



## LESSON 48

# Foundations Curriculum

## The Holy Spirit and the Church

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### Introduction

#### The Holy Spirit and the Church

In this forty-eighth lesson, we will study the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, considering three important aspects: the fact that the Holy Spirit was given to the whole Church; what the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church is; and what the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church is.

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In the last three lessons (45, 46, and 47), we learned that the Holy Spirit is God; about the Holy Spirit in history; and about the Holy Spirit and the apostles, respectively.

In this lesson, we will study the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. I would like to divide it into three points:

**01 The Holy Spirit was given to the whole Church.**

**02 The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church.**

**03 The ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church.**

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### 1) THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS GIVEN TO THE WHOLE CHURCH

We learned that the Holy Spirit took part in and led the lives of those who were the leaders of the Church at its beginning: the apostles. However, we must not forget that these men were also part of the Church. So all those works of the Holy Spirit that we saw in their lives are also at work in the Church. The Holy Spirit was present in the lives of those who were not the leaders. The Bible is full of testimonies of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. He came for the Church, and not just for a few men. Many people experienced the manifestation of the Spirit in their lives. From the Old Testament on, we can already see these experiences: patriarchs, priests, judges, kings,

prophets, and many others. If we consider only the New Testament, we also have many manifestations of the Holy Spirit, even before the day of Pentecost. Let us look:

### **Mary (mother of Jesus)**

*And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*

Luke 1:35 (NKJV)

### **Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist)**

*And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

Luke 1:41–43 (NKJV)

### **Zacharias (father of John the Baptist)**

*Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life."*

Luke 1:67–75 (NKJV)

### **Simeon (who presented Jesus in the temple)**

*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."*

Luke 2:25–32 (NKJV)

### **John the Baptist himself (filled with the Spirit from the womb)**

*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*

Luke 1:15 (NKJV)

Then we have Jesus, the apostles, together with several disciples on the day of Pentecost. And so, each one who was being baptized received and experienced the presence and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It is important to note that there is a great difference between before and after Pentecost. Before Pentecost, God chose a few people for a specific purpose. After Pentecost, everyone is chosen. If a person repents, believes the gospel of the Lord Jesus, and is baptized, they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Before, only a few chosen ones were priests; today, all are priests. Before, only a few prophesied; today, all can prophesy.

Let us, then, read some texts that show the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church: Stephen, a man who lived filled with the Holy Spirit.

*And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.*

Acts 6:5 (NKJV)

*Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.*

Acts 6:9 (NKJV)

*But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*

Acts 7:55 (NKJV)

### **The example of Philip**

*Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.*

Acts 8:4–8 (NKJV)

*But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

Acts 8:12–13 (NKJV)

*Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But*

*Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.*

Acts 8:39–40 (NKJV)

### **Cornelius and his household**

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.*

Acts 10:44–45 (NKJV)

### **Ananias (the disciple who baptized Paul)**

*Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”*

Acts 9:10–12 (NKJV)

*“A certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, came to me; and he stood and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him.”*

Acts 22:12–13 (NKJV)

The Bible records various experiences of brothers and sisters who believed and were baptized with the Holy Spirit, were filled, and prophesied. History is full of testimonies in every generation, down to the present day. People filled with the Spirit of God. People who believed and experienced the power of the presence and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The Holy Spirit was promised to everyone who believes. He is for everyone! He is for the whole Church! There is, indeed, one class of people who cannot receive the Spirit of the Lord: the world, the unbelievers.

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

John 14:16–17 (NKJV)

So God has fulfilled, and continues to fulfill, His promise to pour out His Spirit on everyone who believes. We are witnesses, because we too have received this Spirit in our lives, and we have seen many receiving Him even today. The Holy Spirit continues, and will continue, with us until the last day.

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## **2) THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH**

*But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?*

2 Corinthians 3:7–8 (NKJV)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in us begins even before we are converted. It is He who convicts us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment:

*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*

John 16:8 (NKJV)

He convicts us of our sins. He reveals to us the righteousness of God — which is Christ — and produces in us the fear that leads us to live a holy life and to escape the judgment to come, the final judgment. We were blind, and He made us see:

*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)

We were dead, and the Lord made us alive:

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

He gave us life; we were regenerated, born again. We were born of the Spirit:

*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

John 3:5 (NKJV)

We were corrupted, and He has restored us:

*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*

Genesis 6:11–12 (NKJV)

Let us look at a diagnosis of the human race:

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil*

*things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Romans 1:28–32 (NKJV)

But the Lord began this work of transformation in our lives through His Spirit:

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

And He will complete His work!

*Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church is tremendous: He convicts us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; we were blind, and He made us see; we were dead, and He gave us life; we were corrupted and useless, and He has restored us and called us to be His fellow workers; we bore only the image of Adam, but He has been transforming us into the image of Christ.

And the works of the Holy Spirit in the Church are countless. He is the engine of the Church, He is the life of the Church, He is the One who does everything! He is the One who assures us that we are not orphans, who confirms our adoption as children of God.

He testifies that we are children of God:

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

Romans 8:16 (NKJV)

We are able to love because of Him, for He pours out the love of God in our hearts:

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

We do not know how to pray, but He intercedes for us:

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

Romans 8:26–27 (NKJV)

The Spirit teaches us:

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

John 14:26 (NKJV)

*But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

1 John 2:27 (NKJV)

He guides us:

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

John 16:13 (NKJV)

He works in our memory, reminding us of the words of Christ:

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

John 14:26 (NKJV)

He is our friend, and is always present, comforting us:

*who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NKJV)

He equips us to work for God, through the gifts:

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1 Corinthians 12:1–11 (NKJV)

### **The organic unity of the Church**

*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all*

*baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (NKJV)

*Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.*

1 Corinthians 12:27–31 (NKJV)

The right use of spiritual gifts:

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Romans 12:1–8 (NKJV)

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 12:9–21 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit produces His fruit in us, so that we may resemble Christ:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in us is to form the image of Christ!

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### 3) THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH

*He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

John 16:14–15 (NKJV)

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

John 15:26–27 (NKJV)

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

Someone once said that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of the spotlight. A spotlight does not point at itself. It is a light that puts the focus on someone else. And the focus of the Holy Spirit is Jesus! The revelations that the Holy Spirit brought to people in the time of the New Testament pointed to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God — God Himself.

Nathanael said that He was the Son of God, the King of Israel:

*Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

John 1:49 (NKJV)

Peter said that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God:

*Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)

The recognition of Thomas:

*And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

John 20:28 (NKJV)

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals Jesus as Lord:

*Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV)

Peter and the other apostles, at Pentecost, stood up before a multitude to bear witness that Christ is Lord:

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

Acts 2:36 (NKJV)

Peter and John — at the first healing they performed, the people looked at them in amazement at what they had done. But they pointed to Christ:

*Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."*

Acts 3:11–16 (NKJV)

This is why the word of God exhorts us to be filled with the Spirit:

*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.*

Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV)

We should seek to be filled with the Spirit, because if we walk filled with the Spirit, Christ will surely be glorified in everything we do. The apostles, filled with the Spirit, testified of Christ;

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, testified of Christ. And so all who were filled with the Spirit gave testimony that Jesus Christ is Lord! Paul was a witness before common people and before authorities, including Caesar himself. Paul testified that Christ is Lord! And the whole Church invaded the world of that time, bearing witness of Christ, until they came to be nicknamed “Christians.”

*Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

Acts 11:25–26 (NKJV)

They were nicknamed Christians because their lives pointed to Christ! We have been called by God to the ministry of being witnesses. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ, and the Holy Spirit does this through the Church. Every work of the Holy Spirit points to this. This is the genuine mark of His work in us: to glorify Christ. If you are doing something that does not point to the glory of Christ, that does not come from the Spirit of God. If you or someone else is being glorified, that is not the work of the Spirit of God.

It was the Spirit who revealed the gospel to you, who gave you life, who teaches you the Scriptures, who gives you gifts, who gives you power. Everything the Spirit does in your life has as its purpose to glorify Christ. Let us remember: the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ!

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

The Lord has called us to be His witnesses. He gives us the power of His Spirit to glorify Christ! May the Lord fill us more and more with His Spirit, that we may be better witnesses of Christ!

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## REVIEW OF THE CONTENT

In this forty-eighth lesson, we studied the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. We learned that He was given to the whole Church, and not only to leaders; that His ministry in the Church begins from our conversion and continues to work in our lives until He forms us into the image of Christ; and that the ministry of the Holy Spirit, through the Church, is to bear witness of Christ.

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## CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** To whom is the promise of the Holy Spirit given, and who cannot receive it?
- 02** What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in us?
- 03** What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit through us?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

