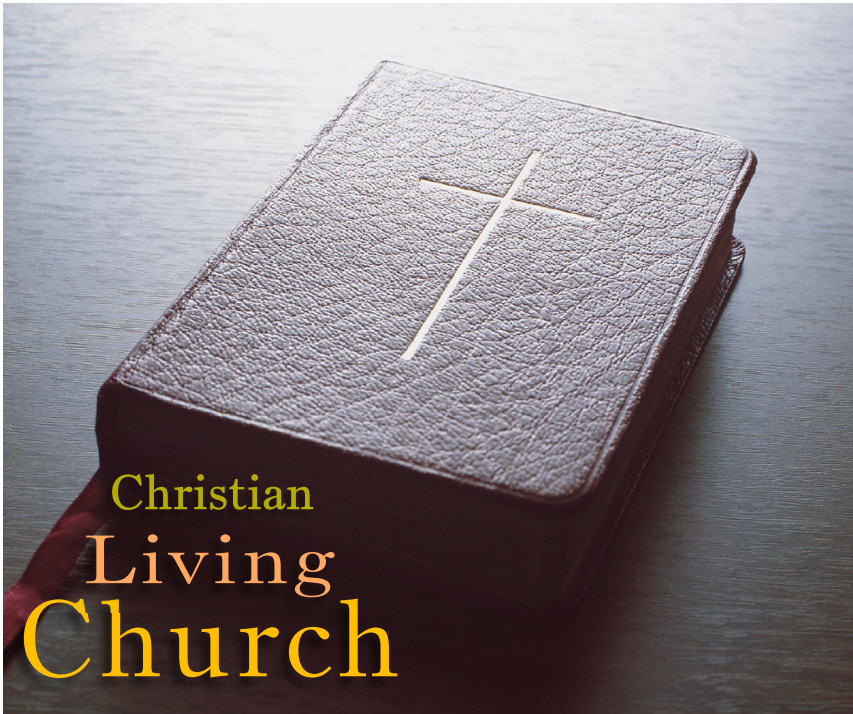


# How the Holy Spirit Works

“ ...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,  
saith the LORD of hosts.”



Christian  
Living  
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# How the Holy Spirit Works



This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (**Genesis 1:1**) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "*bold italicized and contained in quotation marks*" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue [Genesis 1:1](#) will be listed in the lesson section entitled **FURTHER STUDY**.

**FURTHER STUDY** is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message  
The Church of God Rocky Mount  
Rocky Mount, Virginia

# Key Verse: Zechariah 4:6



“...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

## Discussion Question: What does this Key Verse mean to you?

We know that great things can be accomplished through God's Spirit but often feel inadequate. The key verse gives us a real clue as to where the problem lies, not by your might, nor by your power, but BY God's Spirit. When a person receives the Spirit of God at baptism he now has two power sources dwelling within, the flesh, and the Spirit of God. He has always depended upon the flesh and is totally familiar with it. He is totally unfamiliar with the spirit and is very reluctant to trust something he cannot experience through the five senses.

The hardest thing to accomplish is to bring the flesh into full compliance with the Spirit of God that is dwelling in us. Jesus said the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, again the scriptures tell us, ***“What your corrupt nature wants is contrary to what your spiritual nature wants, and what your spiritual nature wants is contrary to what your corrupt nature wants. They are opposed to each other. As a result, you don't always do what you intend to do.”*** (Galatians 5:17 GW).

We have all questioned ourselves concerning the Spirit of God. The person who confidently says I know I have the Spirit of God may be self deceived. Receiving God's Spirit is an absolute promise and God stands behind His promises (**Acts 2:38-39**).

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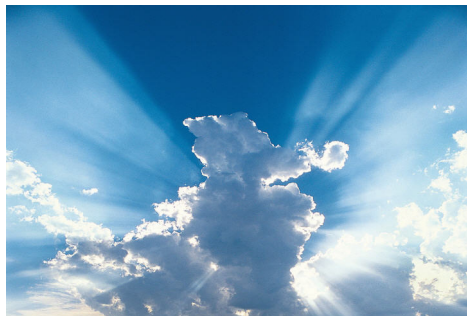


We should not question God's promise to give us His Holy Spirit. Our real concern should be, are we allowing the spirit to work in our lives the way God intended? Have you ever gone around the house flipping on the light switch during a power outage? You knew the power still existed, the problem was that there was a disconnect between the home and the transformer. In the spiritual realm when a disconnect occurs we sense the spirit is not working in our lives the way God intended. We know the power of God is still there, the problem is there has been a disconnect. Just like a transformer may be blown causing a power outage in your home, we Christians often blow it, causing the Holy Spirit to no longer work in our lives.

How do we reconnect to God's Spirit? We must first identify the problem and it will always be with the corrupt nature.

***“The corrupt nature is obvious, illicit sex, perversion, promiscuity, idolatry, drug use, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, angry outbursts, selfish ambition, conflict, factions, envy, drunkenness, wild partying.”*** (Galatians 5:19-21 GW).

Once we have identified the problem we must confess, repent, and turn from the corrupt nature. The treadmill routine of *sin and confess* will not establish the connection we need. A lackadaisical approach towards forsaking our sins to establish the connection we need with God's Spirit will not get the job done. A half hearted effort to reestablish a blown relationship with our maker is not enough! We must show God that we mean busi-



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ness in order to be reconnected with the Spirit of God. (**Isaiah 66:2**).

How can we know that we have been reconnected to God's Spirit? When connected, *"The spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."* (Galatians 5:22-23 GW). If we lack these fruits of the spirit it is a sign that we are still disconnected with God's Spirit.

God has placed His Spirit within us for a reason. It was not put there to convince us what good boys and girls we have been, God's Spirit has been placed within us for reproof and correction. When we have blown it, when we have hurt other people, even people that we love, when we judge wrongly, when we have been a hypocrite, when we have made a complete fool of ourselves, God's Spirit grieves our con-

science and we feel terrible about who and what we are. THIS IS GOOD. Reproof and correction are a sign that God has not given up on you and that He still loves you enough to correct you (**Hebrews 12:6-8**). We often forget that if God's Spirit is within us it will involve suffering. Reproof and correction are painful and admitting that we have been wrong can be a painful experience for the flesh (**Hebrews 12:11**).

Christians have been called out of this world into a fascinating journey that involves transforming the corrupt nature into the divine. The journey is both joyous and painful, bittersweet. Most of us have spent years trusting our own strength and depending on the flesh to meet all of our needs, now we have been called to blaze new territory, the spirit filled life.

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## Discussion Questions:

1. Where are you looking for God's Spirit? Read **1 Kings 19:11-12** and answer the following questions:

A- How did the Spirit of God get Elijah's attention?

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B- Where do we assume God's Spirit will be?

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C- Can we be too busy to follow the spirits guidance?

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2. Being used by God. Read **Isaiah 6:1-8** and answer the following questions:

A- What was Isaiah's response when he came into the presence of the Almighty?

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B- What had to be dealt with before Isaiah could be used by God?

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C- Did Isaiah have to experience pain before he could be used by God?

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3. Can we grieve the Holy Spirit and how? **Ephesians 4:30-32**

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4. What two things did David assume about God? **Psalms 51:11**

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5. Read 1 Samuel 16:14. Why was it necessary for an evil spirit to take over Saul? **Matthew 12:43-45**

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6. In the Genesis account of the fall of mankind, what is revealed about the heart of God? **Genesis 3:21**

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7. Read Ephesians 5:18. What is the Christian's long term ultimate goal? **Romans 8:9**

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8. Read John 14:26. Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in your life.

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The Comforter: an intercessor, consoler: or advocate.

Consoler: To cheer a person up, especially by making up for a loss or disappointment.

Advocate: One who pleads another's cause, as a lawyer.  
To favor actively in the face of opposition.

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