

God of the Church, we pray you would let your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love, so that we might reflect your grace and holiness to the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In this lesson, we'll be looking at how God's Spirit is active in the life of believers and how it empowers believers to live out the faith.

Day 1 Read Galatians 5:16-21

1. Paul describes what a life freed by the gospel and lived in the Spirit looks like. He'll first describe what it doesn't look like.
 - a. What does Paul call these works.

 - b. What does he mean by calling them that?

2. We are always very quick to point out the items in Paul's list that have to do with sex (It's like we can't stop thinking of it at times). But look at the WHOLE list . . . what is the real problem that is caused by all of these things?

Day 2 Read Galatians 5:22-26

3. So, what does life free in the gospel look like according to Paul in these verses? What does he call this?
 - 4a. What is the fruit of the Spirit according to Paul?

 - b. What do all these works have in common

 - c. How does verse 26 affirm that that is what the fruit of the Spirit is all about?

5. To "keep in step" with the Spirit (v. 25) is a bit more precise verb than to "live by" the Spirit (v. 16). To "keep in step with the Spirit" means to march in rank and file with the Spirit as our leader. In doing so, we do what the Spirit does as patterned by Christ Jesus Himself. How does keeping in step with the Spirit benefit the believer himself as well as the entire Christian congregation?

Day 3 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- 6a. Before they became Christians, the Corinthians thought pagan idols were their lords (v. 2). But now they called Jesus Lord. What does verse 3 say about the role of the Holy Spirit regarding your own faith in Jesus?

b. Paul now takes up another subject that he apparently had been asked about, that of spiritual gifts. A simple definition of a spiritual gift is “an ability given by the Spirit that enables a Christian to serve the Lord and the needs of others in the Church.” Summarize Paul’s main point in verses 4-6.

7. Notice in verses 4-6 the repeated juxtaposition of the terms “varieties” and “same” in referring to Spiritual Gifts. What message do you think Paul was trying to give by repeating those particular words? In other words, even before he says what the gifts are what is he trying to say about them and those who possess them?

Day 4 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

8. To what behaviors does Paul point as he demonstrates that the human body is a unit?

9. The human body feels and acts as a unit. By what actions does the Body of Christ demonstrate that it, too, is a unit?

10. Within the Church, the Holy Spirit distributes gifts that are needed by the Church as a whole (vv. 28-30). Some of these gifts, and the offices in which they are used, are honored by people more than others. How might what Paul has said about our interrelatedness in Christ’s body create feelings of pride or resentment?

Day 5 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:7

11. Verses 4-7 define love by how it acts. Compare the love Paul describes with the way love is generally presented in our own culture today.

12. Our culture tends to view love as an emotion over which we have little control. Compare this view with Paul’s description of Christ-like love in 1 Corinthians 13. Then comment on this statement: “Love is an act of the will by which I, through the power of the Spirit, determine that I will treat others with kindness and care.”

Day 6 – Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

13. “Faith, hope, and love abide,” Paul says. These three are often spoken about together or in different combinations. Note how 1 Thessalonians 1:3 speaks of the effect of each of these in the Christian life.

a. Why is each effect the logical consequence of each gift?

b. Why is love the greatest of the three (v. 13)?