

LESSON 11

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Promised Holy Spirit

Before Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem to wait for the "Promise of the Father." What was this Promise? The Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He would give the disciples a Helper that would abide with them forever and give them power. Jesus told His disciples that they would "receive power when the Holy Spirit" came upon them. This power was not physical strength, but rather spiritual strength, that allowed the disciples to preach boldly "in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). So, the disciples gathered and waited in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus Christ had promised.

As the disciples prayed together on the Day of Pentecost, there was a sound like a rushing mighty wind that filled the house in which they were praying. Then, tongues of fire rested on each of them. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them voice. A crowd had gathered upon hearing the noise, and they assumed that the disciples were drunk with wine. However, Peter and the rest of the disciples knew that they had received the promised Holy Spirit. God has promised to give each one of us this Holy Spirit, which is a guarantee of our inheritance of the heavenly kingdom (Eph 1:13-14).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

To help your students understand the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit, you can start by explaining heaven to the students. Your young students might have difficulty understanding an abstract concept like heaven, so ask them questions, such as, "What do you think happens to a person after he dies?" In your explanation of heaven, use the descriptions of heaven collected from various testimonies of people who have seen heaven (e.g., it is a large, bright city with golden streets and singing flowers). This will help solidify the concept of heaven with the students. In conclusion, explain to the students that the Holy Spirit is our ticket (guarantee) into heaven. The Holy Spirit will transform us from a sinful person to a holy person so that we can enter heaven.

BIBLE TEXT

John 3:3, 5; Romans 8;
Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. The Holy Spirit gives us power to overcome our sinful nature and be renewed into Jesus' likeness.
2. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.
2. To learn how the Holy Spirit empowers us and transforms us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
3. To learn how to pray for the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

(Titus 3:5)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You bringing us safely here to worship and praise You. Today, we will learn about the promised Holy Spirit. Give us the strength and perseverance to pray for the Holy Spirit, and the fervor to ask for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for giving us such a great Helper. May all glory be onto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

sanctification: the process of becoming holy like the Lord Jesus
transformation: the process of changing
guarantee: a promise
renewal: the act of making new again
regeneration: the process of being born again

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus Christ died for us on the cross, but before He was crucified, He had one last supper with His disciples. During this dinner, He instituted Holy Communion and commanded the disciples to observe it frequently in remembrance of His death. We eat from one piece of unleavened bread and drink grape juice during Holy Communion, but what do these things represent? (They represent Jesus Christ's flesh and blood.) Since Jesus Christ was blameless, the bread we eat during Holy Communion is made without leaven, which represents sin in the Bible. When we partake of Holy Communion, we have a part with Jesus Christ and are able to receive eternal life. But what kind of attitude should we have when we partake of Holy Communion? (We should be holy, respectful, and thankful.) If we do not partake of Holy Communion with the correct attitude, God will punish us. We learned that partaking of the Holy Communion allows us to have a part with Jesus, but that we must partake of it with the correct attitude.

BIBLE STORY

The Holy Spirit Has Come

After Jesus had completed His work on earth, He was to ascend to heaven. Before His ascension, He told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem to pray for the Holy Spirit. The disciples obeyed His instructions. They stayed in Jerusalem and gathered together to pray each day. Finally, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and filled the disciples mightily.

Today, the True Jesus Church has the abidance of the Holy Spirit. Many of its believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, just like the disciples.

A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God Himself. The Bible says that God is a spirit. We cannot see Him nor touch Him, yet His Spirit fills the entire universe. How then can we experience God? God said, "I will put my Spirit within you." So, when the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, God Himself also dwells in our hearts. By receiving the Holy Spirit, we are certain that God is alive and exists, because He lives within us.

B. Why do we need to receive the Holy Spirit?

1. We need the Holy Spirit to be saved and to have eternal life.

Turn to John 3:5. This verse tells us that to enter the

heavenly kingdom we must be born of water and the spirit. This means that we must receive water baptism and the Holy Spirit to be able to enter heaven. Receiving water baptism alone is not enough; we also need to receive the Holy Spirit, too. Anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit will not be allowed entry into God's kingdom.

This is a testimony of a brother who had not yet received the Holy Spirit. This young brother saw a vision of a white airplane. The airplane was going to take some people to heaven. The brother saw a line of people boarding the plane. His mom and dad got on first, followed by his brother and sister. As the young brother was about to board, he was stopped. The person at the gate asked him for his visa. He searched and searched, but he could not find any visa. As a result, he could not board the plane. This vision tells us that we must have a certain visa to enter heaven. What is this visa? That's right, it's the Holy Spirit. From this, we can understand the importance of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit confirms that we are children of God.

Read Romans 8:15-16. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we belong to God. He is our heavenly Father and we are His beloved children. We can boldly call out, "Abba, Father." Since we are God's precious children, He will love and provide for us. When we cry out to Him, He will answer, comfort, and help us.

3. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance of the heavenly kingdom.

When the disciples realized that Jesus was going to leave them and return to heaven, they became sorrowful. But the Lord Jesus comforted them by saying that He was leaving to prepare a place for them. What is this place? It is the heavenly kingdom. Today, the Lord Jesus is preparing a place in the heavenly kingdom for us, too. When He returns, He will gather His believers and bring them there. The Bible tells us that it is a place so wonderful that there are no words to describe it. Heaven is a place with no tears, sorrow, or sickness; only joy, peace, and love exist. In heaven, we can be with Jesus forever.

But we can't see heaven. How do we know it's real?
[Allow students to respond.]

We know that heaven is real, because God gives us the Holy Spirit as proof (Eph 1:13). We also know that God is faithful and that He never lies. God promised us that He would take us to heaven. Therefore, we have faith that heaven exists and that He has prepared a place in heaven for us.

4. The Holy Spirit can transform us.

The butterfly is one of God's marvelous creations. A butterfly starts life as a hairy caterpillar, crawling on branches and eating leaves. At one point in its life, it will wrap itself in a cocoon. Inside this cocoon, the caterpillar goes through an amazing transformation. When it emerges from cocoon, it is no longer a hairy caterpillar, but a beautiful butterfly that can fly freely between flowers.

God hopes that we can have a transformation, too. However, God does not desire for us to have a physical change, but a spiritual change. He wants us to be transformed from a person of the world to a person of God. We know that water baptism washes away our original sins, but we still continue to commit sins daily. We have weaknesses or bad habits that displease to God. What kinds of bad habits or weaknesses displease God? [Give students time to respond, and then write their answers on the board.] God wants us to get rid of these weaknesses so that we can become pure and holy like God. This process of becoming like God is called sanctification. When we are sanctified, we become holy and separate from the sins of the world.

Though we want to change, it is often very difficult. God knows that we need help with changing. That is why God gave us a Helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. He lives in our hearts to give us the strength to overcome our weaknesses and resist temptations. The Holy Spirit leads us in a life that pleases God by guiding us in obeying

God's commandments and doing God's will. Thus, the Holy Spirit helps transform us into the likeness of God. We can then enter heaven and see God.

C. How do I pray for the Holy Spirit?

Let's read Luke 11:9-13. The Lord Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us and changes our hearts. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is our visa into heaven. We cannot enter heaven without it.

These Bible verses teach us the attitude we must have when praying for the Holy Spirit. We must ask, seek, and knock. The Holy Spirit is so important that we must be earnest in asking Jesus to give it to us. We need to seek it as if we were seeking for precious treasure. We need to knock loudly and persistently on Jesus' door until He answers our prayers. This is how we pray for the Holy Spirit: with earnest and persistence. In addition, we must be focused, sincere, and devoted in our prayers. If we pray in this manner, God will fill us with His Holy Spirit and we will be joyous and peaceful knowing that God lives in our hearts.

How to pray for the Holy Spirit:

1. Kneel down.
2. Close your eyes and concentrate.
3. Say, "In the name of the Lord Jesus, I pray."
4. Say, "Hallelujah! Lord Jesus, please give me the Holy Spirit," repeatedly.
("Hallelujah" is a Hebrew word for praising God.)
5. End with "Amen."

D. How do I know if I have received the Holy Spirit?

From the book of Acts, we know that those who have received the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues. In addition, those who have received the Holy Spirit may experience bodily movements.

- a. When the apostles received Holy Spirit, they all spoke in tongues (Acts 2:1-4).
- b. Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues after receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46).
- c. The believers at Ephesus spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 19:6-7).

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and Jesus. True.
2. We know that heaven exists because people have had visions of heaven and have testified about what they have seen. True.
3. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us be like the Lord Jesus. True.
4. The Holy Spirit proves that we are children of God and that heaven exists. True.
5. Jesus said we only need to receive baptism to be able to enter the heavenly kingdom. False.
6. We know that we have received the Holy Spirit when we speak in tongues. True.
7. We receive the Holy Spirit by copying how others pray. False.
8. List the steps we follow when praying for the Holy Spirit.
 - Kneel down.
 - Close your eyes and concentrate.
 - Say, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray."
 - Repeat, "Hallelujah! Lord Jesus, please give me the Holy Spirit."
 - End with "Amen."

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. Close eyes and concentrate.
Say, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray."
Repeat, "Hallelujah! Lord Jesus, please give me the Holy Spirit."
End with "Amen."
9. Answers may vary.
10. "He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

To Be Like Jesus

Let's turn to Luke 9:51-56.

John and his brother James were Jesus' disciples. On one occasion, Jesus came to a village in Samaria, but the people there refused to welcome Jesus and His disciples. James and John were so angry that they asked Jesus if they could command fire to come down from heaven to burn and kill the villagers. Jesus turned and rebuked them. Jesus called them the "Sons of Thunder" (Mk 3:17).

What kind of people do you think John and James were? [Write students' responses on the board.]

Read Mark 10:35-44.

Here, James and John asked Jesus to grant them a request. What did they want Jesus to do for them? They wanted Jesus to allow one of them to sit on His right hand and the other on His left in heaven. James and John wanted the most important positions in heaven.

What does this tell you about James and John? [Write students' responses on the board.]

These two events happened before James and John had received the Holy Spirit. Now we will see how the Holy Spirit transformed James and John. After receiving the Holy Spirit, they were no longer the "Sons of Thunder".

Let's look at the Bible verses that John wrote.

He wrote in 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

In 1 John 3:16, he writes, "By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

What does this tell you about the kind of person John had become? [Write down students' answers on the board.] That is right. John had changed from an angry, selfish person to a person filled with great love for God and the believers. He no longer wanted things for himself. In fact, he had so much love for the believers that he was even willing to give up his life for them.

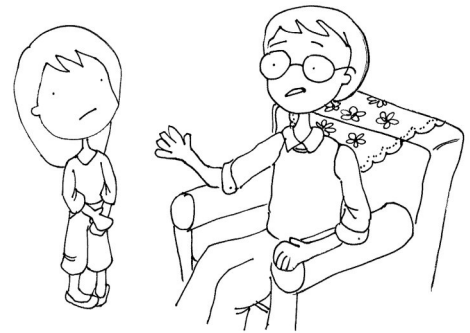
What brought about this change? Yes, the Holy Spirit changed John. Maybe we get angry or annoyed easily like John did before. Maybe we disobey our parents or talk back to them. Maybe we are lazy and like to lie or steal. Have we unsuccessfully tried to overcome our weaknesses? From John's example, what is the only way that we can get rid of our weaknesses and bad habits? That's right. The only way is to pray for the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit may sanctify us and make us holy like our Lord Jesus.

Testimony: Praying for the Holy Spirit

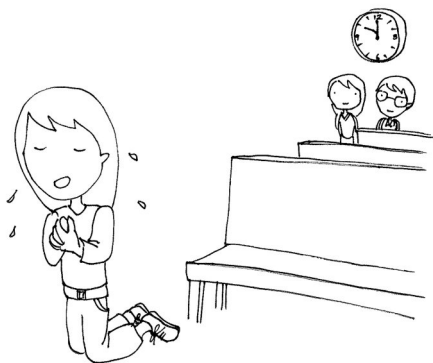
In Taiwan, there was a sister named Ah Oh Chu. She was the eldest in her family and a devout Christian who enjoyed attending services. From the services, she understood the importance of the Holy Spirit, because she needed it to enter heaven. She also heard many testimonies of the joy and happiness members felt when they received the Holy Spirit. Ah Oh desired to have the Holy Spirit live in her heart.

Ah Oh took every opportunity to pray for the Holy Spirit. Each Friday, the church held a prayer session. During each prayer session, someone would receive the Holy Spirit. She prayed earnestly during each prayer session. She prayed loudly and wept much. The church elders and pastors helped her pray through the laying of hands, but she still did not receive the Holy Spirit. She became sad when she saw that others had received the Holy Spirit, but she had not.

Although Ah Oh felt ashamed and defeated, she was still determined to receive the Holy Spirit. One Friday after the evening prayer session, she sadly walked home after failing to receive the Holy Spirit again. She walked slowly with her head bowed, wondering why she could not receive the Holy Spirit. She examined herself and could not find a reason. So, at that moment, she made a resolution: at the next Friday prayer session, she would not return home until she received the Holy Spirit. When she arrived home, her father said to her, "The other children at church have received the Holy Spirit. Your younger sisters and brother have also received the Holy Spirit. You are older than all of them, but you still have not received the Holy Spirit. You need to put more effort in your prayers." Ah Oh did not reply. This just made her determination stronger.



The next Friday, Ah Oh attended Friday service as usual, but her heart was different. She walked to church like a soldier ready for battle. She was solemn. She thought to herself, "Even if I have to die, I will not give up until I've fought a victorious battle." That night, she was on a special mission—to receive the Holy Spirit. When the prayer session began, she knelt down and reminded herself that this time she would not stop praying until she had received the Holy Spirit. She then began to pray.



The Lord wanted to test how much Ah Oh desired the Holy Spirit. By not giving her the Holy Spirit immediately, God saw her desire through her determination and persistence in prayer. Two hours passed and the evening service had ended. Everyone had gone home but Ah Oh continued to pray. Her parents waited for her in the pews, but Ah Oh did not stop praying. Her prayer was so fervent that sweat poured down her back and tears covered her face. She pleaded to God for His mercy and to give her His Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord! God could not ignore her sincere and fervent prayer. God poured His Spirit into her heart and filled her with the Holy Spirit. As Ah Oh walked home that evening, she was filled with such happiness and joy for she had God living in her.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, Ah Oh became more fervent and loved to pray. Through the Holy Spirit, God changed her and gave her strength so that she did not follow the ways of the world. The Holy Spirit also disciplined her when she went astray so that she continued to walk on the right path.

Discussion

1. How did Ah Oh show her earnest desire for the Holy Spirit? (Ah Oh took every opportunity to pray for the Holy Spirit. She attended the prayer session each Friday and prayed earnestly for the Holy Spirit.)
2. How did Ah Oh pray for the Holy Spirit? (She prayed loudly, with tears and sweat. She was determined to receive the Holy Spirit. She did not give up. She persisted until God poured down His Spirit upon her.)
3. How did Ah Oh change after she received Holy Spirit? (Ah Oh became more fervent and loved to pray. She was able to resist the temptations of the world and continued to walk on the right path.)
4. How are you going to show your determination to receive the Holy Spirit?

ACTIVITY

1**A Beautiful Butterfly**

Objective: To remind students to transform themselves into the likeness of Jesus.

Materials

- Construction paper, two different colors
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaners
- Markers
- Pens
- Decorations (sequins, glitter, beads, etc.)

Instructions

1. Using two different pieces of construction paper, cut one 7x7 inch and one 10x10 inch square. Cut one pair of squares for each student.
2. Give each student one pair of squares. On the edges of each square, have the students write bad habits that they wish the Holy Spirit could help them change.
3. Decorate the squares using markers, sequins, glitter, beads, etc.
4. Fold each square diagonally, starting from one corner. Make folds about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide. The folds should resemble accordion folds.
5. Place the small square on top of the large square, lining up the folds so that the small square nests in the big square.
6. Squeeze both folded squares together tightly, and wrap a small pipe cleaner around the middle.
7. Twist the two ends of the pipe cleaner together to hold the two squares together.
8. Open the squares to form the wings of the butterfly. Use the ends of the pipe cleaner to form the butterfly's antennae. If necessary, cut off the excess ends of the pipe cleaner to shorten the antennae.
9. Hang the butterflies around the room. Remind the students to continually strive to transform themselves in order to be like the Lord Jesus.

E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 11—The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. The Holy Spirit gives us power to overcome our sinful nature and be renewed into Jesus' likeness.
2. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.
2. To learn how the Holy Spirit empowers us and transforms us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
3. To learn how to pray for the Holy Spirit.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Titus 3:5)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. _____
2. We know heaven exists because people have had visions of heaven and have testified about them. _____
3. God promises to give us the Holy Spirit to help us be like the Lord Jesus, but we must earnestly pray for it. _____
4. The Holy Spirit is a guarantee of our inheritance of the heavenly kingdom. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : Jesus said that to enter the heavenly kingdom, we must _____.
 - a. Be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit
 - b. Only be baptized
 - c. Only receive the Holy Spirit
6. _____ : We know that we have received the Holy Spirit when _____.
 - a. Our bodies move
 - b. We do good deeds
 - c. We speak in tongues
7. _____ : To receive the Holy Spirit, _____.
 - a. We only need to wait because God promised to give the Holy Spirit to everyone.
 - b. We need to ask and pray earnestly
 - c. We copy how others pray

Short Answer

8. Write out the steps to praying for the Holy Spirit.

9. Write a prayer to the Lord Jesus asking Him for the Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I pray.

Dear Lord, please give me Your precious Holy Spirit because...

10. Write out this week's memory verse.
