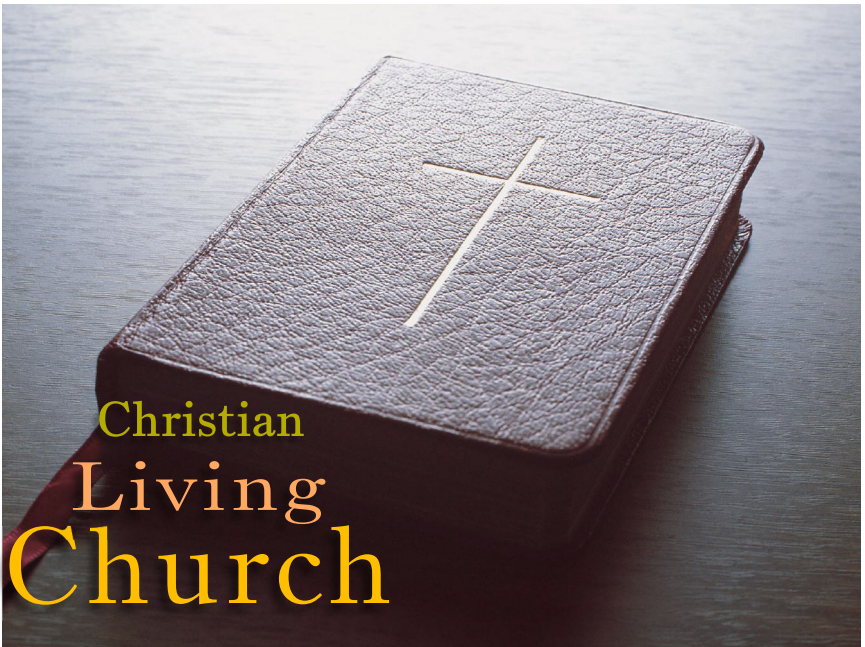


LESSON 4

# Receiving the Holy Spirit

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”



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# Receiving the Holy Spirit



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: John 3:5



“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

### Discussion Question:

What does the Key Verse mean to you?

In order to enter into the Kingdom of God, one must possess God’s Holy Spirit. Man is mortal, subject to death. We are not born possessing eternal life, there is a process we must go through to receive God’s Holy Spirit. We must repent of our sins, be convicted of our need for salvation and be baptized. This simple truth has remained a mystery to the masses and is the reason why Christianity has failed for so many (**Colossians 1:26, 27**). The reason for this is that God’s matters are discerned and understood with “Christ in you,” that is God’s Holy Spirit within you. We cannot please

God or change our life without His guiding Spirit. Only those who possess God’s Holy Spirit are recognized by God as being true Christians (**Romans 8:7, 9**). Those who think all you have to do is say; “I trust the Lord” are misguided.

Let’s review this process for receiving His Spirit. Recapitulating what we learned in lessons 1-3, we must first repent of our sins. It is a sin to break God’s commandments (**1 John 3:4**). We must repent of rebelling against God. We must desire and actually begin to literally obey His Word, submitting to His authority over our lives by keeping His commandments. After belief and sincere, heartfelt, deep repentance of sin, the next step toward receiving God’s Spirit is Water Baptism. Baptism is an

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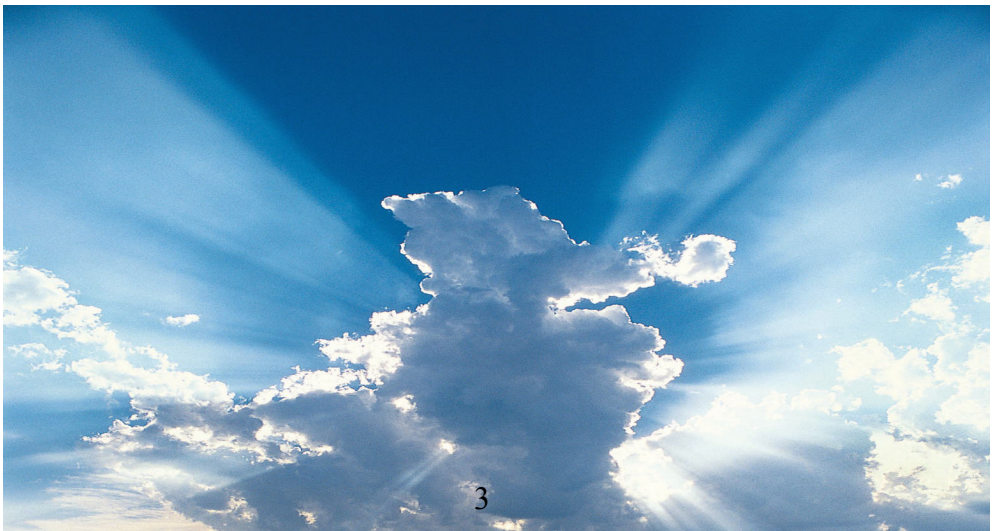


outward symbol of our repentance of our old sinful, disobedient life - turning away from our old sinful way of living and our willingness now to obey God in every way.

Once you have sincerely accomplished these steps, then you are unconditionally promised God's Holy Spirit, through the laying on of hands of one of God's ministers (**Acts 8:17**). Christ came to reveal the way to receive God's gift of eternal life. Jesus taught that unless we receive and retain the Holy Spirit, we can never hope to

enter the Kingdom of God - to live forever (**Romans 8:11**). We are to guard this precious Spirit with our life. When we receive God's Spirit we begin a new life of spiritual growth, of replacing our selfish human nature with God's divine nature. This takes a miracle and can only be achieved with His Spirit (**Romans 8:26**). God's Spirit helps us in our weakness, guiding us in prayer and understanding.

In the next lesson, we will cover the process of conversion.



# Receiving the Holy Spirit



## Discussion Questions:

1. Was Christ the first of many who are to be resurrected to eternal life? **Acts 26:23**

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2. Paul said to belong to Christ you must have what? **Romans 8:9**

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3. What is the difference between the carnal man and a true Christian? **Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14**

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4. Does the Father promise true Christians that He will raise them to immortality? **1 Corinthians 6:14**

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5. When and how will a person with God's Spirit change to immortality? **1 Corinthians 15:52**

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# Receiving the Holy Spirit



## FURTHER STUDY:

**John 3:3-8** Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**John 7:38-39** They who believe on Jesus shall receive God's Spirit.

**Acts 2:38-41** Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and receive the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:1-17** There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-58** Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, but we shall be changed at the last trump.

# Receiving the Holy Spirit



## Notes

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