

UNIT FOUR: MIRACLES

KEY SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR UNIT FOUR

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. - Hebrews 2:4

CLASS 1: POWER FROM HEAVEN

1 Reading, 1 Exercise

When Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit, His anointing was transferred to us to give us power from above to work miracles in His name.

CLASS 2: AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

1 Reading, 1 Scripture Reading, 1 Exercise

By faith in Jesus, all believers have God-given authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, and do greater works in His name.

CLASS 3: WALKING LIKE JESUS

1 Reading, 1 Exercise

Jesus equips and commands us to walk as He walked, in constant communion with God and total submission to His direction. When we do this, our lives become miraculous!

CLASS 4: GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Reading, 1 Exercise

The Holy Spirit distributes various gifts as needed in situations we encounter. All believers can flow in any of these gifts as God guides and enables us so that everyone is strengthened in the Lord.

KEY QUESTIONS

GROUP EXERCISES

POWER FROM HEAVEN*

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He met with His disciples to commission them for Kingdom work. In order for His disciples to do the works that Jesus did, they needed power from above.

*Act 1:8-11: But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

The words used to describe the Holy Spirit coming upon believers is the word for overtake or overwhelm. As an analogy, it is the same word used to describe being overrun or overpowered by an enemy. The word for pouring out the Holy Spirit is the word used for gushing as in the analogy of a fire hose bursting forth. When the disciples were gathered together in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, they heard the sound of a mighty rushing/gushing wind as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them.

*Acts 2:2-4: Suddenly a **sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and **began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.***

Once the Holy Spirit was poured out, the believers in Jerusalem were supernaturally empowered by God. Jesus had told them that they would do greater works than He did and now they had power from heaven to do the works of God.

*John 14:12: Very truly I tell you, **whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.***

This whole scene was reminiscent of events which had occurred in the Old Testament. The Prophet Elijah had been taken up into heaven in a whirlwind while his successor Elisha watched. (See 2 Kings 2:11-12.) Elijah had been the world's most powerful prophet of the one true God. He did mighty works which proved his anointing from God. (See 1 Kings 18.) However, after this, Elijah found himself in a cave thinking that he was the only one who truly believed God. When Elijah left the cave, he was instructed by God to do three things, the first of which was to anoint Elisha as his successor, which Elijah did. (See 1 Kings 19.) When the time came for Elijah's dramatic departure from this world, Elisha requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit (his anointing from God) in order to be his successor and carry out his work. When Elijah was taken up into heaven his cloak, also called his mantle, fell down from above and Elisha took it as his own. Those who saw this transaction take place even noted, "Elijah's spirit now rests upon Elisha!" (See 2 Kings 2:15.) Elisha proceeded to do twice as many mighty works as Elijah in addition to fulfilling the two other portions of God's post-cave assignment to Elijah.

ELIJAH – 7 MIRACLES (See 1Kings 17-18, 2Kings 1-2.)	ELISHA – 14 MIRACLES (See 2Kings 2-6, 13.)
Commanded the weather Fed by birds Food supply during famine Raised a widow's son from the dead Fire from heaven Fire from heaven three more times Parted the waters of the Jordan River	Parted the Jordan River Purified bad water with a bowl of salt Cursed mocking boys Water pooled without rain Oil for a widow to pay her debts Raised a woman's son from the dead Purified poisonous food with flour Food multiplication: 20 loaves feed 100 Healed an incurable leper Discerned servant's lie and smote him Made a sunken ax head float in water Opened servant's eyes to see angels Blinded the enemy army Dead man raised to life on Elisha's bones

The story of Elijah and Elisha is a prophetic example of what happened when Jesus ascended to heaven and poured the Holy Spirit into believers. Christ's disciples were now empowered to carry out His purpose and to work miracles the way that He did. Like Elijah, Jesus was the Anointed One of the one true God and did great and mighty works and miracles in the earth. Then, He found Himself in a cave called the grave as the only one who truly believed God, since everyone else had deserted Him. As Jesus stepped out of the grave, He knew God's purpose for Him included anointing His successors. For the next 40 days, He commissioned His disciples and told them about their assignment to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Then, He ascended to heaven in the clouds. Then, Jesus sent down the Holy Spirit, which fell upon believers like Jesus' robe or mantle from God. The Spirit of Jesus would rest upon His disciples so that they could do His works, and even greater works, with power from heaven.

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU

There are a few other noteworthy Old Testament examples of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon people. First, in the days of Moses, Moses was the only one who was able to approach God to receive wisdom from Him in order to lead the people of Israel. The workload of administering justice for the people became overwhelming. Therefore, the Lord told Moses to gather seventy elders of Israel together so that He could share the Spirit of the Lord, which was on Moses, with the elders. This way, they would be able to help in bearing Moses' burden because they were empowered by the same Spirit that Moses had so that they could do the works that Moses did. When the Spirit of the Lord came upon the elders of Israel, they prophesied. Moses was so delighted at this event that he uttered words that came to pass at Pentecost, "I wish that all of the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them!" (See Numbers 11:16-30.)

Other Old Testament examples include Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson from the Book of Judges each experienced the Spirit of the Lord coming upon them, rushing upon them, clothing them, or stirring them so that they were strengthened with power to do great exploits for God. They were particularly empowered for going to war against enemies in oftentimes seemingly impossible situations. (See Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14.) The Spirit of the Lord also came upon Saul, Israel's first anointed king. When this happened, Saul prophesied and even onlookers wondered aloud, "Can anyone be a prophet? Even Saul?" (See 1 Samuel 10:1-12.) In another instance, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul in righteous anger over the way that enemies were treating the Israelites, and he led Israel to victory in

battle. (See 1 Samuel 11:6.) Lastly, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David, the next king of Israel. This anointing made David a brave warrior and a man of war with good judgment, able to slay giants and defeat all of Israel's enemies by God's power which was with him. (See 1 Samuel 16:10, 18.) Moreover, this list does not include the experiences that the Prophets of the Old Testament had with the Spirit of the Lord, which we do not have time to get into in detail right now.

Most significantly, Jesus demonstrated this working dynamic of receiving power from Holy Spirit as power from above. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and rested upon Him like a dove. (See Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32-33.) Following this, Jesus began His ministry with power from heaven. In His first public speech, He announced that *the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him*, anointing Him to proclaim the Kingdom of God, to heal the sick, to cast out demons, to raise the dead, and to destroy the works of the devil who is the ultimate enemy of all mankind.

*Luke 3:21-22: When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and **the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove**. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

*Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to **proclaim good news to the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners** and recovery of **sight for the blind**, to **set the oppressed free**, to proclaim the year of **the Lord's favor**." (Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2.)*

*Acts 10:38: how **God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth **with the Holy Spirit and power**, and how he went around **doing good** and **healing all who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him.*

Because Jesus was born by the power of the Holy Spirit, He had the perfect nature of God within Him. This empowered Him from within for perfect conduct according to God's standard and, accordingly, He maintained right-standing with God at all times. This said, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, He received dynamite power from heaven to do the works of God. The power of God was working both within Jesus for perfect character and resting upon Jesus to enable His works against the kingdom of darkness and all the enemies of mankind.

YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER

The word for *power* in Greek is *dynamis* from which we derive our word for *dynamite* and it certainly expresses explosive power. The word *dynamis* is technically defined as "great power or strength, power for performing miracles, and the power resting upon armies." However, the word *dynamis* can also be mean "virtue or moral power and excellence of soul." These two meanings express two different dynamics of the Holy Spirit that Jesus clearly demonstrated in action.

Along these lines, after the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, throughout the Book of Acts, believers were *full of the Holy Spirit* or *filled with the Holy Spirit*. In our language, these words appear to be the same. However, in the Greek they are different, and their difference expresses the exact dynamic that Jesus demonstrated. The word for full in Greek is *pleres* which means to be complete or lacking nothing as in an empty vessel which is full of something. The word for filled in Greek is *pimplemi* which means furnished, accomplished, or fulfilled.

Being full of the Holy Spirit denotes the development and maturity of character of Christ in a believer. Fullness (*pleres*) is evidenced through the fruit of the Spirit including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and self-sacrificing devotion to God. (See Galatians 5:22-23.) Believers need inward power from above to behave this way because it is so completely the opposite

of standard, selfish human nature. Being full of the Holy Spirit is also what gives believers supernatural strength to endure with integrity and faithfulness through life's trials and opposition to the faith.

*Acts 6:3-5: Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be **full of the Spirit** and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.*

*Acts 7:55: But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit**, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [while being stoned to death]*

*Acts 11:24a: He [Barnabas] was a good man, **full of the Holy Spirit** and faith*

Being filled with the Holy Spirit indicates an immediate instance or surge for the moment or for a special task. Filling (*pimplemi*) of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by supernatural ability from God to prophesy, dream dreams, speak in other languages, proclaim the Gospel with boldness, heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead. These things require power from heaven because the miraculous stands in contrast to God's created order and no one can do these things without spiritual power.

*Acts 2:4: All of them were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

*Acts 4:8: Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!*

*Acts 4:31: After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the word of God boldly.*

*Acts 9:17: Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be **filled with the Holy Spirit**."*

*Acts 13:8-11: But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled [pimplemi] with the Holy Spirit**, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full [pleres] of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.*

Today, it is no different for us. As we follow Jesus, we become full of the Holy Spirit as the Lord permeates more and more of our lives and character. Then, as we set out to do the works of God, we are filled with the Holy Spirit to give us power from above.

Read this verse again, but this time, read it as your own anointing and assignment from God.

*Luke 4:18-19: "**The Spirit of the Lord is on ME**, because he has **anointed ME to proclaim good news to the poor**. He has sent **ME to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**"*
(emphasis added)

SPIRIT UPON ME

Luke 4:18-19 NIV - The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

DESCRIPTION

In order to do the works that Jesus did, we need the Holy Spirit to come upon us. There are numerous examples from the Old Testament of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon normal people to give them supernatural power to fulfill God's work.

Now that the Holy Spirit has been poured out from heaven, the Spirit of the Lord comes to dwell inside of us when we believe Jesus. This is the internal anointing. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us at certain times in powerful ways to aid us in the works of God's Kingdom, it is the external anointing. Both the internal and external anointing are the Spirit of the Lord but they function in different ways for God's purposes. It is by the Spirit coming upon us believers that they proclaimed the Gospel, prophesied, spoke in other tongues, healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon us today for the same purposes and more. This said, God's power is not to be used for the fulfillment of our own personal aims or for the manipulation of events. It is for the work of God and glorifying the name of Jesus. Practicing Spirit upon Me is about engaging with the external anointing of God by inviting the Holy Spirit to come upon us as we fulfill God's purposes in the earth.

PRAYER

Father, I believe that you have anointed me to work the works of Jesus with your power from heaven. Allow me to experience your Spirit coming upon me so that I may move in your power and purposes. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PURPOSE:

To understand and experience the Spirit of the Lord coming upon us.

To work the works of Jesus by His guidance and power.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Power of the Holy Spirit. Increased faith and power for miracles.

Deeper experience of God's work for us and through us.

CONSIDERATIONS

In your life with the Holy Spirit, have you experienced more of God's internal power or His external power?

In what ways have you experienced the power of God coming upon you? What was this like for you?

In what ways do you think approaching the Holy Spirit **only** for internal power could be beneficial? Lacking?

In what ways do you think approaching the Holy Spirit **only** for external power could be beneficial? Lacking?

What do you think is the right approach to fulfilling God's purposes in cooperation with both the internal and external power? How will this affect your approach to the Holy Spirit?

PRACTICE

1. Read through the list of Additional Scriptures.
 - Take note that the power of God did not come upon anyone to fulfill their own selfish desires but to fulfill God's purposes.

2. Ask God to reveal to you a situation in your life in which He desires to pour His Spirit upon you to help you.
 - For example, living by faith in His salvation, deliverance, healing, miracles, or any other situation in your life.

- Ask the Lord to give you one or two Scriptures for this area. (Note: Using only one or two will focus your faith.)

3. In your times of prayer, invite the Holy Spirit to come upon you. Say, "Holy Spirit, clothe me with power from heaven."
 - Briefly wait for anything the Lord may do or say before you begin to enter into prayer.

- As you pray, alternate between speaking your Scriptures, singing your Scriptures, and speaking/singing in tongues until you sense the presence or power of God.

4. Once you sense the Spirit of the Lord upon you, listen to the Holy Spirit and do whatever you sense He tells you to do.
 - Praise God for what He does! To Him be all glory!

NOTES:



ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:1-13
- Acts 4:8, 31
- Acts 9:17
- Acts 10:38
- Luke 11:13

Old Testament Examples:

- Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14
- 1 Samuel 10:1, 6, 9, 11:6, 16:13
- Numbers 11:1, 16-30



POWER & AUTHORITY*

God gave Jesus all power and authority over all creation in order to carry out His Kingdom purpose. We previously learned that the word for power in Greek is *dynamis*, like dynamite, meaning strength or ability, as in being stronger than an opponent. On the other hand, authority is rank and the right to do something, as in being the boss. The word for authority is *exousia* and is defined as “the power of choice or the liberty to do as one pleases, including the power of rule or government, or jurisdiction.” Jesus has all *dynamis* and *exousia* over all creation and now He now shares that with us as we go out to do His Kingdom work.

*Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

*Ephesians 1:18-23: - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power [dynamis] for us who believe. That power [dynamis] is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority [exousia], power [dynamis] and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.***

Authority was God's original design for mankind. God gave Adam and Eve all authority in the earth in their state of purity and innocence and they had God-given command over all creation including the animals, fish, birds, and plants. All they had to do was speak the word, and all of creation had to obey. For example, Adam could say to the birds, “come here,” or to the clouds, “move from here to there,” and they had to obey because they were subject to Adam. Furthermore, before the wrong-tree incident, man outranked the devil. All Adam had to say to the serpent was, “NO.” But unfortunately, he didn't.

As God's Son, authority was Jesus' birthright. He could do anything that He pleased, and all creation had to obey. Unlike Adam, Jesus maintained His rank over the devil even when the evil one tested Him for forty days in the wilderness by saying, in essence, “NO.” Jesus' divine nature always led Him in purity so that He used His God-given authority correctly according to God's will. Jesus also had authority from God to forgive sin, something only God can do and which inherently releases people from the devil's subjection. As such, the signs and wonders of God that followed Jesus proved His authority from God.

*Mark 1:27: The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, **"What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him."** (See also Luke 4:36.)*

*Luke 5:23-24: Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."** So he*

said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." (See also Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:5-11.)

Matthew 8:27: The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? **Even the winds and the waves obey him!**" (See also Mark 4:41.)

Jesus' message was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" He did not come to condemn, to judge, or to oppress but to forgive, show mercy, and set free. Everywhere Jesus went, He proclaimed or taught about the Kingdom of God and then demonstrated God's love and power by healing the sick, casting out demons, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, multiplying food, and commanding the weather. It was not just power that poured out through Jesus – it was the love of God offering salvation, deliverance, healing, and sustenance for all who would believe. Here is a chart of some of Jesus' miracles.

THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT	
2 Blind Men	Matthew 9
Blind Man	Mark 8
Man Born Blind	John 9
Blind Man	Matthew 20, Mark 10, Luke 18
THE LAME WALK	
Man Lame 38 years	John 5
Paralyzed Man	Matthew 9, Mark 2, Luke 5
LEPERS ARE CLEANSED	
Leper	Matthew 8, Mark 1, Luke 5
Ten Lepers	Luke 17
THE DEAF HEAR	
Deaf and Mute Man	Mark 7
Deaf and Mute Boy	Mark 9
THE DEAD ARE RAISED	
Girl in Death Bed	Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8
Man in Coffin at Funeral	Luke 7
Man in Grave/Four Days Dead	John 11
THE SICK ARE HEALED	
Woman Bleeding 12 Years	Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8
Woman with Fever	Matthew 8, Mark 1, Luke 4
Man Near Death	Matthew 8, Luke 7
Boy Very Sick/Near Death	John 4
Man with Swelling/Dropsy	Luke 14
Deformed Hand Restored	Matthew 12, Mark 3, Luke 6
Cut Off Ear Restored	Luke 22
DEMONS ARE CAST OUT	
Boy with Violent Seizures	Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9
Girl with Tormenting Evil Spirit	Matthew 15, Mark 7
Man with Evil/Unclean Spirit	Mark 1, Luke 4
Mute Man	Matthew 12, Luke 11
Woman Crippled 18 Years	Luke 13
Man Driven to Insanity	Matthew 8, Mark 5, Luke 8
Mute Man	Matthew 9

Jesus was not limited to these miracles or to these illnesses. In fact, these examples are just the highlights

that the writers of the Gospels chose to write about for our edification. However, these writers also made it definitively clear that Jesus healed ALL diseases for those who came to Him in faith.

*Matthew 4:23-24 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, **and healing every disease and sickness among the people.** News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him **all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and He healed them.***

See also Matthew 9:35, 12:15, 14:25-26, 15:30-31; Mark 1:32-39, 3:10-11, 6:54-56; Luke 4:40-41, 6:17-19, 7:21, 9:11; John 6:2, 20:30, 21:25; Acts 10:38.

All of this is to say that Jesus' miracles testified to Jesus' absolute power and authority over all creation and revealed a loving God's perfect and pleasing will on earth as it is in heaven. Accordingly, when Jesus' disciples asked Him how we should pray, He responded with a simple answer:

*Matthew 6:9-13: "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**'*

Jesus used His authority to bring heaven to earth. Now, He sends us for the very same purpose, and He has given us power through the Gospel to do it. What, then, is the Gospel?

THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER

The Gospel is the power of God. God is not the power, Jesus is not the power, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit is not the power – the Gospel is the power. Again, power is strength or ability.

*Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, **because it [the Gospel] is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.***

*1Corinthians 15:2-4: **By this gospel you are saved,** if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received **I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, **that he was buried,** that he was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,*

*1Corinthians 1:22-24: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified:** a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God** and the wisdom of God.*

Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus paid for all of our sins and, therefore, the effects and consequences of sin have absolutely no legal right to our lives. Think of it this way: if we owed money to a creditor, then they would have the legal right to pursue us for the debt owed to them. This could include sending bills, calling relentlessly, seizing some of our assets, etc. However, if the debt was paid in full, then the creditor would have no more right to pursue us. Similarly, all of mankind is in debt because of sin and, until this debt is paid, curses, sickness, oppression, and death have the right to pursue us. However, since Jesus paid our sin-debt in full the charges against us have been cancelled and instead of sin's consequences, we have the right to blessing, health, and life – on earth as it is in heaven.

*Colossians 2:13-14: When **you were dead in your sins** and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness,** which stood against us and condemned us; he has **taken it away, nailing it to the cross.***

Colossians 1:21-23: *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and **do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.** This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

The curse of God's Law is the presiding standard of retribution for our sin and stumbling and, without Christ, it has the right to enforce its consequences in our lives. However, when we believe Jesus, we are no longer subject to the curse of the Law. No matter how much we stumble, Jesus took it all upon Himself. This profound exchange is the Gospel. Jesus Christ, who never sinned, had all of our sins imputed to Him, charged against Him, and placed on His account. (See Galatians 3:13.) Through faith, we, who are incapable of righteousness, have Jesus' righteousness imputed to us, credited to our account, and given to us as a free gift. He became sin. We become the righteousness of God. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) Accordingly, anything which is outside of God's perfect and pleasing will for us as it is in heaven has no legal grounds to be in our lives.

Curse of the Law Deuteronomy 28: <i>(See also Leviticus 26.)</i>	The Power of the Gospel <i>(See many many other Scriptures...)</i>
Lack: verses: 15-19, 23-24, 26, 38-42, 48, 63	Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
Sickness: verses: 21-22, 27-28, 34-35, 58-62	1Peter 2:24: "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; " by his wounds you have been healed. "
Defeat: verses: 25-26, 29-33, 43-44, 48-57	Colossians 2:15: And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
Unholiness: verses: 15, 25, 37, 45-47, 53-58	Hebrews 10:14: For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.
Enmity with God: verses: 34, 36, 48, 61, 65-67	1Peter 2:25: For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
Sinfulness: verses: 15, 45-47, 53-58	Ephesians 1:7: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins , in accordance with the riches of God's grace
Wandering/Exile from God: verses: 29,32, 36-37, 41, 63-68	Ephesians 2:13: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Think of it this way: Hypothetically, if we are all deathly allergic to bee stings then when we are stung by a bee, we know that we are going to die. That bee sting has power over us because, as the bee venom permeates our being and kills us, it proves to be stronger than we are. However, if we possess the anti-venom to bee stings, then all bee stings are rendered powerless and have no effect. Similarly, sin is like a bee sting, and the Law of God is like the bee venom enforcing consequences of the sting which pervade our being until we perish. (See Romans 6:23.) Christ's resurrection proves that Jesus is stronger than sin and death so, therefore, the Gospel is like the anti-venom that renders sin powerless, nullifies its effects. We apply the anti-venom by faith and it grants us immunity from stings that lead to death for all eternity.

1Corinthians 15:55-57: *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The **sting of death is sin**, and the **power of sin is the law.** But thanks be to God! He **gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

*Hebrews 2:14-15: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so **that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

In short, Jesus overpowered all of our enemies through His life, death, and resurrection and the Gospel renders all sin, the curse, the devil, and even death powerless against everyone who believes Christ. Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to every affliction and oppression facing everyone that we know. This said, the power of the Gospel is only accessed through faith. For this reason, when Jesus' first followers asked Him what God required of them, His answer was simple: **believe**.

John 6:28-29: Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

It is only through faith in Christ that we receive all of the benefits of His salvation and do the works that He did. He sends us out to proclaim the Gospel, which is the power of God to work miracles, signs, and wonders, so that we receive and reveal to others God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

Jesus' authority over all creation was His birthright as the Son of God and He used it to serve those whose lives had been damaged by the effects of sin. (See Philippians 2:6-7.) While He was on the earth, He shared this authority with His disciples when He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and to do the works that He had been doing, namely, miracles. Notably, He cautioned His followers to remain focused on what was truly significant – not their authority in Jesus' name but that they knew Him and were known by Him.

*Matthew 10:1, 7-8: Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and **gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness...** As you go, **proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'** **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.** *Freely you have received; freely give. (See also Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-23.)**

Luke 10:19-20: I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned His disciples into their Kingdom assignment. Because we who believe were included with Christ in His resurrection, His authority has become our born-again birthright as sons and daughters of God. (See 1 Peter 1:3; John 1:12) Post-resurrection, our authority in Christ is not just an assignment, it is part of who we have become.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, it was confirmed that Jesus Christ is supreme over everything created because He is seated at the right hand of God in the throne room of heaven. (See Colossians 1:15-20.) We who believe were with Jesus when He ascended to heaven, and therefore, we are seated in Him in the throne room of God, and we have the same God-given authority that He has.

*Philippians 2:9-11: Therefore **God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*Ephesians 2:6: And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,***

In Christ and according to God's will, we now have authority over creation, we outrank the devil and all of his cohorts, and we have the right to declare that sins have been forgiven in the name of Jesus. God

placed everything under subjection to Jesus so that through faith in Him, we can execute God's will in the earth and do the works that Jesus did the way that He did them. Through this we reveal Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil and we make it known that Jesus has absolute authority over all.

*Ephesians 3:10-11: His intent was that now, **through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms**, according to his eternal purpose **that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*John 20:21-23: Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**"*

POWER & AUTHORITY TO SAVE

In the Scriptures, a person's name often indicates their personality or purpose. The name Jesus means God saves, and this is certainly descriptive of God's purpose for Him. When Jesus described His mission on the earth, He described it like this:

*John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **to save the world through him.***

*John 12:47: If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. **For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.***

*Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came **to seek and to save the lost.**"*

We previously examined how Elijah's anointing and mission became Elisha's anointing and mission and how Elijah's cloak and a double portion of his spirit equipped Elisha with everything that he needed to fulfill his task. Now that the Holy Spirit has been poured out, Christ's anointing and purpose has become the anointing and purpose of each one of us as His disciples. His intent is for His followers to do His works with the same heart of love of God towards all people. Miracles are not for the purpose of being spiritually powerful to make ourselves look good or gain a following. The power of God for miracles is for the purpose of salvation, deliverance, healing, and sustenance.

*1Timothy 2:3-4: God our Savior, **who wants all people to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

*1Timothy 4:10: **That is why we labor and strive**, because we have put our hope in the living God, **who is the Savior of all people**, and especially of those who believe.*

God's desire is to save. Jesus came to save. Power from heaven being given to us to work miracles is God's expression of love and confirming the name of His only Son Jesus so that the whole world can be saved through faith in Him.



ALL AUTHORITY TO GO

Scripture Reading & Worksheet

Read each of the following passages and then use the chart below for study and reflection.

- Matthew 10
- Luke 10:1-24
- Luke 9:1-6
- Mark 16:15-20

How did Jesus command His disciples to proclaim the message of His Kingdom?		
List three significant words or phrases that stood out to you.		
What insight does this give you about God's power for sharing the Gospel?		
What insight does this give you about persecution for moving in spiritual power and authority?		
How do these passages change your views about sharing Jesus with other people?		
List three questions you still have about God following believers with signs and wonders.		
What is your conclusion or main take-away from these passages?		

CAST OUT DEMONS

Matthew 10:1, 7-8 NIV - Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ... As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

DESCRIPTION

Jesus gave authority to us as His disciples to cast out demons, also known as unclean spirits. Demons keep people in bondage to states of mind or behaviors from which they desire to be free. Demonic oppression can be the cause of fornications, addictions, compulsions, and chronic or irrational behaviors which plague people with trouble.

The aim in Christ is freedom from all oppression for everyone. Unbelievers may be possessed, oppressed, or afflicted by any sort of demon. Christ followers cannot be possessed by demons but can experience oppression due to harassment from unclean spirits. When a believer commands demons to leave in the name of Jesus, deliverance from these torturous afflictions can happen in an instant. This said, once the unclean spirits have been cast out, the formerly oppressed person must also modify their behavior to live by faith in Christ's freedom so that the demons do not return.

Therefore, to practice Casting Out Demons is about discerning the unclean or demonic spirits so that we can expose and expel them in the name of Jesus, bringing liberty to the captives with the power of God!

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you have granted me authority to cast out demons. Help me to discern spirits affliction and oppressing me and others and the power to cast them out by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PURPOSE:

To grow in exercising our God-given authority over the powers of the devil.

To set ourselves and others free from demonic oppression through the name of Jesus.

To fill ourselves and others with the Holy Spirit rather than unclean spirits.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Greater functioning in God's authority for us as His children.

Deeper experience of God's ways and work on our behalf.

Freedom from oppression.

Repentance from ungodliness.

Renewed purity in the Holy Spirit.

PRACTICE

1. Identify potential areas of demonic oppression. For example, behaviors that are irrational, uncharacteristic of the person's normal state, uncontrollable, or addictive.

- For example, some common oppressions include:

Anger	Rejection	Infirmary	Pornography
Fear	Self-loathing	Religion	New Age spirits
Anxiety	Depression	Bitterness	Abandonment
Jezebel	Witchcraft	Divination	Hopelessness
Regret	Offense	Levithan	Manipulation

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any demonic or unclean spirits which are the cause of oppression or affliction.

- Write down what you hear the Holy Spirit saying.
- If you do not have one word for it, write down a brief description of what the unclean spirit causes. For example, "a spirit that causes me to hate myself."

3. Believe in your heart that it is God's will for those captive to demonic spirits to be set free.

- Believe that as Christ's disciple, you have authority to cast out demons in His name.

4. Expel the demons. Take authority and command the spirit.

- (Speak the way you would command a dog to sit.)
- Say something like, "In the power and authority of the name of Jesus, I command the spirit of [name of unclean spirit] to leave right now and never return."
- If you do not have a specific name for the spirit, address it as an unclean spirit or spirits.

5. Refill with the Holy Spirit and live out your liberty.

- Ask the Lord to fill the formerly oppressed person with the Holy Spirit in place of the unclean spirits.
- Encourage them to change any behaviors which may have become habitual due to the demonic oppression.

NOTES:



ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Mark 1:23-27
Matthew 8:16, 28-34

Acts 10:38

Acts 16:16-24

Luke 10:19-20

Luke 11:24-26

Acts 19:11-20

1 Timothy 4:1

Ephesians 6:12



WALKING LIKE JESUS*

Jesus did not come only to die for us but also to live for us in order to reveal the perfect will of God in action. Jesus' life is the exact image of God in the earth and whatever Jesus did was exactly what God desired to be done in each situation. (See Hebrews 1:3; John 14:9.)

God's design in giving us the Holy Spirit is for us to walk by the Spirit like Jesus did rather than our own desires and ideas. This is how He guides us into the works He has ordained for us to do and this is what transforms us into Christ's likeness in our inward nature as the children of God. When we truly allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of the Lord, our lives will become more and more miraculous.

*Romans 8:5-6: Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on **what the flesh desires**; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on **what the Spirit desires**. The **mind governed by the flesh is death**, but the **mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace**.*

*Romans 8:12-14: Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation--but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live. For **those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God**.*

The only way that we will fulfill the good works which God has prepared for us is to live like Jesus and be led by the Spirit of the Lord the way that Jesus was. Living by the guidance of God through the Holy Spirit is not about doing whatever the most godly thing seems to be in any given situation. Instead, we must set our hearts to seek God's guidance above all else and allow Him to correct and guide us along with way, trusting that He will. This requires faith that He is who He says He is and trust that He is a gentle Shepherd, not a harsh master. (Consider Matthew 25:14-30.) The more we listen, the more He will guide us.

*Mark 4:24-25 NLT: Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. **The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given--and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given.** But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."* (See also Matthew 25:29; Luke 8:18.)

DEAD WORKS AND GOOD WORKS

If we continue living our lives according to our fleshly desires or if we continue to try to fulfill the will of God in our own strength or concept of what God's will is, then we are producing *dead works*. A dead work is a work that does not lead to life. Neither our flesh nor our religious concepts of obedience or piety have any ability to produce the righteousness of God leading to everlasting life. We are saved entirely by faith.

*Galatians 3:2-3: I would like to learn just one thing from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing** what you heard? Are you so foolish? After **beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?***

This said, faith alone without works is also dead.

James 2:17-18: In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

Christ redeemed us so that we may be saved by God's grace through faith in Him and so we may do good works for His Kingdom and according to His purposes.

Ephesians 2:8-10: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- **not by works, so that no one can boast.** For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Now, because the Holy Spirit is within us, we do not have to wonder as the saying goes, "What would Jesus do?" By standards of logic and common sense, Jesus was completely unpredictable, and God's ways often seem like foolishness to our natural mind. (See 1 Corinthians 1:18.) Unfortunately, this is how a lot of us are trying to follow Jesus. We read about Him, imagine the way that we think He is or how we think He would handle a situation, and then we do it according to our own imagined or intellectual concept of Jesus and God's will. We do what we think we should be doing rather than actually seeking Him and waiting for Him to guide us.

Rather, when we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we know for ourselves what Jesus **is doing** right NOW because Jesus is in us and He is doing it through us right NOW. This said, excelling at living our lives by the indwelling Holy Spirit does not happen overnight, and it cannot be rushed, forced, or faked. In fact, it seems that the more we try to rush, force, and fake it, the worse things go for us. We cannot lean on our own understanding – and even our own understanding of God. We have to become like little children in order to be led by Him and to walk in His miracles.

Proverbs 3:5-6: **Trust in the LORD** with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding;** in all your ways **submit to him,** and he will make your paths straight.

Matthew 18:3: And he said: "Truly I tell you, **unless you change and become like little children,** you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

To be clear, I am not suggesting that God desires us to be stupid people or discard the capacities which He has given us. Rather, I am saying that, as we make decisions, we should choose to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, even if it does not seem to measure up with our common sense or a logical way of approaching things. Our common sense and religious ideas will produce nothing but death. But the Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to know to follow God's path for our lives and fulfill the works He has for us to do. Actually, living by the Holy Spirit gives us the highest intelligence available and He promises to teach us all things!

1Corinthians 1:25: For the foolishness of God is **wiser than human wisdom,** and the weakness of God is **stronger than human strength.**

1John 2:20, 27: But you have an **anointing from the Holy One [the Holy Spirit],** and all of you **know the truth.** ... As for you, the anointing [the Holy Spirit] you received from him remains in you, **and you do not need anyone to teach you.** But as **his anointing [the Holy Spirit] teaches you about all things** and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, **remain in him.**

CHRIST IN YOU

The Biblical writer who best expressed this abiding relationship of us in Christ and Christ in us through the Holy Spirit was John. John emphasized Jesus' teaching about His relationship with God the Father and our relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. These are a mirror image of one another.

Jesus walked on earth in a flesh like ours as a demonstration for us of what it looks like to live by the guidance of God's Spirit. When we do what Jesus did by abiding in Him the way He abided in the Father, we will say what He is saying and do what He is doing. It is only through this abiding relationship that we are empowered to carry out God's purposes in the earth.

Let's take a look at the parallels between Jesus' relationship with His Father and our relationship with Christ now that He has ascended to heaven and poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Jesus could do nothing by Himself, only what He saw the Father doing – mirrors – We can do nothing apart from Him and our flesh profits nothing:

*John 5:19-20: Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the **Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For **the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does**. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.*

*John 6:63: **The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing**. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life.*

*John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing**.*

God did not leave Jesus alone – mirrors – Jesus does not leave us alone as orphans:

*John 8:29: The one who sent me **is with me**; he has **not left me alone**, for I always do what pleases him."*

*John 14:16-18: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and **be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**. **I will not leave you as orphans**; I will come to you.*

God was in Jesus and Jesus was in God – mirrors – Christ is in us and we are in Christ:

*John 10:38: But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that **the Father is in me, and I in the Father**."*

*John 14:10-11,17,20,23: Don't you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me**? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, **it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work**. Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ... **the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you**. ... On that day you will realize that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you**. ... Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and **we will come to them and make our home with them**.*

*John 15:4-7: **Remain in me, as I also remain in you**. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **If you remain in me and my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

Jesus had life in Him – mirrors – We have life in us:

John 1:4: **In him was life**, and that life was the light of all mankind.

John 5:26: For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted **the Son also to have life in himself**.

John 6:40,47-48,54,57: For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and **believes in him shall have eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day." ... Very truly I tell you, the one who **believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life**. ... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day. ... Just as the living Father sent me and **I live because of the Father**, so the one who feeds on me **will live because of me**.

John 11:25 : Jesus said to her, "**I am** the resurrection and **the life**. The one who **believes in me will live**, even though they die;

John 14:6,19: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me... Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live**.

God taught Jesus, showed Jesus what to do and what to say, and Jesus obeyed God's commands – mirrors – Jesus teaches us all that He knows, shows us what to do and what to say, and we keep His commands

John 8:28-29: So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that **I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me**. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for **I always do what pleases him**."

John 12:49-50: For **I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken**. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So **whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say**."

John 14:15,21,23,26,31: "**If you love me, keep my commands**. ... **Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me**. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." ... Jesus replied, "**Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ... But the Advocate, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you**. ... but he comes so that the world may learn that **I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me**." Come now; let us leave.

John 15:3,10,15: **You are already clean** because of the word I have spoken to you. If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as **I have kept my Father's commands** and remain in his love. ... I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you**.

John 16:13,15: But when he, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**. He will not speak on his own; **he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you** what is yet to come. ... All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said **the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you**."

1Jo 2:20,27: But you have an anointing from the Holy One, [the Holy Spirit] and **all of you know the truth**. ... As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you

do not need anyone to teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you about all things** and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Jesus' teaching was not His own but God's – mirrors – Our teaching is not our own but Christ's:

John 7:16: Jesus answered, "**My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.** ...

John 14:24,26: Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. **These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.** ... But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

John 15:15: I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

Mat 28:19-20: **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus is the Son of God – mirrors – We are the children of God:

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:36: what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, '**I am God's Son**'?

John 1:12: Yet **to all who did receive him**, to those **who believed** in his name, he gave the right to **become children of God**--

Jesus is the light of the world – mirrors – We are the light of the world:

John 1:4: In him was life, and that life was **the light of all mankind.**

John 9:5: While I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.**"

John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever **follows me** will never walk in darkness, but will **have the light of life.**"

John 12:36,46: Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may **become children of light.**" When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. ... **I have come into the world as a light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Mat 5:14: "**You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Jesus did not sin – mirrors – We will not sin:

1Jo 3:5-6,9: But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. **And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning.** No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ... **No one who is born of God will continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in them; **they cannot go on sinning**, because they have been born of God.

1Jo 5:18: We know that **anyone born of God does not continue to sin**; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

God loves Jesus – mirrors – Jesus loves us:

John 5:20: For **the Father loves the Son** and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

John 14:21: Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. **The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them** and show myself to them."

John 15:9: **As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.** Now remain in my love.

God sent Jesus into the world – mirrors – Jesus sends us into the world to be like Him and do His works.

John 6:38: For **I have come down from heaven** not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 12:45: **The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.**

John 14:9: Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 13:20: Very truly I tell you, **whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.**"

Mat 28:19-20: Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely **I am with you** always, to the very end of the age."

Mar 16:15-18: He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And **these signs will accompany those who believe:** In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

John 14:12: Very truly I tell you, **whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these,** because I am going to the Father.

Only through the Holy Spirit can we be guided by God into the good works which He has prepared for us. When we are led by the Holy Spirit in us directing us, empowering us, and strengthening us, will we become like Jesus and we will not produce dead works but good works of eternal life. We will walk like Jesus walked, talk like He talked, do the things He did, and endure through the trials of life in order to receive our eternal rewards.

OBEDIENCE TO THE MASTER

Romans 6:16-17 NIV - Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

DESCRIPTION

The Apostle Paul knew that He had been bought with a price. God purchased us for Himself with the precious blood of Jesus. This redemption sets us free from wrong "masters" so that we can obey God. It is true that Jesus calls us His friends but He is also our King. The Kingdom is a monarchy, not a democracy. Our King has the right to give us orders, instructions, and daily tasks. Unfortunately, we often live according to our own agenda, desires, ambitions, the pattern of this world, or the expectations of others rather than turning ourselves over to obey God exclusively. We are God's servants. A servant eagerly awaits their master's orders and executes them without argument or contradiction. The master sets the agenda each day for their own purposes and has the right to shift the focus of the servant anytime they need to.

To practice Obedience to the Master is about receiving daily "orders" from the Lord about the things that He has for us **today** so that we can obey Him even if it means we have to alter our own plans.

CONSIDERATIONS

Has there been a time when you knew that God was telling you to do something other than what you had planned? What was this like for you? What did you do? What difficulties do you encounter when thinking of yourself as a servant/slave? Why are you offended? Are you willing to allow God to change your plans today? This week? This year? For your life?



PURPOSE:

To listen to God's voice.
To discern the will of the Lord for us for today.

To present ourselves to God to do His will.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Greater alignment with God's will.
Increased awareness of God in our daily life and routine.
Increased worship through offering of ourselves.
Improved clarity of God's desires for us.

PRAYER

Jesus, you are my King. Forgive me for the times I have treated You too casually by not listening to or obeying Your instructions. I come before You now as a servant to my Master to receive Your directions and to do Your will. Speak to me now so I can obey Your voice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRACTICE

- Each morning, set a time and find a quiet and private place where you can spend time with God.
 - If you need to wake up earlier to make this time, do so.
 - Bring your Bible and a notebook to take note of anything significant the Lord may share with you.
- Be still for a moment. Then, offer yourself to God.
 - Offer the day ahead to God, saying, "Jesus, I offer this day to you as a sacrifice. I desire to do Your will today."
 - Wait for anything He might say to you before you begin.
- Begin to ask the Lord for His guidance for the day. Give Jesus enough time to respond to you. Take notes of your King's responses as needed. Use the following questions as a guide for your conversation.
 - King Jesus, what do you have for me today?
 - Is there anything You want me to do?
 - Is there anywhere You want me to go?
 - Is there anyone You want me to reach out to or serve?
 - Is there any issue in me that You want to address?
 - Is there anyone You want me to forgive or bless?
 - Is there anything You want me to acquire or give away?
 - Is there anything on my calendar today that is **not** Your will? How do You want me to handle that?
 - Is there any fruit of the Spirit that You desire for me to execute my tasks with today? (love, joy, peace, etc.)
- Thank the Lord for His guidance. Ask Him to help you to do the things He has revealed to you **today**, without making excuses – especially the things you might not desire to do.

NOTES:



ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

- John 10:27
Psalm 123:2
1 Corinthians 6:20
1 Corinthians 7:23
Isaiah 30:21
Hebrews 3:7,15
Jeremiah 31:33
Romans 12:1
Philippians 2:6-8



GIFTS & GATHERING

Scripture Reading

Read the Book of 1 Corinthians, Chapters 12, 13, 14 and then use the chart below for study and reflection.

Summarize the Apostle Paul's message in these passages.

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3 Highlights or Significant Points:

Questions you still have about this:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Imagine yourself in a gathering like Paul describes, experiencing the scene and the story.

Who are you?

What do you see?

What do you hear?

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What do you smell?

What do you sense?

How do you feel?

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What insight does this give you into God's design for Christian gatherings?

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Notes & Lessons Learned:

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HOLY SPIRIT: PROPHECY

1Co 14:3, 24-25 NIV - The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. ... But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1Corinthians 12 are gifts which are freely distributed by God when believers gather together. Jesus demonstrated that spiritual maturity includes operating in any and all of these gifts as God wills. *Note:* These gifts are different than those in Romans 12 and Ephesians 4.

DESCRIPTION

The Holy Spirit gift of Prophecy is distributed by the Holy Spirit when believers are gathered together. By definition, prophecy is "a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, revealing hidden things, or foretelling future events."¹ As such, the Holy Spirit gift of Prophecy is for edification, exhortation, comfort, and may also be used to expose or bring conviction of sin. Any believer can function in this gift at any time as God grants them revelation. This said, the Scripture is clear that all hearers of prophecy must test/judge the word of prophecy for themselves before receiving it as from the Lord or taking action on the word. As a general guideline, words from the Lord will impart hope and restoration while words of condemnation or manipulation are not from God.

Practicing the Holy Spirit Gift of Prophecy is about listening to God when we are with people for anything He may desire to say to them and then speaking it forth on His behalf.



PURPOSE:

To speak forth God's words of encouragement, and alignment with His will.

To convey the heart of God towards others.

To discern accurately the situations in the lives of others so we can help them according to God's will.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Speaking the truth in love to others.

Building up the Church.

Compassion coupled with words of exhortation to right action.

Considerate warnings and rebukes to those who need correction.

Comfort for the afflicted.

¹Definition from Thayer's Greek Lexicon

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you desire to speak through me by your Spirit so that others may be brought into the fullness of your love and blessings. Help me to speak your words to others so that they can know you more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRACTICE

- When you are with someone, take some time to ask the Lord if there is anything He desires to say to them.
 - While you are with the person, listen to them and listen to the Holy Spirit at the same time.
- Pay careful attention to what the Holy Spirit reveals to you as you focus on the person you are with. Pay attention for things such as:
 - Scripture verses or passages that come to your mind.
 - Simple phrases which seem to come into your mind (which may hold significance to them even if not to you.)
 - Pictures or visions you see with the eyes of your heart (which you must then describe to them.)
 - Revelation of the call of God on their life or some aspect of how God has gifted them.
 - Discernment of the time or season of life with God that they are in and God's purpose in it.
 - Instructions from God for what they are to do next.
 - Insight into an area of their life which God desires to heal.
 - Invitations to deeper trust in God and His ways.
 - Warnings of danger ahead.
 - Calls to repentance or rebuke for ungodliness or unbelief.
 - A scene or prophetic act the Lord wants you to do to demonstrate His message to them.

- Share the insights you receive from the Lord with the person you are with or do what the Lord tells you to do.
 - Encourage them to test the word and take it to the Lord in prayer for application.
 - Give God all the glory for speaking through you!

NOTES:

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 29-33, 39

Acts 11:28

Acts 13:1-2

Acts 21:8-14

Acts 21:9

1Thessalonians 5:19-22

1 John 4:1



UNIT FOUR – KEY QUESTIONS

Miracles

Use this worksheet to test your grasp of the material and exercises of Unit Four.

How do we access God's power for miracles?	
Is the Holy Spirit within us or upon us?	What is the difference between being full or filled with the Holy Spirit?
What is the difference between power and authority?	What is God's power and authority for?
How do we do what Jesus would do?	What is the purpose of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
What is one thing you learned that you did not know before?	What questions do you still have about this subject?

HOLY SPIRIT: PROPHECY

DESCRIPTION

The Holy Spirit gift of Prophecy is distributed by the Holy Spirit when believers are gathered together for their edification, exhortation, comfort. To prophesy simply means to speak by divine inspiration as God's representative.

As followers of Christ, any one of us can be enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak the words of God. This could be in the form of a simple phrase, a picture that we see with the eyes of our heart, a sense that we know something that we have no other way of knowing, or an impression that comes to mind about or for those we prophesy to. As we prophesy, we cooperate with God in order to accurately communicate what He is saying to the recipient. We must be careful not to add to God's words or leave anything out.

When we receive prophetic words from others, we listen with our spirit in order to discern the words of God. As a general guideline, the Holy Spirit speaks truth, encourages faith, testifies to eternal hope, imparts God's unconditional love, and conveys God's work on our behalf for our good. On the other hand, words of guilt, shame, fear, punishment, accusation, curse, or manipulation to have personal desires fulfilled are not from the Holy Spirit. We can receive words from the Holy Spirit as the words of God Himself to us and we should reject words that are not from the Holy Spirit, rendering them powerless in our lives by the blood of Jesus.

Practicing the Holy Spirit Gift of Prophecy is about listening to God with one another so that everyone is strengthened in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Corinthians 14:26b, 29-31 NIV - When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ... Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

GROUP PRACTICE

1. Start your time as a group with worshipping the Lord and praying in the Spirit for at least 20 to 30 minutes
 - Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as a group or to any individuals within the group that the Lord may highlight. Wait upon the Lord with your spiritual ears open to Him.
 - Open the floor for prophetic words.
2. When anyone in the group believes that they have a revelation or a word from the Lord, they can share it. Speak one at a time so everyone can hear. Examples include:
 - Scripture verses or passages that come to mind.
 - Simple phrases which seem to come into your mind (whether they make sense to you or not.)
 - Pictures or visions you see with the eyes of your heart (which you must then describe to the group.)
 - Discernment God's purpose for the group.
 - Instructions from God for what the group is to do next.
 - Warnings of danger ahead.
 - A scene or prophetic act the Lord wants you to do to demonstrate His message.
3. After the person has shared their insight from the Lord, pause for a moment to weigh what has been said.
 - In your Spirit, do you sense a "Yes" or a "No" to this?
 - Does this agree with what God has been speaking to you?
 - Does this apply Scripture and revelation of God's ways?
4. Continue to wait upon the Lord and share with one another what He is speaking to you.
 - Sometimes what one speaker says prompts confidence in others to share their insights. Try not to leave words unsaid.
 - Try to discern if there is a theme to what the Lord is saying.
5. Praise God for His insights and for speaking to and through you!



PURPOSE:

Listen to God speak to you by His Spirit as a group.

Speak forth what God is revealing to your group or its members.

Encourage one another with words from God.

GROUP SIZE:

Any size group.

SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 14

1 John 4:1

Amos 3:7

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Acts 2:17

Joel 2:28

UNIT FOUR: GROUP EXERCISES

Use the Cast Out Demons Exercise to minister to one another. **AND/OR:**

