

“God shows his love for us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Brief Outline

- A. God sent Jesus, his son, to give us new life. Jesus reveals the Father's love for us. Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus is Shepherd, Healer, Lord and Savior.
- B. Jesus invites us into a Kingdom, a new way of life, a gift of redemption. We are created in God's image, but fallen and tarnished. We are all affected by original sin. Jesus offers forgiveness and restoration for each of us and for the whole world.
- C. We need God and have a choice to make in order to live this new life. Each day we must answer the scriptural question Jesus asked Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:27) We can also look at Mary who is an example of responding to God's love and invitation to accept Jesus.

Questions to Consider:

1. What kind of a mental picture do you have of Jesus?
2. Which of the Scriptural titles for Jesus are meaningful for you: Good Shepherd, Lord, King of Kings, Christ, Lamb of God, Son of Mary, Savior, Healer, Brother, Emmanuel, word of God, Bread of Life... Say something about your choice.
3. Does the truth of Christ's personal love for me, proven from the height of the cross, fill me with awe and find an ever more generous response in my spiritual life?"
4. What do your baptismal vows mean to you now?

Salvation Prayer:

Precious Blood and Word of God, You are my eternal salvation. Lost in sin, You liberated me. You lifted me from perdition. Treasuring my soul, You excused my constant frailties. Forever, I am indebted to You. Your cost can never be repaid, for You bought my freedom with blood. I will always seek you out my LORD, You are my beloved Deliverer!

Study: This week we will study the new life Jesus brings and the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes it possible. John 3, Acts 2.

Daily Words of Life

Day 1 - Throughout the ages, prophets predicted that the day would come when God would give his Spirit freely to men. Those who turned to him and received his Spirit would be changed. They would be new men with a new life.

The Lord God says this... “ I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed... I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you... You shall be my people and I will be your God.”

(adapted from Ezek 36:22-28 JB)

Day 2 - Jesus promised before he died that he would give his followers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will live in you and give you new life. The promise of Jesus is for everyone. Jesus says:

If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans.

(Jn 14:15-18, JB)



Life in the
Spirit
Seminar

WEEK 2

SALVATION

Day 3 - On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in one room in prayer, and the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised, came on them. From that moment on, they were changed men.

When Pentecost day came round... they were filled with the Holy spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. (adapted from Acts 2:1-4, JB)

Day 4 - You can experience the Holy Spirit the same way the first disciples did. Whether you have been a Christian for a while or have never believed in Christ before, you can receive whatever is missing in your experience of the life of the Spirit. What happened to the disciples at Ephesus can happen to you.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy. There were about twelve of these men. (Acts 19:5-7, JB)

Day 5 - When the Holy Spirit is released in you, you will begin to experience a new kind of life. You will know God in a new way. That new life will grow in you until you become a changed person. Paul describes the result by saying:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal 5:22-23, RSV)

Day 6 - As you grow in faith in the Holy Spirit in you, you will begin to experience him working in you in new ways so that you can serve others. He will equip you with spiritual gifts, gifts which will give you a new power to do his work. Paul talks about some of these gifts in this way:

The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing through this one Spirit; on, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognizing spirits; another the gift of recognizing spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

(1 Cor 12:7-11, JB)

Day 7 - God gives the Holy Spirit so that we can be joined to the body of Christ (the Church, the Christian community). The new life in the Spirit will allow you to be more closely united with other Christians in the Church and to experience a

communion with them in the Spirit. God's word teaches:

So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors; you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord; an you too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit. (Eph 2:19-22, JB)

Commitment Prayer

Jesus, I know now that I am Yours
and You are mine forever.
Thank You for sending Your spirit to me that I might
have the power to live this new life with You.
Stir up Your Spirit in me. Release Your Spirit in me.
Baptize me with the fullness of Your Spirit that I may ex-
perience Your presence and power in my life.
That I may find new meaning in your Scriptures.
That I may find new meaning in the sacraments.
That I may find delight and comfort in prayer.
That I may be able to love as you love
and forgive as You forgive
That I may discover and use the gifts you give me
for the life of the Church.
That I may experience the peace and the joy
that you have promised us.
Fill me with Your Spirit, Jesus. I wish to receive
all that You have to give me.

Amen

Resources:

In Christ Alone by Mercy me: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1QjKqyGh8s>

Alleluia! Love is Alive! By Steve Angrisano: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX6LsNoyczQ>

Set A Fire by Jesus Culture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqq4B8H2Q&t=41s>

Dove Pamphlet #211 The Jesus Prayer

Experiencing God by Fr. Thomas H. Green (Ave Maria Press Inc.)

Talks from the Pentecostal Renewal version of Life in the Spirit are on our website at: <https://www.stmva.org/lits.html> (talk 2 Salvation)

Helpful Passages

Jn. 3:16, Col 1:13-14, Ezek 36:22-28, Jn 14:15-18, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 19:5-7, Gal 5:22-23, 1 Cor 12:7-11, Eph 2:19-22, Col 1:13-14