

PREPARING TO SERVE

Acts 2:38 teaches that when a repentant person is baptised into Christ, he receives the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who does the work of conversion on the individual as he responds in faith to the instruction of the Word of God. **Titus 3:5** says, *“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”*



During Conversion the Spirit performs the work of regeneration upon the heart of the believer (John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Col. 2:12; Rom 6:3-4).

After Conversion the Holy Spirit indwells the life of the Christian to give power to live a faithful and moral life (John 7:38; 1 Cor 6:19; Rom 8:9-11; 2 Tim 1:14; 2 Cor 1:22). The Holy Spirit literally lives within the life of the Christian to give power to live the power to overcome sin and to live according to God’s will (Rom 8:13; 1 Cor 12:3; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 3:16). — It is possible to quench him (1 Thess 5:19) and grieve him (Eph 4:30).

The Holy Spirit also equips Christians by giving them spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:11). The purpose of these gifts is to provide the tools for Christians to help build the church (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:11-16).



As Christians, the Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us spiritual power to live a holy life.

1. What are we told to do through the Spirit in Romans 8:13?

2. How do we do what Romans 8:13, tells us to do?

3. According to Ephesians 3:14-20, what does the Spirit help us to accomplish?

4. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)?



Eight Fold Path to Living a Spirit Filled life

(From The Faith Once for All by Jack Cottrell)

1. Information: Know from the Bible what sin is and how you are to live.
2. Awareness: Know from Scripture that the Spirit is in you and why he is in you.
3. Prayer: Make each of these steps a matter of prayer. Pray especially for the Spirit's aid in developing a hatred of sin (Prov 8:13), in growing as a Christian, in resisting temptation, and in doing good works.
4. Desire: Develop a sincere desire to be rid of sin and to be holy.
5. Surrender: Yield to the Spirit's power, acknowledge personal weakness. Abandon an exclusive dependence on will power and self-help.
6. Trust: Have faith that the Holy Spirit will provide the needed and promised power for becoming holy.
7. Action: Being fully informed and filled with the Spirit, exercise your will to do what is right.
8. Thanksgiving: Thank God for the power that he gives you through his Holy Spirit and give him praise and credit for every victory over sin.

5. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and answer the following questions.

A. What characteristics are listed as "fruit of the Spirit?"

B. Why are these characteristics listed as "fruit" singular instead of "fruits" plural?

C. What would it mean if these characteristics are absent from the life of a Christian?

D. Give a short definition or description of each of the following:

i. love

ii. joy

iii. peace

iv. patience

v. kindness

vi. goodness

vii. faithfulness

viii. gentleness

ix. self-control

E. Describe the meaning of the phrase “against such things there is no law.” (Gal 5:23)

6. From a study of the Scriptures we have looked at in this lesson, what concrete steps can we take to live by the Spirit?