

# ***Basic Discipleship***

## ***A Course On New Testament Discipleship***

### ***Topic #6***

## ***THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN LIFE***

***Objectives:*** As a result of the study of this topic we want:

1. To be able to understand the various types of people in the world today.
2. To be able to grasp why God emphasizes the filling ministry of the Spirit.
3. To be able to define what is meant by being filled with the Spirit.
4. To be able to defend scripturally the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit.
5. To be able to answer why so many Christians do not mature spiritually.
6. To be able to delineate the conditions for being filled with the Spirit.
7. To be able to recognize how one remains filled with the Spirit.

### ***Introduction***

*It has well been said, “If you try to understand the doctrine of the Trinity, you will lose your mind. If you deny the doctrine of the Trinity, you will lose your soul.” The most difficult aspect about the Christian concept of the Trinity is that there is no way to adequately explain this revealed truth with our finite minds. Though some truths concerning the Trinity may be incomprehensible to us, this does not mean they are not true or not based on the teachings of the Bible. And so, in the last lesson we zeroed in on the doctrine of the Triune God. In this session, we want to focus on how the Holy Spirit is able to \_\_\_\_\_ & direct our lives moment by moment & day by day.*

### ***I. The Promise of A New & Abundant Life***

*The promise that God would come & reestablish a personal relationship with man that was lost in the Garden of Eden is, as you might expect, found in the Old Testament. God warned Adam that if he ate from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” that on the very “day” he disobeyed that he would “certainly die” (Genesis 2:17). Because of his sin and our participation with him (Romans 5:12), people are born into this world physically alive but spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:6). Staring in Genesis, God promises and unfolds how He will restore what has been \_\_\_\_.*

A. The Old Testament prophesies the promise of new life through the Spirit.

1. The Old Testament prophets predicted a *restored relationship* with \_\_\_\_.
2. God promises to Israel in Ezekiel \_\_\_\_ of a new kind of relationship that people can have with Himself by the Spirit when He writes:

26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances (36:26–27).

3. This transformation — from the inside out — is the promise of the \_\_\_\_ covenant that was not possible until Jesus paid for sin (Matthew 26:28).
4. Instead of the law — working from the outside in — God promised “a new heart” to work from the inside \_\_\_\_ “so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17)
5. In John \_\_\_\_, Jesus spoke of this to Nicodemus as being “born again.”
6. One aspect of this “new covenant” — is the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit where not only He lives in every believer (Romans 8:9), but can also \_\_\_\_ the believer with His power (Acts 1:5).
7. God also promises in Jeremiah chapter 31, of a new kind of relationship that people can have — with God through the Spirit — such that one can \_\_\_\_ “a temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. 33 “For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD: “I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will no longer remember” (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

8. Jeremiah underscores — this “new covenant” — whereby \_\_\_\_ will “forgive their iniquity,” that will be later revealed—was satisfied with Jesus’ own blood bringing a new relationship with God.



9. Those connected to God by the “**new covenant**” have a personal & \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with God not previously available such that all true believers “**will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.**”
10. Since salvation was intended for \_\_\_\_\_ men — even though this promise is given to Israel — a nation of people called to be “**light for the Gentiles**” (Acts 13:47), the promise is for all who will believe (Hebrews 8:10-12).
11. Clearly, the Old Testament prophesied of a \_\_\_\_\_ life through the Spirit.

**B. The New Testament fulfills the promise of new life through the Spirit.**

1. Before the Ascension — Jesus on the Mount of Olives told His disciples that before their ministry began in sharing the gospel with \_\_\_\_\_ nations, they were to “**stay in the city until**” they received the Spirit (Lk. 24:49):

**49 “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”**

2. The promise was fulfilled ten days later on Pentecost/Shavuot (Acts 2), and in our day the moment someone responds in faith to the gospel, they are permanently indwelt by the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:16).
3. After Pentecost, believers no longer need to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Holy Spirit, because in our day the moment one believes they are given the Spirit.

**13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:13-14).**

4. Today, every true believer has become “**a temple of the Holy Spirit**” (1 Corinthians 6:19), and therefore it is essential that every child of God who is now indwelt by the Spirit remain \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit.
5. The focus of this session is on how to stay “**filled with the Spirit**” so that we might \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and enjoy Him day by day (John 16:13–14).

**13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.**

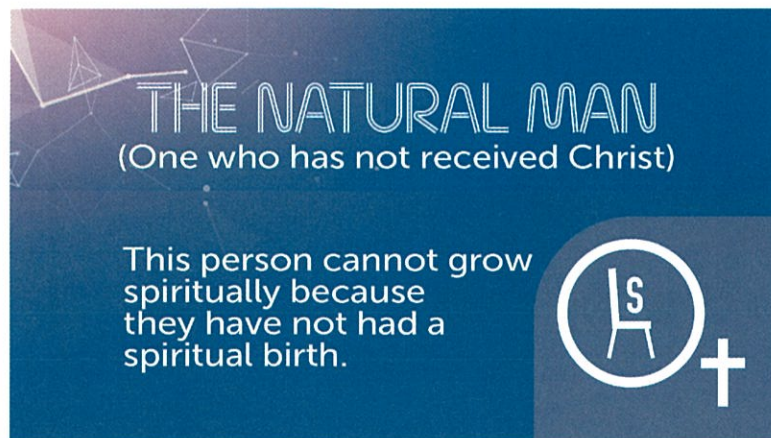
6. Sadly, many Christians today are not experiencing the \_\_\_\_\_ life Jesus came to bring — Jesus taught us — in John 10:10:

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it more abundantly.

7. In fact, the Bible teaches us that since Pentecost, everyone in the world can now be divided into one of \_\_\_\_\_ categories.
8. There is “the natural man” which is how one is “**naturally**” born into this world — being physically alive — but spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Before one is saved—apart from the Holy Spirit’s help in allowing us to understand the plan of salvation — much of the truth found in the Bible just does \_\_\_\_\_ make sense—which is why we learn in 1 Corinthians 2:14:

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

10. The Holy Spirit — enables us to understand all that God has for us (1 Corinthians 2:12)—and without Him we do not have the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ in a life-changing relationship with God.



11. In describing our state before the \_\_\_\_\_ birth we read in Ephesians 2:

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),



12. Likewise, in describing the lost of his day Jude says, “**These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit**” (Jude \_\_\_\_).
  13. A “**natural man**,” without the Holy Spirit living in him, simply does \_\_\_\_ have the capacity to comprehend very much spiritual truth beyond the gospel itself, which even this ability the Spirit gives him (John 16:8-11).
  14. Without the Spirit residing in a person, we do \_\_\_\_ have the ability to grasp spiritual truth any more than a deaf man can evaluate music.
  15. The Holy Spirit is He who enables us to know God personally & to grow in a \_\_\_\_ relationship with God (2 Corinthians 5:17 cf. Romans 6:3).
  16. The second category of people in the world are those who are known as “**spiritual**” men describing those individuals who have been born again and who have learned to \_\_\_\_ upon the Holy Spirit to mature them.
- 15 But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ** (1 Corinthians 2:15–16).
17. This statement in its broader context indicates that only those \_\_\_\_ by God the Spirit, have the capacity to understand “**spiritual . . . things**.”
  18. This is in contrast to “**the natural man**” who cannot be illuminated by the Spirit of God — because he has not had the \_\_\_\_ birth.
  19. His \_\_\_\_ to comprehend truth is limited to the “**material**” world.
  20. A lost man may be able to grasp certain truths *intellectually* (James 2:19 cf. Romans 1:18–23), however without being regenerated by God, his capacity for spiritual \_\_\_\_ is very limited (Isaiah 55:8–9).
  21. By contrast, “**the one who is spiritual**” “**appraises**” or “**judges**” (NKJV) “**all things**” meaning he can **discern** not just “**physical human wisdom**,” but he can also evaluate “**spiritual**” truth by the \_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.
  22. Unlike “**the natural man**” who does \_\_\_\_ have this capacity, those who have received Jesus have a new capacity, namely “**the mind of Christ**.”
  23. The born-again believer is aided by the Holy Spirit and so he has been given the ability to \_\_\_\_ what is spiritual and to think after “**Christ**.”

24. This is precisely what \_\_\_\_\_ told Nicodemus when He said, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God**” (John 3:3).
25. Nicodemus’ problem was not physical blindness but spiritual blindness, and this is the same problem — that we all have from our \_\_\_\_\_ birth.
26. This is why it is essential that we not only be born-again—but that we are also, continually “**filled with the Spirit**” so that — we might grow in Christlikeness & in our understanding of God’s infallible \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Paul notes in verse 15 that, “**he himself is discerned by no one**” meaning a lost person just cannot comprehend why a believer \_\_\_\_\_ as he does.
28. Becoming “**spiritual**” as we will learn in this lesson speaks of maturity, and it is the Holy Spirit—who matures us—as we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.



29. Of course, when Paul mentions “**spiritual men**” he is not describing someone who has arrived — because the sanctification process is \_\_\_\_\_ complete until Jesus comes back (Philippians 3:20-21).
30. The Bible is clear — that while we may have a “**grown-up & growing**” relationship with Christ — none of us have arrived & so we are still to grow spiritually until the day — we \_\_\_\_\_ or Christ raptures us.

12 Not that I have already **grasped it** all or have **already become perfect**, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore, all who are **mature**, let’s have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well (Philippians 3:12–15).



31. Below are some of the characteristics of a Spirit-filled Christian who is progressively walking filled \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit & growing in Christ.

Life is Christ-centered	Enjoys being with God's people
Depends on the Holy Spirit	Has found a place of service
Points people to Christ	Tithes to God's work
Experiences answered prayer	Wants to build up God's church
Maturing in God's Word	Has a song in his heart
Has an attitude of gratitude	Lives with an eternal perspective
Has an obedient lifestyle	Earnestly wants to glorify God

32. We will explore in this section—that the degree of fruit is a byproduct of of being filled with the Spirit over *the course of time*, such that we should \_\_\_\_\_ compare ourselves to others—who have walked—with God longer.

33. The Apostle Paul now highlights a third kind of person, that we might \_\_\_\_\_ to as an “**infant**” or “**fleshly**” or as a “**carnal**” (ASV) believer.

**1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men (1 Corinthians 3:1–3).**

34. Paul having planted the Corinthian church (Acts 18:1-18) — dealt with the Corinthians not as “**spiritual men**” — for they were new Christians being “**infants**” or “**babes in Christ**” able to absorb only simple \_\_\_\_\_.

35. Paul’s usage of the term “**spiritual men**” in verse 1, indicates that such an individual is more than a “**Spirit-filled believer**” because obviously, when you receive Jesus — you are immediately — indwelt and \_\_\_\_\_.

36. Contextually, when he mentions “**spiritual men**,” he is describing people who have consistently walked \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord — in the Spirit’s power, such that — over the course of time “**spiritual**” maturity develops.

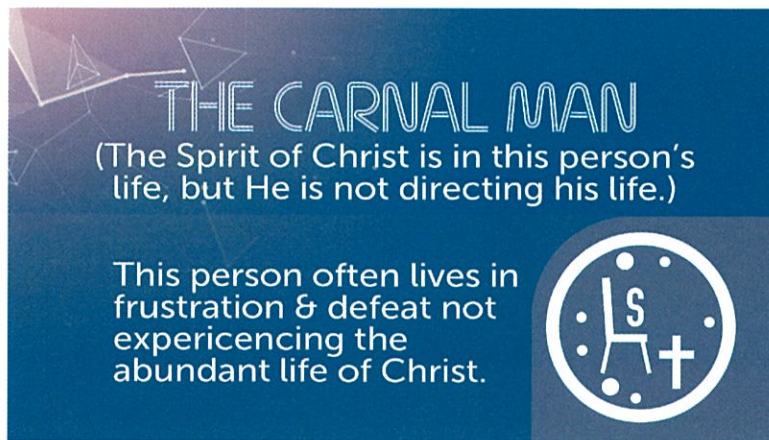
37. The Apostle Paul has already noted in 1 Corinthians 2:6 that he and others taught God’s “**wisdom among those who are mature**,” which tells us right off — that a person can be \_\_\_\_\_ but “**immature**.”

38. God not only wants us to come to faith in Christ, but He wants us to grow out of infancy into maturity, allowing us to digest solid \_\_\_\_\_.

39. And the growth God wants is to continue until He takes us \_\_\_\_\_, but sadly, some Christians are stagnated in their spiritual growth.



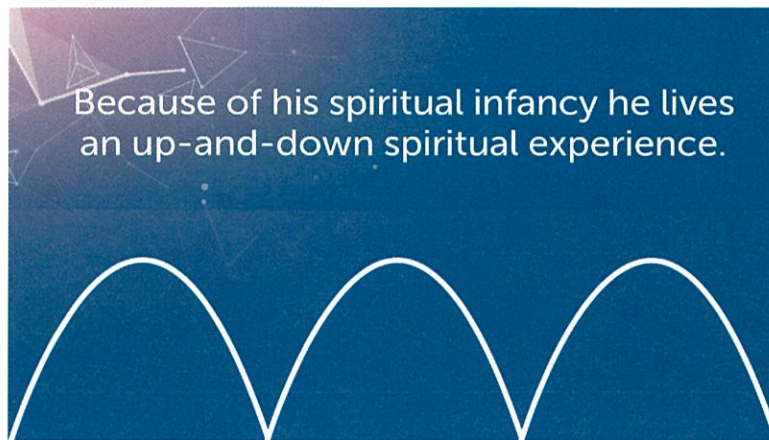
40. In writing to the Corinthian believers, who had already received Christ on Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journey (**51 AD**), approximately four years had transpired when he writes his First Corinthians to them (**55 AD**).
41. So, when Paul informs the Christians in Corinth—that he cannot call them “**spiritual**” people—the problem was not that they had not \_\_\_\_\_ believed in Jesus and received the Spirit of God.
42. Clearly, Paul already written that their faith had been confirmed by the gifts of the Spirit given to them (1:7) such that on “**the day**” of the Lord when they will meet Christ—they would \_\_\_\_\_ as “**blameless**” (1:9).
43. The problem was \_\_\_\_\_ one of ‘**conversion**’ but of ‘**growth**’ because about four years had transpired — where they should have matured in their faith such that the Apostle Paul could have given them “**solid food**.”



1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men (1 Corinthians 3:1–3)?

44. As \_\_\_\_\_ Christians he “**gave**” them “**milk**” for that is what they needed.
45. However, please note the change in tenses in verses 1-3—as he moves from a **past** to a **present** tense where he now tells them “**even now you are not yet able**” when they should have been “**able**” \_\_\_\_\_ years later.
46. The problem as the Apostle Paul will go on to describe in this chapter, is that they are still living as if they were “**unspiritual people**” that is “**like mere men**” (3:3)—as if they were still spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ (2:14)!

47. Spiritually speaking, they “**infants in Christ**” because they are still newborn, weak, undeveloped Christians—when enough \_\_\_\_\_ had passed such that they should be displaying “**spiritual**” maturity.
48. While they show marks of conversion (1 Corinthians 11:2), they still manifest “**fleshly**,” or “**carnal**” traits acting like “**mere men**” or like \_\_\_\_\_ people as seen — by their “**jealousy**” & **strife**” in the church.
49. They continue to live in the flesh, meaning that they are living for themselves and for their bodily appetites—instead of living in the power God has \_\_\_\_\_ to them by the indwelling of the Spirit.



50. They have \_\_\_\_\_ yet learned how to depend upon the Spirit to mature them & so some of the following may characterize the “**carnal**” man.

A legalistic lifestyle	Inactive in God’s local church
Impure behavior	Finds solace in alcohol/food
Worldly music	Fantasizes sin instead of obedience
Sensual violent media	Lives in discouragement
Divides by jealousy	Characterized by frustration
Dominated by guilt	Ignorance of basic spiritual truth
Holds grudges	No direction in life
Has left his first love	Dominated by worry/fear
Does not converse with God	Lives in unbelief
Little desire for Bible study	Known as a disobedient believer

51. It is very possible that a person with these same characteristics, has never been saved—because while conversion does not bring perfection in this life, conversion does result in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction.
52. The Bible teaches that the second birth will transform your \_\_\_\_\_!



**“And by this we know that we have come to know Him,  
if we keep His commandments” (1 John 3:2).**

**“Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices  
righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous” (1 John 3:7).**

**16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable  
and disobedient and worthless for any good deed” (Titus 1:16).**

**“For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous  
man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

**6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the  
wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:5-6).**

53. Sadly, sometimes Christians can categorize a “**professing believer**” as a “**carnal**” Christian — when in reality they have never been \_\_\_\_.
54. The individual who professes to be saved but has no heart for the Lord, may \_\_\_\_ be saved at all—according to Titus 2:11-12 & Galatians 5:24.
55. For this reason, Paul cautioned the Corinthians to (2 Corinthians 13:5), “**Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!**”
56. To spiritually examine oneself, includes an honest look at whether one is truly a believer in Jesus — because when you die — or when Jesus returns the opportunity for such a “**test**” — will be forever too \_\_\_\_.
57. In writing this, the Apostle Paul is not trying to create a sense of doubt (Romans 8:31-39), but to get some of the Corinthians do some \_\_\_\_ evaluation because some of their lifestyles caused him some concern.
58. We should want every true believer to have the assurance of salvation & to know \_\_\_\_ to endure the attacks—that come in this area from Satan.
59. At the same time—we also understand—that there are some who “**assume**” or “**presume**” they are Christians when they are \_\_\_\_.
60. Paul knew there were \_\_\_\_ among the Corinthian Christians who might “**fail the test**” or be, “**disqualified**” (**NKJV**) for eternal life and salvation.
61. If we do not examine & “**test**” ourselves now, we may \_\_\_\_ out later that we ultimately do not pass “**the test**” & are “**disqualified**” from Heaven.
62. So, be careful in categorizing someone as simply being \_\_\_\_ of fellowship.