

Standing On The Word

with Pastor Jacquie

Lesson Four: Christian Character

June 28, 2026

LESSON IV

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

OBJECTIVE:

To become acquainted with the Holy Spirit and to understand His mission.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16, 26)

Peter believed the Holy Spirit to be God (Acts 5:3,4).

Jesus called the Holy Spirit Comforter and Helper in John 14:16,17.

From John we know that the Holy Spirit is a person rather than an impersonal force or power. John uses a personal pronoun, "He," when referring to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, know that the Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a "something". The Holy Spirit is a "He". The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

He is equal in every way with the Father and with the Son. All of the divine attributes (distinctions of personality) are ascribed to the Holy Spirit:

Intellect — I Corinthians 2:11–12

Will — I Corinthians 12:11

Emotion — Romans 15:30 and Ephesians 4:30

(Love and grief are terms associated with emotions.)

The Bible portrays the Holy Spirit as One having all characteristics of personality. It makes sense, then, for us to think of Him as a person. The Holy Spirit indwells the Christian as a companion and friend. He also "energizes," "strengthens," and "empowers" the believer in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is called:

Spirit of God — I Corinthians 3:16

Spirit of Christ — Romans 8:9

Spirit of Life — Romans 8:2

Spirit of Truth — John 16:13

Spirit of Grace — Hebrews 10:29

Spirit of Promise — Ephesians 1:13

II. WHY DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME?

When we received Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live in us (I Corinthians 3:16). He also came to:

John 3:5 _____

John 16:13 _____

John 16:14 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

The Holy Spirit endeavors to accomplish several tasks daily as He lives within us. The Holy Spirit does:

John 16:8–11 _____

John 16:12–15 _____

John 14:26 _____

Romans 8:16 _____

Romans 8:26 _____

Acts 20:22 _____

Acts 20:23 _____

John 16:13 _____

Acts 13:2 _____

Romans 8:14 _____

When God looks at the Christian, He sees the Holy Spirit living within. The presence of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual reminder of God's promise to finish what He has begun in us and as long as we belong to the Father, the Holy Spirit will be there, living in us, signifying His ownership. When He moved in, He moved in to stay. He is not going anywhere!

THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

OBJECTIVE:

To show the difference between our new life in Christ and the old life and how the indwelling life of Christ, not our own efforts, is the key to the Christian life.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life begins with spiritual birth (John 3:6) through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). The Christian life is a personal, daily relationship between the believer and Christ. This life is lived by faith. Faith is trust. We trust our lives to Christ's keeping because He has proven Himself trustworthy by His life, His death, His resurrection and His abiding presence.

God has chosen us to be Christ's representatives on earth. In light of this truth, Paul challenges us in Ephesians 4:1,2 to live worthy of the name "Christian," meaning Christ's one. This includes being humble, gentle, patient, understanding, and peaceful. People are watching your life. Can they see Christ in you? How well are you doing as His representative?

A NEW CREATION

People should be able to see a difference between Christians and non-Christians because of the way Christians live. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 4:17–24 to leave behind the old life of sin now that we are followers of Christ. Know, however, that the Christian life is a process. Although we have a new nature, we don't automatically have all good thoughts and attitudes when we become new people in Christ. But, as followers of

Christ, we must be committed to the truth. This means both that our words will be honest and that our actions will reflect Christ's integrity (Ephesians 4:15).

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Living truly or Holy" is not always easy, convenient, or pleasant; but it is necessary. The Christian life is more than difficult; it is humanly impossible. Jesus Christ alone can live it. It is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives that transforms our lives. Know, however, that when the Holy Spirit moves in, our human spirits stay. We then go through the process of allowing our human spirits to decline while the Holy Spirit increases His influence and control over us.

When the Holy Spirit moves in, there is a war that goes on inside of us. Paul spoke about that in Romans 7 when he said, "the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish" (Romans 7:19). We all experience this. In Galatians 5:17 he describes the two forces at work within us—the Holy Spirit and our evil inclinations. Paul is not saying that these forces are equal. The Holy Spirit is infinitely stronger, but we are weak. Left to our sin, we will make wrong choices. Our only way to freedom from our natural evil desires is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 4:23,24; Colossians 3:3–8).

As we journey through this life, we are to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16), bear the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22–25), "set our minds on the Spirit" (Acts 18:25), "not quench the Spirit" (I Thessalonians 5:19), "not grieve the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 4:30), and be filled with the character of the Holy God and to be controlled in our actions and reactions by that character.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

Paul in Colossians 2:6–4:6 says Christians must:

Walk as when received Christ (2:6)

Be rooted in Christ (2:7)

Be built up in Christ (2:7)

Be established in the faith (2:7)

Abound in the faith (2:7)

Be joyful in the faith (2:7)

Beware of deception (2:4, 8, 18–19)

Live dead to the world and all its sinful ways (2:20–23)

Seek things above (3:1)

Seek things above (3:1)

Mortify, put to death, members on earth (3:5). Become dead to:

fornication

uncleanness

inordinate affection

evil concupiscence (evil desires)

covetousness which is idolatry

Put off the old man (3:8):

anger

wrath

malice

blasphemy

filthy communication out of your mouth

Lie not one to another (3:9)

Put on the new man (3:10-12)

Bowels of mercies

Kindness

Humbleness of mind

Meekness

Long-suffering

Forbear one another (3:13)

Forgive one another (3:13)

Put on divine love (3:14)

Let God's peace rule (3:15)

Be thankful (3:16)

Let God's word dwell in you (3:16)

Teach, admonish one another (3:16)

Sing with grace (3:16)

Do all things in Jesus' name (3:17)

Give thanks to God (3:17)

Continue in prayer (4:2)

Watch with thanksgiving (4:2)

Walk in wisdom (4:5)

Redeem the time (4:5)

Speak with seasoned grace (4:6)

RESULTS OF LIVING THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

When Christ is at the center of your life, the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in and through you. The fruit of the Spirit is not something you manufacture by determination or self-effort. Rather, it is the natural result of yielding your life to the control of the Holy Spirit.

As you walk daily with Christ, your attitudes, actions, and relationships begin to reflect His character. The Holy Spirit works within you to make you more like Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth is a lifelong process that requires obedience, faith, and dependence upon God.

As you continue to grow in Christ, you will:

Experience increasing victory over sin.

Develop Christlike attitudes.

Grow in love for God and for others.

Desire to obey God's Word.

Become more effective in Christian service.

Experience God's peace and joy regardless of circumstances.

Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in daily living (Galatians 5:22–23).

The Christ-centered life is not a perfect life, but it is a life of continual growth, confession, forgiveness, and dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUICK REVIEW

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Name three things the Holy Spirit does in the life of a believer.

What does it mean to be Christ-centered?

According to Colossians, list several things believers are instructed to do as they grow in Christ.

What are some results of living a Christ-centered life?

What is the fruit of the Spirit?

What are the works of the flesh?