

**Module 3 Section 2 – Growing Your Relationship With God**  
**Presentation Outline – Part 1 - 2**  
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**Part 1: Growing in the Word**

- Studying Scripture and applying it to our lives -
  - Nurtures our spiritual growth and brings us closer to God
  - Deepens our faith
  - Helps us to know Him more intimately and spread positivity to those around us
  - Psalm 1:1-3; John 15:4; Matt 13:31-32; Jeremiah 17:7-10

**The Importance of Growing in the Word**

- The Scripture is the ultimate resource to help us grow and thrive in our spiritual lives (2 Timothy 3:16)
- We need the word to live as God intends us to (2 Chro 17:7-9, 34:31, Psalm 119:19)
- Just like plants need water to grow, our hearts need the word of God to live (Matthew 4:4)
- As we grow in God's word, we see the fruit of good deeds manifesting in our lives (Colossians 1:9-10; Phil 1:6; 2 Pet 3:18)
- Our growth in God's word is a lifelong journey, not a one-off time, and we rely on the daily strength of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)
- We need the word of God
  - For daily needs of favour, direction, healing, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, grace, peace, light, deliverance, and breakthrough (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 6:11)
  - To give us wisdom to navigate life's journey (Psalm 119:97-104)
  - To help us see our ways clearly enough to stay on the right path (Psalm 119:105)

**The Word**

Exist in two main forms -

- The Written Word – The Bible (Timothy 3:16-17)
- The Living Word – Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14, Revelation 19:11-13)

## The Written Word - The Bible

- God's written word that leads us to Christ, the Living Word of God. Several authors wrote the bible, but the real author is the Holy Spirit

## Benefits of studying the Bible

- Finding comfort and peace in the eternal truths and guidance (Isa 26:3; Ps 29:11; 1 Pet 5:7; Rom 16:20; Ps119:165; Matt 11:28; John 16:33)
- Gain clarity and direction in making decisions (Prov 3:5-6; Ps 25:4-5; Ps 25:9-10; James 1:5-6)
- Develop inner strength and resilience (Eph 3:16-19; Ps 68:28; Ps 59:16-17; Deu 31:6; Isa 40:31; Jer 16:19-21)
- Nurture a sense of community and connection by sharing the wisdom and teachings of the Bible with others. (1 Corin 12:25-27; Eph 4:2-6; Gal 6:2; 1 John 1:5-7; James 5:13-16)
- Experience spiritual growth and fulfilment by incorporating the values and beliefs of the Bible into your daily life. (2Pet 3:17-18; Phil 1:3-6)
- Build a strong foundation of faith and trust in God by immersing yourself in the scriptures
- Find hope and encouragement in difficult times by turning to the timeless wisdom of the Bible

## What is the difference between Reading and Studying?

- Reading and Studying
  - Both are related activities but involve different levels of engagement and purpose
  - Reading involves looking at and understanding written words for enjoyment or for information. It is a passive activity focused on absorbing information at a surface level
  - Studying involves actively engaging with the material through reading, analysing, and applying knowledge in different contexts, such as discussing, problem-solving, and research.

## How to Study Effectively

- Always approach with the right attitude.
  - Be willing to learn, be open to receive and be ready to obey
- Be consistent.

- Find a consistent time and place for studying
- Let your study time become a habit, an agreement between you and God
- Keep a record
  - Write down what the Lord reveals to you during your studies
  - Look for insight, command or promise
- Augment your study with prayer
  - Pray before, during and after
  - Asking the Holy Spirit to help you and receiving God's help to obey and apply His word

### Methods of studying the Bible

- Deut 30:14, 2 Tim 2:15, Prov 16:16
- There are various Bible study methods, but no method is exclusive
- Best to use two or more versions of the Bible when studying to better understand the language used
- In all the methods, seek revelation of what God is saying to you personally

### Daily Devotional

- The building block for other methods

### Word Study

- Studying keywords that pertain to life – Love, Discipline, Marriage, Forgiveness
  - Check the meaning in the dictionary
  - Check the concordance for passages in which it occurs in the bible
  - Compare different versions of the Bible
  - Compare the use of the word in different bible versions and verses
  - Meditate on the verses for divine revelation

### Topical Study

- Finding out what the bible says about a given subject, such as healing, salvation
- Think of similar words or ideas to check in a concordance
- Compare with other verses using keywords
- Be sure you have considered the idea from all angles
- Do not let reference sources on topics displace personal study

### Character study

- Studying the lives of bible personalities
- What was unique about them
- Their strengths and weaknesses
- What can you learn from their lives

### Book Study – Study a whole book of the bible

- Read the book through more than once, seeking the big picture
- Read two or three versions of the bible
- Write down the central ideas as you read through
- Determine the central truth or theme
- Identify key verses which express the main idea
- How does it apply to me today

### Meditating on the Word

- Meditation involves thinking in the presence of God and applying His truths to our lives
- It is about deeply internalising God’s word and allowing Him to speak to us

### How to Develop Your Knowledge of the Word

- Hearing (Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 2:2)
  - Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides insight into others’ study of the Scriptures and stimulates your appetite for the Word
- Reading (Revelation 1:3)
  - Reading the Bible gives an overall picture of God’s Word
- Studying (Acts 17:11)
  - Studying the Scriptures leads to personal discoveries of God’s truths
- Memorising (Psalm 119:9,11)
  - Memorising God’s Word enables the use of the Sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations...to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a “word in season”
- Meditating (Psalm 1:2-3; Joshua 1:8)

- Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, for it is used in conjunction with the other methods. Only as you meditate on God's Word, thinking of its meaning and application in your life, will you discover its transforming power at work within you

### Interpretation of the Word

Interpreting is explaining the meaning of something in understandable terms

*What is God saying through the pen of the writer?*

1. What is the meaning of this word?
  - Is your understanding of it the same as the Biblical meaning?
  - Another synonym you can think of
  - Remember that there are three approaches to word meaning:
    - the ordinary use (how is it defined in a dictionary?)
    - the contextual use (how is it used?)
    - the comparative use (how is it used elsewhere in Scripture?)
2. Why is this statement or action included in Scripture?
  - What does it add to our understanding?
  - Is anything implied without being expressed?
3. What is the relationship of this statement to the context?
  - What is the cause and effect?
  - What is the progression of thought?
  - What is the explanation within the flow itself?
4. Have you visualised the situation in your mind?
  - What is the situation here?
  - What are the people like?
5. Have you tried to screen out any bias on your part?
  - Are you importing something that is not there into the verse?
  - Have you been fair to the spirit as well as the letter?
  - Are you eliminating something applicable without justification?
  - Are you prayerfully listening to God, open to revising your thinking?

### Searching and Preparing the Word

- Bible study must be carried on in full dependence on the Holy Spirit. He is our teacher, and we should constantly seek His guidance (John 14:26; John 16:13)
  - Pray for guidance and understanding of your study technique and where to start from
  - Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you
  - Read the passage or chapter attentively, paying close attention to the context and message
  - Reflect on the meaning and teachings of the scriptures, considering how it applies to your own life
  - Look up any unfamiliar words or phrases
  - Use a concordance or online search tool to find relevant passages
  - Look up specific verses or chapters related to the topic
  - Compare different translations of the same passage for a deeper understanding
  - Use cross-references to explore related themes or verses.
  - Seek guidance from a knowledgeable pastor, mentor, or study group if needed

### **The Living Word – Jesus Christ**

***Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through***

***Him (John 14:6)***

***Jesus is the Living Embodiment of the Scripture.***

***Both Human and Divine***

- Jesus is the Living Word - eternal, powerful, personal, and present.
  - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (*John 1:1*)
  - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (*John 1:14*)
- Jesus is not merely a messenger; He is the message. He is God’s mind, God’s heart, God’s will expressed in human form
  - “In these last days, God has spoken to us by His Son, the exact representation of His being.” (*Heb 1:1-3*)
- In Jesus, the invisible God becomes visible. The eternal Word becomes touchable, knowable, and relational.

- You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me. The Scriptures... testify of Jesus.' (John 5:39)

God's desire as we grow in our relationship with Him is to conform to  
the image of His Son, Jesus

*Genesis 1:26*

*Romans 8:29*

*Colossians 1:27*

### Significance of the names of Jesus to us

- Son of Man - Emphasises His humanity (*John 5:27*)
- Bread of Life - He is the only source of eternal life (*John 6:35*)
- Light of the World - He is the answer to our need for spiritual truth (*John 8:12*)
- Gate for the Sheep - He is the only way into God's Kingdom (*John 10:7,9*)
- Good Shepherd - His love and guidance for us (*John 10:11*)
- The Resurrection and the Life - The source of our lives, and has power over death (*John 11:25*)
- The Way, the Truth and the Life – Summarised His purpose in coming to earth (*John 14:6*)
- The True Vine - In Him we depend. Just as branches gain life from the vine and cannot live apart from it, we are completely dependent on Christ for spiritual life (*John 15:1*)

### Character of Jesus Christ

- The Love of Jesus
  - Relieving the Weary (Matt 11:28-30)
  - Feeding the Hungry (Matt 15:32)
  - Healing the sick (Lk 5:12-15; 17:11-19; Lk 5:16-26, Matt 8:5-13; Matt 9:27-31; Lk 8:43-48)
  - Freeing the demon-possessed from demonic power (Luke 4: 41; 8: 26-39; Mark 9: 17-29;
  - Matthew 8: 16, 28-34; 9: 32-33; 12: 22-23)
- The Compassion of Jesus
  - Lamenting over the impending destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 19: 41-44)
  - Raising the widow's son from the dead (Lk 7:12-15)

- Raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:33-35)
- Jesus the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 27-28; Lk 15:4-7; Ps 23:1-4)
- The Holiness of Jesus (John 8:46; 1 Pet 2:22-23; 1John 3:5; 1 Pet 1:18a,19)
- The Humility of Jesus (Matt 11:29-30; John 12:14-15; John 13:5, 12-15)
- The peaceful and non-violent nature of Jesus (Matt 26:51-54, John 6:15, Matt 12:19; Isaiah 53:9b)
- The authority of Jesus Christ
  - Authority to heal the sick (Lk 7:1-10; Lk 8:43-44)
  - Authority over demonic powers (Lk 8:33; Mk 5:1-20)
  - Authority to forgive sins (Lk 5:20-25; 7:36-50; Matt 5:20, 22, 28,32)
  - Authority over human life (Lk 8:41-42, 7: 12-15; John 11:1-44)
  - Authority of creation (Lk 9:11-17; Matt 15:32-39, John 9:11-17)
  - Authority over nature (Matt 8:23-27; Mk 4:36-41; Lk 8:22-25; Mk 6:45-52)

*Growth in the Written Word and the Living Word is not a one-time event but a lifelong journey. The Scriptures anchor us, shape us, and train our hearts to recognise the voice of Jesus. And as we walk with the Living Word Himself, He breathes life into every page we read, turning knowledge into transformation and truth into intimacy*

## **Part 2: Growing your relationship with The Holy Spirit**

### Who Is The Holy Spirit?

- God's active presence in the world and in believers' lives
- The third person of the Triune God
- Coequal and coeternal part of one God, distinct but inseparable from God, the Father, and God, the Son
- *Matt 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

### What does He do?

- He empowers believers as witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8)
- Guides, comforts, and teaches (John 14:26)
- Gives spiritual gifts (Gal 5:22-23)
- Convict people of sin, and lead them into truth, and righteousness (John 16:8)
- The Holy Spirit is central to Spiritual rebirth (regeneration) (Titus 3:5)

## Growing our relationship with the Holy Spirit

Growing your relationship with the Holy Spirit is about understanding His desire for fellowship, treating others well, maintaining a pure heart, and following His guidance. It's not about strict religious practices, but about your heart's state and your daily walk in faith and humility.

- Our relationship with Jesus is the foundation of the Holy Spirit's relationship with us. (JESUS DOES NOT JUST COVER SIN, BUT REMOVES IT, AND GIVES US A HELPER TO STRENGTHEN US)
- Through the cross, we became the temple for the Holy Spirit to live (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)
- The Holy Spirit has His headquarter in Jesus
- If Jesus is not the centre of our lives, we cannot have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. His relationship with us is based on our relationship with Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit is to us what Jesus was to the disciples. He wants to fellowship with us as Jesus did with His disciples
- Without the cross of Jesus, there is no relationship with the Holy Spirit (*1 Corin 1:30; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 1:29, 32-33; John 7:39*)

'Without the Lamb [Jesus], there would be no Dove.  
Without sacrifice, there would be no need for fire.  
Without the cross, there would be no Pentecost.'  
[EMPOWERMENT BY THE SPIRIT]

## Character of The Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit is a Person
  - He has a mind (*Romans 8:27*)
  - He has a will (*Acts 16:6-7*)
  - He has emotions (*Ephesians 4:30*)
  - He has a body (*1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Cor 6:19-20*)

## His Mission

- His mission is to glorify Jesus
  - The Holy Spirit is with us to bring us to Christ. Mercy takes away what I deserve. Grace gives me what I don't deserve (*John 14:16*)

- The Holy Spirit is in us to make us more like Christ (John 14:16, John 20:22)
- The Holy Spirit is upon us to empower us to continue the work of Christ (Acts 1:8)

### Names of The Holy Spirit

- Old Testament (Hebrew)
  - His Holy Spirit (Isa 63:10) – talking about God
  - Your Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11) – talking about God
  - Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2)
  - The Breath of the Spirit of Life (Genesis 7:22)
  - Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Isaiah 11:2)
  - Spirit of Counsel and Might (Isaiah 11:2)
- New Testament (Greek)
  - Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18)
  - Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28)
  - The Comforter (John 14:26; John 16:7)
  - Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)
  - Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11)

### Communion of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit wants to have communion with us because we are made anew in Christ Jesus (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)
- The communion of the Holy Spirit is based on your relationship with love, which is based on your relationship with grace
  - Grace and love, then communion of the Holy Spirit
- Communion of the Holy Spirit and not with the Holy Spirit.

(Of - Deep, intimate fellowship, partnership, and sharing life with the Holy Spirit, involving unity, guidance, empowerment, and a common experience of God's presence)

*(2 Corinthians 13:14)*

### Conviction of the Holy Spirit

- He convicts the world of sin (John 16:7-8)
- He convicts us of who we are in Christ, not what we do not do

- He convicts us of righteousness so that we will live out the righteousness Christ has freely given us
- He convicts us that Satan has already been judged

### How we grieve the Holy Spirit

- Ephesians 4:30
- The Holy Spirit is hurt by what our hearts are filled with (Genesis 6:3, 5-6; John 13:2)
- The Holy Spirit is quenched when we restrict His power (1 Thessalonians 5:19-20)
- The Holy Spirit is blasphemed when we credit demons for miracles (Matthew 12:31-32)
- Mark 3:29-30; Luke 12:10; 1 Timothy 1:13; Isaiah 63:10)

### Role of the Holy Spirit in our lives

- The Holy Spirit is our helper, who teaches and reminds us of all things (John 14:26; 16:17)
  - He provides wise counsel to Christ followers. He is our helper, advocate, and counsellor.
  - He plays a powerful role in bringing us back to Christ
- The Holy Spirit dwells in believers and fills us (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)
- He is a source of revelation, wisdom and power (1 Corinthians 2:10-11, Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:17-20)
  - He opens believers' eyes to the hope of salvation (Roman 5:3-5)
  - Plays a vital role in guiding and helping Christians make the right decisions and resist temptation
  - Assists in interpreting Scripture and making it relevant to our lives
- He guides us to all truth and knowledge of what is to come (John 16:13-15)
- The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- He is a seal in the lives of believers (Ephes 1:13)
  - The Holy Spirit is our mark of adoption as God's children
- He helps us with our weakness and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27)
  - He aligns us with God's will by interceding for us
  - He intercedes for us during prayer, helping us develop an intimate relationship with God
- He makes believers new and grants us eternal life (Romans 8:10-11)
  - Works in the lives of believers to renew, sanctify, and make us holy.

- He sanctifies and enables good fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:16-21, 22-25)

### How to grow in your friendship with the Holy Spirit

1. Seek the Holy Spirit as a person, not as power (John 16:7)
  - He is not someone you use; He is someone you know. Seek a deeper relationship with Him
2. Know that He desires a relationship
  - He desires a relationship more than we do (John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. Feed yourself on the Holy Scripture (2 Tim 3:16)
  - The Holy Spirit moved on holy men as they wrote the Scripture. If we want to know Him more, we need to feed on the Scripture
4. Communicate with the Holy Spirit (Prov 20:27)
  - Man's spirit is God's contact point, through which He illumines man and shows him his true nature
  - Talk to the Holy Spirit every day. God searches our hearts and knows us.
5. Keep a soft heart toward God (Matt 5:8; Psalm 51:10-11)
  - Purity of heart is key to seeing God
  - Our heart must be sensitive, pure and respond to God and His goodness
6. Don't take yourself too seriously (Eccles 7:16-17)
  - Many times, when we take ourselves too seriously, we stop taking God seriously because our vision becomes clouded by us
7. Treat people well (Ephesians 4:30)
  - We must be tender-hearted and forgiving to people. How we treat people affects our intimacy with the Holy Spirit
8. Repent quickly (1 John 1:9)
  - We must learn to close the gap between our sins and our repentance
9. Walk in the revelation He gives you (1 John 1:7)
  - Walking in the light means walking in the truth of His word and the truth that He is highlighting to you.
10. Live a life of gratitude and fellowship (Phil 2:14)
  - Replace your grumbling with gratitude, and fighting with fellowship

### Fruit of the Spirit vs The Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit works in the lives of True Disciples in two primary ways:

1. Transforming their character to be more like Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27)
2. Empowering them for service and witness in the world (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

These two dimensions are expressed through the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit. Though different, they are both essential for a healthy Christian life and a strong church

### The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit refers to the Christlike character the Holy Spirit develops within believers. The fruit is not produced by human effort or willpower, but a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit as disciples abide or remain in Jesus (*John 15:4-5*)

### Key Scriptures

- Galatians 5:22–23 — Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

### Purpose of the Fruit

- To shape the believer's character
- To reflect Christ's nature- love (1John 4:16), patient (2Peter 3:9), faithful (Lamentation 3:22-23)
- To demonstrate spiritual maturity
- To influence how we live, behave, and relate to others

### Characteristics of the Fruit

- Grows gradually (John 15:4-5)
- Required of every believer
- Reveals spiritual maturity (Matthew 7:16–20)
- Internal transformation (Romans 12:2)
- Feeds others

### The Gifts of the Spirit

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by the Holy Spirit to empower believers for **ministry and service**.

### Key Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation
- Romans 12:6-8: teaching, giving, leadership, mercy, encouragement

- Ephesians 4:11–12: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

### Purpose of the Gifts

- To build up the Church (Ephesians 4:12)
- To serve the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- To empower believers for ministry and mission (Ephesians 4:11-12)

### Characteristics of the Gifts

- Given by the Holy Spirit individually as He chooses/wills (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Distributed differently by the same Holy Spirit among believers
- Not indicators of maturity (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
- Enable service, not character
- The Spirit distributes these gifts as He wills

### Fruit of the Spirit vs. Gifts of the Spirit comparison table

<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Gifts</u>
About character	About ability
Grows over time	Given instantly
For every believer	Distributed as the Spirit wills
Evidence of maturity	Not proof of maturity
Reflects Christlikeness	Empowers ministry
Internal transformation, about attitude	External service, about action

### Why Both Matter

Paul emphasises that gifts without fruit are empty. 1 Corinthians 13:1–3, teaches that even Spiritual gifts - prophecy, tongues, miracle - mean nothing without love, the first fruit of the Spirit.

### Summary Statement

The fruit of the Spirit shapes who you are.  
 The gifts of the Spirit empower what you do.  
 A mature believer grows in both

## Fruit of the Spirit



Gal 5:22-23

2 Pet 1:5-7

1 Tim 6:11

## The gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)



- 9 Fruit of the Holy Spirit and 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- We need both character and anointing
- It's a fruit of the Holy Spirit, not fruits of the Holy Spirit
- It's a fruit of the Holy Spirit, not a work of the flesh
- Fruit grows slowly
- The fruit is an attitude, not an action
- Fruit feeds others