

Study B: Walking in the Spirit With His Power

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever! Amen."
Eph. 3:20-21 NASB

Why: Reasons for the study

- The life-changing power of the Holy Spirit has penetrated the souls of men and women through countless generations into our present day.
- It is exciting to realize that the same Spirit that radically changed Paul, Peter and John now lives inside us to transform us by freeing us from ourselves!!
- In many Christian circles, teaching about the Holy Spirit, His power and abilities is largely ignored.

What: Principles to grasp

- The Holy Spirit is the agent of change and the enabling power to live an obedient life.
- Do not confuse the ability to "perform" in the flesh with being empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey.
- The more we are filled with self, the less we will be filled with the Spirit. The more we crucify self, the greater will be the Spirit's control and dominion over us.
- Our decision to obey, followed by the first steps of obedience, unleashes the power of the Spirit to carry us through the acts of obedience.

How: Path to a changed life

- To understand and appropriate the power available through the Holy Spirit
- To identify ways they either hinder or encourage being filled with the Holy Spirit

Helpful ideas:

- It is the Holy Spirit who is the agent of both conversion and change in your disciples – not you. As they begin to walk in the Spirit, you will begin to see change.
- Realize there are commandments that they can obey in the flesh, including "spiritual disciplines" such as prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, teaching others, etc. However, if they possess the Spirit, they will be willing to submit to God, which requires denying self, stepping into the unknown, taking risks of obedience, giving up their controlling strategies, going against their feelings/ logic, sacrificing their comfort.
- Note: If they have a history of rebellion and are still unwilling to follow God, they may not have experienced the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, even though they can recite the facts of the gospel, have made a profession of faith and have prayed a "sinners prayer," etc. (Matt. 7:15-23; 1 John 2:4-6)

Tools and additional resources:

- This study is also included in *God's Call To Brokenness*. (CTO)
- Checklist for evaluating "Evidences of Quenching the Holy Spirit" and "Ways I Quench the Holy Spirit". ([ctousa.org/tools/resources/Personal Evaluation Checklists](http://ctousa.org/tools/resources/Personal%20Evaluation%20Checklists))