

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

"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)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God's Will</i>	The Holy Spirit wants to establish and empower the true church for God's work.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is Spirit. God will dwell within and fill the church with His Holy Spirit.
<i>Good Work</i>	Worship God in Spirit. Submit to the Spirit to allow Him to empower us.

A. The Holy Spirit's Purpose Within the Church

The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of God's abidance in the church (Jn 14:16–18; 1 Jn 3:24). Without His abidance, the church cannot accomplish anything for God. But with the Holy Spirit, she can do many works for Him. The Spirit expresses God's heart, character, and will, and is given to the church to establish and empower her to do God's work.

The Spirit's Empowerment

Following God's will is not always easy. In the face of overwhelming obstacles, we may realize that neither ourselves nor those around us have the necessary power or abilities to solve our problems. While we must certainly try our best, we must learn to first rely on God. With His help, the great mountain can become a plain (Zech 4:6).

B. Surrendering to God's Spirit

When the Spirit dwells in each of us, He is also able to dwell within the church. But we first need to permit the Spirit to dwell within us. The Spirit may establish and empower the church, but we, as the body of the church, must prepare our hearts and surrender ourselves to Him (Prov 3:5–6).

C. Worship God in Spirit

1. *A Sincere Heart that Follows God's Will:* To worship God in the spirit means to worship Him sincerely from our heart (Phil 3:3), and to worship according to His will (Rom 8:4, 14).
2. *Pursuing the Spirit in Faith:* Faith means to have trust and hope in something that we cannot see (Heb 11:1; 1 Pet 1:6–9). When we show faith in God's promises, He will fill us with His Spirit.
3. *Relying on the Spirit:* As we work for God, our focus should be on God's power, not our own. When we put forth courage and effort while trusting in God's power, He will open the way for us according to His good will.

Life Application: Strengthening the Holy Spirit's Presence in the Church

Each of us as church members have a duty to seek out the fullness of the Spirit not just for the church, but also for ourselves – this is how the church can be empowered with the Spirit. Therefore, to strengthen the Holy Spirit's presence in the church, we have a few main duties we must fulfill:

1. *Pray*
2. *Seek the knowledge of the truth*
3. *Attend weekly services*
4. *Show affection and brotherly love to one another*
5. *Serve the Lord in whatever area we can*
6. *Strive to enter God's kingdom with God's virtues*

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Lesson 2 Homework Assignment

The Importance of the Holy Spirit in the Church

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Acts 1:8):

1. How can we witness Christ to others?
2. What is the Holy Spirit's presence in the church evidence of? Why is this important?
3. How does the Spirit dwell within the church?
4. What is necessary to worship God in Spirit?
5. Which of our main duties as God's children do you need to improve on? How can you improve on the duty that you lack in? Come up with a plan to follow this week.