_\_\_\_ orphan

\_\_\_\_\_ widow

God expects us to operate in faith. If we do not, we must repent!

## 12. Faith Blocker 9: Ignorance

It is impossible to believe what you do not know! Read Romans 10:17.

How does faith come? \_\_\_\_\_

How does hearing come? \_\_\_\_\_

You must know the Word of God to build your faith. In order to put your trust in God you must know Him well. The devil will tear apart your faith by downgrading God's character. Only a solid understanding of the Scriptures will protect you from the evil one's attempts to distort God.

Faith rests on a word from God, which is established by the character of God. His word is no better than His character. You put your faith in the character of God that you know from the Word of God, and your personal experience with Him. Ignorance steals faith before it can get started. Don't be ignorant!

**Memorize** 2 Timothy 2:15.

*Study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Why should you study the Word of God?

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13. Rank the nine blockers. (1) would be the blocker the devil uses most against you; (9) would be used the least.

\_\_\_\_\_ A wrong view of God

\_\_\_\_\_ Fear

\_\_\_\_\_ Feelings

\_\_\_\_\_ Doubt

\_\_\_\_\_ Reason

\_\_\_\_\_ Sacrifice

\_\_\_\_\_ False Confession

\_\_\_\_\_ Works

\_\_\_\_\_ Ignorance

14. What are you believing God for today?

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## *The Outer Anointing of the Holy Spirit*

**Memorize Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

1. We have previously studied the *inner anointing* of the Holy Spirit under the title *The Spirit-Filled Life*. We refer to this filling as an inner anointing because it is the process of the transformation of the believer's character into the character of Christ. As a result the believer will demonstrate the *fruit* of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

2. We must not confuse the gifts of the Spirit as outlined in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 with the fruit of the Spirit.

List the gifts from each set of verses:

*Romans 12:1-8*

*1 Corinthians 12:28*

*Ephesians 4:7-13*

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- According to Romans 12:6, do we all have the same gifts? \_\_\_\_\_
- According to 1 Corinthians 12:4, 11  
Who determines what gifts we have? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does everyone have the same gifts? \_\_\_\_\_
- According to 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Romans 12:4  
What is the purpose of the gifts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- According to Ephesians 4:12  
What is the purpose of the gifts given to the Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Since the Holy Spirit determines what gifts each of us will receive, it would be a mistake to pursue any specific gift as better than the others. However, Paul does say that if you must desire one gift what gift should that be?

1 Corinthians 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Many today pursue tongues as **the** gift to have. There is no biblical support for this being the primary gift. Read 1 Corinthians 12:29-31. Paul asks if all have the following gifts: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, tongues, and interpretation. The obvious answer is “No!” because the Body needs diversity to function properly. While every gift is necessary for the proper performance of the Body, some are more visible than others. Not everyone can be the pastor. Not everyone can be a leader. Not everyone can minister mercy. We are all essential to the well-being of the Body, but not all the same.

**3. The Lust of the Spirit.** There is in the Body today a *lust of the Spirit* that focuses its attention on specific gifts and experiences that give the believer “*spiritual status*” in the Church. This desire to be recognized has at its core the very opposite of God’s purpose for the Spirit in us. It is always God’s purpose to bring glory to Himself. *A spiritual gift is a supernatural empowering of the Spirit that focuses on God and ministers to the needs of others.* The believer is merely a vessel for the Holy Spirit to minister to others. The vessel has no glory of its own and should never attempt to be recognized. We, as believers, are never the focus, just the tool.

In Acts 8:14-24 we find the story of the first man with a lust of the Spirit. What was wrong with his request (v. 20)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The gifts are always given so that God may work for the enlargement and development of the Body of Christ. Read Ephesians 4:13 (NIV).

- What three things should be the result of these gifts?

\_\_\_\_\_ in the faith

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God

become \_\_\_\_\_, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The lust of the Spirit has brought arrogance, self-righteousness, and division to the Body of Christ—the very opposite of God’s intent. On one side of the issue, those with certain gifts have condemned those without them as being “back-slidden and carnal”. Those without certain gifts have assigned those with as “demon-controlled”. The rhetoric is sinful from both camps. Is there no grace in the Body of Christ?

Read Ephesians 4:1-8. What should we make every effort to keep? \_\_\_\_\_

From Ephesians 4:4-5, Paul says that there is **one**:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Unity is only possible when each believer walks in the Spirit and love permeates the relationship. 1 Corinthians 13 is a comprehensive explanation of godly love. *Love is patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices in truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, and never fails.*

Paul places his statement about love ***right in the middle of his discussion of spiritual gifts*** because love is the controlling motive. Without love we are nothing! (see 1 Corinthians 13:2). Like physical lust that distorts true love because of its focus on self-gratification, the lust of the Spirit distorts the motive of love in which we serve the Lord. If your pursuit of God is for self-gratification you have a lust of the Spirit that will go anywhere and pay any price to be satisfied, but without satisfaction. Lust is never satisfied because it is not from God. True satisfaction is found in obedience to Christ in a life of self-giving that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and has as its goal the glory of God, exemplified in a character that is Christ-like, and an anointing that brings people face to face with God.

Many who attempt to get the power of the Spirit with the wrong motives receive something, but not from the Lord. The enemy is a master at forgery and many have “false anointings”. These false anointings bring a hunger for more anointing rather than a life of Spirit power in the service of Christ to others.

Read Acts 1:8.

What will they receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon them? \_\_\_\_\_

What will happen next? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The evidence of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a believer is power to serve!**

Those that say they have this anointing without power to serve have a false anointing. They are lusting after the Spirit for their own edification and blessing. Jesus did not instruct the disciples to wait to feel good—He told them to wait for power so they could serve in His power not their own!

*It is God's desire for you to walk in the Spirit so that your character may be transformed into His character, and that you serve Him in the power of the Spirit so that He may be glorified in and through you.*

- 4. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** There is within the Church today a battle raging over the issue of the Holy Spirit. ***Evangelicals*** believe that there is one baptism for every believer—when the believer is baptized into Christ at conversion. This is done by the Holy Spirit and is never repeated. Water baptism is an outward sign of this event. They do not believe that there is a “second work of grace” whereby the believer is baptized again, this time ***in*** the Holy Spirit rather than ***by*** Him. On the other hand ***Pentecostals*** and ***Neo-Pentecostals*** (Charismatics) believe the Bible teaches that there is definitely a “second work of grace” when the believer receives the anointing of the Holy Spirit which they call the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. Before this second blessing the believer is saved (*though some believe that without this anointing one is not a believer*) but lacks any supernatural power for living and serving. The believer is carnal not spiritual and in need of being Spirit-filled. The Pentecostals equate filling and baptism and see no separation in Scripture, but focus on the power received in the baptism of

the Spirit and spiritual gifts. The Evangelicals see a separation of filling and baptism but have no adequate understanding of Spirit-power in the believer and focus their attention on the fruit of the Spirit.

While many use the events in Acts to support their beliefs, Paul only discusses the baptism of the Holy Spirit in one place, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. The difficulty with the use of Acts as normative for us today is that everything was for the first time in Acts. Since the Holy Spirit had never come before, one would expect that His coming would be unique and eventful. And so it was. In Acts 2 we have an exciting account that has never been duplicated—not even in Acts! One Pentecostal pastor told me they had Acts two every Sunday. I was amazed, until I found out he had no sound of a rushing wind, no tongues of fire, no people hearing their own foreign language spoken, and no significant numbers being saved! It turned out all that was happening was the speaking in ecstatic utterances. That is not Acts 2!!

From *1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV)*

How many believers were *baptized by* one Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

How many believers were *given the one spirit to drink*? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a believer you have been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit and you have been given the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower you.

**5. The place of faith.** When you were saved you placed your faith in the finished work of Christ and received the fulness of Christ. Read Colossians 2:6-10.

How did you receive Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you to walk? (verse 6) \_\_\_\_\_

How much of Him did you receive? (verse 10) \_\_\_\_\_

Everything in the Christian life is by faith. We are saved by faith, walk by faith, and will be glorified by faith. God has chosen to use faith as the catalyst for His moving in our lives and in the world. But what is faith and what does it have to do with anointing? Good question!

Define faith as described in Hebrews 11:1 (use KJV!!)

Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_

And the \_\_\_\_\_

Faith is substance (*having*) and evidence (*the certainty of having*). When we ask believing we already have that which we ask for. See 1 John 5:14-15. *Faith then is the certainty of having what we ask for because God has said we already have it. Faith is the appropriating of what God has already done in us so that it becomes our experience in this life.*

6. By “outer anointing” we mean the special empowering that God gives to accomplish His will through us. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 we see that every believer has been baptized into Christ and has been given the indwelling Spirit to drink. The believer must then appropriate the Spirit’s power or anointing by faith. For most this is a very deep emotional and spiritual experience and there is good reason. Many have come into the Body of Christ without a proper understanding of what has been accomplished *for* them and *in* them through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our evangelism and poor theology has created believers who have never had a “travailing of the soul” whereby they died to their old self and surrendered to the will of God. R. A. Torrey in his book *“The Baptism with the Holy Spirit”* gives several steps to receiving this baptism. One step is *“the total surrender of the will to the will of God”* and another, *“the asking that springs from a real and intense desire for His empowering.”* It is precisely these two steps that are missing in most Christians. There is little dying to self and hunger for powerful service in most Christians today. God must bring about a dying to self that is very traumatic, without which many have received a **deficient second blessing** that makes them feel good, but does not result in **power to serve!** Have you ever wondered why so many speak in tongues after their experience, but few are called to evangelism or suffering like Paul. There is no need for a dying to self when we speak in tongues, especially in a place where it is **the** mark of the anointing. The disciples gave up everything for Christ—our churches are full of self-called *“spirit-filled”* believers who give up nothing and demand everything.

On the other hand, others see no need for anointing, the flesh can do just fine by itself! Many a church has been built on sheer talent and manipulation. The tragedy is that many sheep can’t tell! They just follow the successful—not ever knowing that the Spirit isn’t even there. This group has knowledge without spiritual power, a religion Paul describes in 2 Timothy 3:5 *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*

*Let’s summarize where we are:*

- The fruit of the Spirit is the result of an inner anointing of the Spirit and is the character of Christ in us.
- The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural workings of the Spirit through the Christian to others for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into Christ at salvation.
- The Holy Spirit enters the believer at salvation.
- Many believers experience a *“second work of grace”* that is a very deep spiritual and emotional experience and their lives are marked by spiritual power.

If you are not experiencing a supernatural empowering of the Spirit where His gifts are operating in a power beyond your own, you are living beneath your calling and God wants you to rise up now!

## 7. Steps to Appropriating the Outer Anointing

1. **Believe what God has said and promised.** He has promised the Holy Spirit's empowering for every believer, including you. It is His desire to anoint you with the Holy Spirit so that you can be a useful servant.
2. **Repent of any known sin.** Ask the Lord to show you any sin hindering His working you and claim 1 John 1:9.
3. **Surrender your will to His.** God will not empower our old self. It must be considered crucified with Christ with all of its desires. There must be a surrender of the will to the will of God. If He determines to give you a small place of service you must be willing to obey. If He desires a great place of service, you must be willing to serve there as well. Some would rather be in a small place! But it is God who determines our calling and gifts.
4. **Ask God to give you His anointing for service.** There must come a time of surrender and asking. The Bible says, "*Ye have not, because ye ask not*".
5. **Claim by faith that He has given you His empowering.** Faith is the key. Rest on His promises, not your feelings. Claim your anointing and begin walking in it.
6. **Look for a place to serve.** Remember outer anointing is for service.
7. **If you need help** just ask your leader or the Pastor to minister to you. Sometimes believers need spiritual insights from others. Don't be afraid to ask.
8. **This anointing is not a one-time event.** Many Christians are in need of *fresh anointings*. For some it is because of sin in their lives; others have a new calling and need a new work of empowering for service. There are even times when you need extra power for a situation—ask God for more anointing.

*God bless you as you walk in the empowering of the Spirit.*

## *The Exchanged Life*

**Memorize Galatians 2:20**, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

1. Read Romans 6, 7, 8 for a theological foundation for this lesson and answer the following questions found in the verses listed:

Romans 6:6: what was crucified with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:7: who is freed from sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:11: what are we to consider ourselves **dead** to? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:11: what are we to consider ourselves **alive** to? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:13: to whom are we to present ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:14: what does Paul say that sin should not be able to do?

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There are specific results to this **co-crucifixion** with Christ:

- our old self is dead (verse 6)
- sin does not reign over us (verse 14)
- since we are believers we have a choice now to submit ourselves to Christ.

2. **Our old self is dead.** The old self is the fleshly nature that is us, prior to the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. At every instance we were sinners. There was nothing in us to warrant salvation except that God chose to save us!

Do not misunderstand salvation. God did not revitalize our old self. He did not reshape it—He killed it! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!*

How can our old man be dead and we still sin? That is a matter of faith. God has **declared** that we have been crucified with Christ. By faith we believe it to be so!

In Romans 6:11 Paul tells us to count (consider) ourselves to be dead to sin. Only dead people cannot be controlled by sin! That is exactly the point of Paul's discussion. We must consider ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God.

3. **Sin does not reign over us.** From the death of the old self it follows that sin should not be able to reign over us. Remember, **dead men do not sin!**

By *reign over us* I mean that the believer does not **have** to sin any more. A non-Christian sins always because his nature is to sin and sin taints even his good deeds. The believer's new nature is always pleasing to God and therefore sinless. That is why God calls us *righteous, holy, pure, etc.* It is that He sees the old self dead and the new self alive. What do you see?



4. **We have a choice.** God has freed us from the bondage of sin and the devil so that we are truly free to choose to serve God!

Read Romans 6:13. Does he not say that we are to present ourselves to God in order to produce righteousness? But how do you present yourself?

5. **The process of choosing**

• **Choose to believe what God says about our old self.** God has stated that the old self has been crucified already with Christ. Reread Galatians 2:20 (it's in the box on the first page!). Note the tense of the verb. It *does not* say that we *will be* crucified. It says that we *have already been crucified*. Now, is God playing a game with us, or is He just lying? No! He means what He says. We are dead. Now believe it!

Read Colossians 2:6.

How are we to walk as Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

We walk by faith... faith in what God has said is true. We will be tempted to walk by what we see to be true. We see ourselves as: sinners, failures, weak, poor, etc. But God does not! Believe what God says.

• **Choose to believe that the new self is in control.** The new self is under the direct control of the Holy Spirit; that's is why the new man cannot sin! Paul says that to whatever we choose to present ourselves, to that we will be slaves. If we choose to be slaves to our old nature—we will sin. If we choose to be slaves to our new nature, righteousness will come out.

• **We are to trust God to live through us.** Reread Galatians 2:20. It is not *I* who lives, but *Christ*. He lives!

Read Colossians 3:4. Who is our life? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Philippians 1:21.

To Paul living here meant who would be living? \_\_\_\_\_

It is Christ who lives through our new man.

6. **The conflict.** Read Romans 7. Here we find the conflict of the Christian life. What we want to do, we do not do. What we do not want to do, we do! Absolute frustration. Have you experienced it yet? In this state the believer is trying desperately to be what he should be. And cannot do it!

Read Romans 7:20.

What does Paul say that dwells in him? \_\_\_\_\_

This indwelling sin is that old nature that *must* sin!

- It's control is present because we are still in the flesh!
- Our minds, emotions, and will are all conditioned by it.
- It has been crucified, but it still rules what it is *allowed* to rule. It is much like a thought that resides in our memory. While the event of past hurt has passed, the pain still remains, so that when we hear the name of the one who injured us, we recall the pain, and we act consistent with the memory of pain. Have you ever been shocked by an electrical current? Most people never want to do that again. You remember, and it controls your future actions.

In the same way, our old nature has controlled us. We are conditioned to specific actions and reactions that are sinful. To us, this conditioning is who we are! Our old nature has defined us and controlled us. We are familiar with how the old nature acts and reacts. When we are saved, the power the old self has to control us is crucified. We now are free to choose to live under the control of the new self.

**7. Frustration must come.** There can be no freedom until you are tired of the struggle. Read Romans 7:24-25.

What does Paul call himself? \_\_\_\_\_

What does he want done? \_\_\_\_\_

Who alone can do it? \_\_\_\_\_

Unless you are desperate for God to set you free—you will remain in bondage to sin.

• ***The biggest enemy to living by faith is trying!*** When the flesh tries to remake itself, renew itself, act better, *however you want to say it*, it keeps us from faith. You must come to the end of your self where you throw up your hands and say with Paul, ***I quit! I cannot do it. I need to be free of this!***

**8. Freedom at last!**

Read Romans 8:1: *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made me free** from the law of sin and death.*

What does Paul say about the believer in these two verses?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 8:6.

What is the mind set on the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the mind set on the spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 8:26-39 and write down what God says about you:

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9. There must come a time of surrender, when you quit trying and start trusting. For some this is very traumatic. Have you come to this place of absolute frustration?
- Ask God to *forgive* you for trying to be a Christian.
  - Ask God to *fill* you with the Holy Spirit.
  - Tell Him you want to *live* by faith.
  - Tell Him you want to *exchange* His life for yours.
  - Tell Him you *choose* to let Him live through you.
  - *Practice* this daily dying every day.