



When the Spirit Comes Acts 2:1-41

THIS WEEK'S CORE BELIEF

THE HOLY SPIRIT – Francis Chan writes, “Let’s focus on some practical truths about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in our lives.”¹

First, **the Holy Spirit is a Person**. He is not an indistinct “power” or “thing.” I often hear people refer to the Spirit as an “it,” as if the Spirit is a thing or force that we can control or use. This distinction may seem subtle or trivial, but it is actually a very serious misunderstanding of the Spirit and His role in our lives. In John 14:17, we read that the Spirit “dwells with you and will be in you.” This calls us to relationship with the Spirit, instead of allowing us to think we can treat the Spirit as a power to be harnessed in order to accomplish our own purposes. The Holy Spirit is a Person who has personal relationships with not only believers, as we have seen, but also with the Father and the Son. We see the Spirit working in conjunction with the Father and the Son multiple times throughout the Scriptures (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

Second, **the Holy Spirit is God**. He is not a lesser or different kind of Being than God the Father or God the Son. The Spirit is God. The words *Spirit* and *God* are used interchangeably in the New Testament. In Acts we read of Peter’s challenge to Ananias: “How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ...What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God” (5:3-4 TNIV). In these verses we see that Peter explicitly refers to the Holy Spirit as God. This is vital to remember. When we forget about the Spirit, we really are forgetting God.

Third, **the Holy Spirit is eternal and holy**. We read in the gospel of John about Jesus’ promise to His disciples that the Spirit will be with them forever (14:16). And in Hebrews we read that it was through “the eternal Spirit” that Jesus “offered himself unblemished to God” (9:14 NIV). The Spirit is not just a flighty, whimsical spirit who comes and goes like the wind. He is an eternal being. The Spirit is also holy. Obviously, we commonly call Him the “Holy Spirit,” and this is reinforced throughout the New Testament (Romans 1:4 and 5:5 are two examples). But consider this truly amazing fact: Because the Spirit is holy and dwells in us, our bodies are holy sanctuaries from God’s vantage point. Too often we disdain our bodies as the source of sin and our fallenness; yet they are precisely where God the Spirit chooses to dwell!

Fourth, **the Holy Spirit has His own mind, and He prays for us**. Romans 8:27 says, “He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” I don’t know about you, but I find the thought of the Spirit of God praying for me according to the will of God extremely comforting.

So many times in life I haven’t known what to pray, either for myself or for others. Other times I pray for stupid things. For example, a while back I was out golfing with some friends and decided I really wanted to shoot in the 70s (I generally am in the 90s). So in a moment of shallowness, I prayed that God would empower me to play my best round ever. I guess the Holy Spirit was praying too, because that day I shot 115 (possibly my worst score ever). The Spirit knew I needed to work on my anger and humility, instead of adding to my pride.

In any given situation, we may not know exactly how we should pray or what we should do. But we can take confidence in the fact that the Holy Spirit knows our hearts and the will of God, and He is always interceding on our behalf.

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Fifth, **the Spirit has emotions.** For a long time, whenever I read that we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30), I thought that was a bit of an exaggeration. It almost seems sacrilegious to say that I could grieve God. Who am I to have such power over the Spirit? That doesn't seem right. In fact, it even seemed wrong to say that God has feelings; for some reason I felt it belittled Him.

I struggled with these thoughts for a while until I finally realized where they were coming from. In our culture, having feelings or emotions is equated with weakness. This is a lie that is deeply ingrained in many of us.

God created feelings. Sure, like anything else, they can be misused and abused. But the intent and purpose of feelings came from God. Since He created emotions, why is it difficult to believe that He Himself has emotions? The Spirit is grieved when there is a breach in relationship, whether it be relationship with God or relationship with other people. When we are disunified, unloving, hateful, jealous, gossipy, etc., that is when we grieve the Spirit of God. And since He is the creator of emotions, I believe that the Spirit grieves more deeply than we can even understand. How do you respond when you hear this? Does it bother you? When was the last time you were saddened because your sin pained the Holy Spirit?

A while back, two women from my church grew increasingly angry at each other. The three of us sat in my office, and I listened to them passionately express the reasons for their frustration. I lacked the wisdom to determine who was "more in the wrong." I just wept as they spoke. I told them I was deeply saddened because I knew how much our Father hated this. While it is rare that I'm brought to tears, there have been numerous times when I am burdened by the grief that members of Cornerstone's Church (Francis Chan's Church) have heaped upon the Holy Spirit through stubbornness and lack of forgiveness.

I believe that if we truly cared about the Holy Spirit's grief, there would be fewer fights, divorces, and splits in our churches. Maybe it's not due to a lack of belief but rather a lack of concern. I pray for the day when believers care more about the Spirit's grief than their own. In fact, I pray that some of you readers would be broken over the grief you've placed on the Holy Spirit. So broken that you actually put down this book and work to resolve any conflicts you have with other believers.

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Rom. 12:18).

Sixth, **the Holy Spirit has His own desires and will.** In 1 Corinthians we read that the gifts of the Spirit are "empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills" (12:11). This is an important reminder of *who* is in control. Just as we don't get to choose which gifts we are given, so also we don't get to choose what God intends for us or for the church. The Spirit has a plan for our lives, for each of us. And He has a plan for the church, including your individual church body and the worldwide body of Christ.

If you are like me, you probably have a plan for your own life, for your church, and maybe even for the larger body of Christ. That's why we all desperately need to pray, as Christ did, "Not my will, but yours be done."

Seventh, **the Holy Spirit is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient.** These are theological words that essentially mean that the Spirit is all-powerful (e.g., Zech. 4:6), present everywhere (e.g., Ps. 139:7-8), and all-knowing (e.g., 1 Cor. 2:10b), respectively. These are some of His attributes that we will never fully grasp as finite human beings. In Isaiah we read, "Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor?" (40:13 TNIV). Though we will never be able to perfectly articulate or completely understand these attributes, may these aspects of the Spirit lead us to praise, even with imperfect words and incomplete understanding!"

This Week's Complementary Passage

JOEL 2:28-32

²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. ³⁰And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ³²And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

appointed

baptized

Caesar

enemy/demons/Satan

eternal life

fathers & children [in one color
different from Moses]

Gentiles

gospel

grace

Holy Spirit

in the name of Jesus Christ

Jesus

Jews

Law (of Moses)

men of the council

Moses [in different color from
fathers & children]

prayer

repent (repentance)

resurrection (raised up)

salvation

suffering

the Way

the promise of the Father

witnesses

word of God

This Week's Text for Study - Acts 2:1-41

STEP ONE ...

READING what the passage says
(Read it at least three times)

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants [c] and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

²²"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise

of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

STEP TWO

OBSERVING how the passage moves

Return to the passage and **mark key words, phrases and movements:**

- Circle the word Pentecost. In the margin write, “Feast of Weeks.” Underneath that write: Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16.
- In verses 2-3 put brackets around “sound like a mighty wind” and “divided tongues as of fire.” In the margin write the word, “symbols.”
- Draw an arrow from the phrase in verse 4, “to speak in other tongues” to verses 9-11.
- In verse 6, place a bracket around “sound.”
- Draw an arrow from verse 11b, “What does this mean?” to verse 16.
- In the margin of verses 17-21 write, “Joel 2:28-32.”
- In the margin of verses 25-28 write, “Psalm 16:8-11.”
- In the margin of verses 34-35 write, “Psalm 110:1.”

STEP THREE

ASK the five “W” questions and the one “H” question:

1. **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? And, to **whom** is it speaking?
2. **What** is the subject of the passage? What does the passage say about the subject?
3. **When** do or will the events occur? When did something happen to a particular person, people, or nation?
4. **Where** did or will this happen?
5. **Why** is something said or mentioned? Why would or will this happen? Why at this time? Why this person?
6. **How** will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

STEP FOUR ...

UNDERSTANDING what the passage means

This commentary is intended to enhance your own study of the text.

Commentary on Acts 2:1-41

v. 1 – **Pentecost**. The word means “fiftieth.” This harvest celebration was held on the fiftieth day after Passover, in the Old Testament known as the Feast of Weeks.

v. 1 – **arrived**. Or, filled up. It could mean, “while the day was in progress,” or, “the last day of the feast.”

v. 1 – **they**. This may be a reference to just the Apostles, to all those listed in 1:14 or to the 120 in 1:15.

v. 1 – **all together**. Some manuscripts say, “with one accord.”

v. 2 – **sound**. Or, noise. A wind-like noise filled the whole house.

v. 3 – **divided**. This participle (lit. dividing) modifies tongues. This could mean that the tongues themselves were split or the tongues were distributed among those who were filled with the Holy Spirit.

v. 3 – **as of fire**. Or, like fire.

v. 3 – **rested**. The tongue rested on them.

v. 4 – **filled with the Holy Spirit**. A divine empowerment. In this case, it was an empowerment to speak.

v. 4 – **other tongues**. The languages of other nations.

v. 4 – **utterance**. The ability to speak other languages.

v. 5 – **Jews**. In this instance, Jews living outside of Palestine, scattered among the nations.

v. 6 – **bewildered**. Or, confused.

v. 6 – **speaking**. Views: (1) Did each speaker speak one language at a time, or, (2) As each one spoke, the listener heard what was being said in his or her own language. Additionally, there is no mention of time. We do not know if this speech extended throughout the day.

v. 6 – **language**. Lit. *dialektos*. We get our word dialect from the word used here.

v. 7 – **Galileans**. The grammar implies that a “yes” answer is expected.

v. 9 – **Parthians** (Euphrates to India), **Medes** (Persian Gulf region), **Elamites** (east of the Persian Gulf), **Mesopotamia** (Modern-day Iraq).

v. 9 – **Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia**, (Roman provinces from Judea into Turkey).

v. 10 – **Egypt, Libya, Cyrene** (North African coast).

v. 10 – **visitors from Rome**. Most likely, visiting Jerusalem for Passover.

v. 11 – **Jews and proselytes** (converts to Judaism), **Cretans** (island of Crete) and **Arabians** (Arabia).

v. 12 – **What does this mean?** An idiom that means, “What does this intend to be?”

v. 15 – **third hour of the day**. 9 a.m.

v. 17 – **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh**. The gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out. See Titus 3:6.

v. 17 – **all flesh**.

v. 18 – **before the day of the Lord comes**. Joel seems to speak of the first and second comings of Christ without distinguishing them.

v. 22 – **attested**. Or, proved, shown.

v. 24 – **to be held by it**. Under its control, prevented from leaving.

v. 27 – **Hades**. The unseen world of Sheol, the place of the dead.

v. 38 – **Repent**. To change your mind and your life. Turn and do it now.

v. 38 – **let each of you be baptized**. Peter is urging baptism for each person who has repented.

v. 37 – **cut to the heart**. Or, stabbed, pricked, stunned. Homer used it of horses dinging the earth with their hoofs.

SUMMARIZING the message

Acts chapter 2 is one of the most important and exciting chapters in the Bible. It describes the account of the promised baptism with the Holy Spirit, who clothes the first disciples of Jesus with power. The chapter contains extraordinary signs or symbols: Wind. Fire. Tongues. These signs captured the uniqueness of the event, as the Holy Spirit came to permanently indwell Jesus' disciples. When Peter rose to offer an explanation, he made it clear that hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Joel had predicted this. One day the Spirit of God would be given to every man, woman, boy, and girl who would ever follow Christ. Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

It was not an accident that the baptism with the Holy Spirit took place on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost—a celebration of the harvest. A vast crowd, drawn from many nations, was visiting Jerusalem for the feast. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they began to declare the mighty works of God, to this large crowd, in languages they had never spoken before. This miracle of speaking in various tongues was a sign of the universal nature of the gospel.

The day of Pentecost was a unique event that has no parallel for the church today. Today, I (Pastor Paul) believe that baptism with the Holy Spirit refers to our spiritual initiation into Christ. We are baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment of our conversion. The Apostle Paul states, "For we have all been baptized in one body by His Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Some people speak of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as if it were a high-octane experience, subsequent to conversion. In the Bible, we are never commanded to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, in His own role and function in salvation, baptizes every believer at the moment of salvation.

While some of my friends may understand the baptism with the Holy Spirit differently, there is clear agreement among all that we need more of the Holy Spirit - or that the Holy Spirit has more of us! We need His filling daily. Throughout Acts, the disciples are repeatedly filled with the Holy Spirit. He fills them with power so that they may face their challenges with courage and to speak the gospel with boldness.

There are certain spiritual habits that every Christian should practice in order to experience the filling of the Spirit. *The first habit is prayer.* There are many references in Acts to being filled with the Holy Spirit and these references are almost always associated with prayer. For instance, in Acts 4:31 when the disciples prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Where there is no prayer, there is no filling.

A second habit is to saturate your mind with God's Word. There is a direct correlation between spending time in God's Word and being filled with the Holy Spirit. For instance, in Ephesians 5:18, Paul writes, "*Be filled with the Spirit.*" Obedience to this command results in specific, positive consequences. In a similar way, Colossians 3:1-17 asserts the very same thing. Instead of saying, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit," it says, "Be filled with the Word of Christ." Obviously, there is a correlation between being filled with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Word of God because the consequences are the same.

A third habit is to keep short accounts with God. The Holy Spirit is deeply affected by our sin. We can grieve Him. We can lie to Him. We can quench Him. As a result, we need to keep short accounts with sin. When we do sin, we must confess our sin and turn away from it and ask Him to fill our lives again.

A church can have great facilities and wonderful music. It can have all the right programs and a cool website but it can still be irrelevant apart from the Holy Spirit. The essential question is this: Are we a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, Spirit-directed church? What does that kind of church look like? It looks like the kind of church where every member prays like they've never prayed before. It looks like a church where every member is being saturated with the Word of God. It looks like a church where every member keeps short accounts with God when they sin. That looks like a church that is changing the world. That's the kind of church God wants us to be.

You are invited to pray this prayer:

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Mold me, make me, cleanse me, transform me.
Fill me with Your Spirit so that my life, in all of my words and acts, points of Jesus.
Fill us as a church for these challenging days in which we live,
so that with boldness and courage we may faithfully serve Christ. Amen.*

The initial signs that accompanied the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is followed by Peter's sermon and his powerful call to repentance. Peter's sermon was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8. Today, the power of the Spirit is for our witness that Jesus Christ is who He says He is. It was this Spirit-empowered witness that fueled the early growth of

the Church. While this witness began as an apostolic task, it belongs because of their witness to the faithful followers of Jesus, over the succeeding generations, who have multiplied disciples around the world. As Kenneth S. Latourette stated in, *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*, “the chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it their profession...but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion.”

Those who were changed by Jesus began telling others. To witness is to speak. While our lives, actions and conduct should reveal our faithfulness, we need to point to Jesus. “To remain silent and let others interpret our actions is wrong...we must speak even when we don’t know much about the Bible. We must speak even when it is inconvenient. God is bigger than our sins, our ignorance, our pride. He will honor his word in our mouths” (Will Metzger).

STEP SIX ...

EXPLORING the passage through discussion

Read Acts 2:1-13 and answer the following questions.

1. The coming of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by a show of power. In what ways are we so distracted by life that only grand displays of power capture our attention? How is it possible for us to miss the Spirit’s moving by our inattention?
2. Who was present in Jerusalem for Pentecost? What countries or people groups were present? (v. 5). Do any groups surprise you? What does this say about the worldwide witness of the church?
3. What did the disciples who received the tongues of fire talk about?

Read Acts 2:14-41 and answer the following questions.

4. What reason did Peter give for explaining why the disciples weren’t drunk?
5. How would you summarize Peter’s sermon? (vss. 22-36).
6. Peter’s sermon consisted of many citations from Scripture. Why? What does Paul say about the importance of scriptural proofs in giving witness, specifically the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-19)?
7. What main proofs did Peter use to show Jesus is the Christ?
8. Peter’s witness did not include his personal story of coming to faith. Why? What are the dangers of relying too heavily on our testimony rather than conveying truths about Christ? How do some of our opportunities leave the other person knowing too much about us and not enough about God?
9. What was the effect of Peter’s sermon on the people? What did they ask? What did Peter tell them to do?

THE MISSION OF LOUDONVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are committed to reaching and teaching people to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ, connecting them to one another and sending them to serve their families, communities and world.

10 CORE BELIEFS OF A DISCIPLE

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

The Godhead *2 Corinthians 13:14*

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Deity and Sinlessness of Christ *Colossians 2:9*

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life.

The Sufficient Atonement of Christ *2 Corinthians 5:19-21*

We believe in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood.

The Resurrection and Return of Christ *Acts 1:3, 9-11*

We believe in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential and that a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit *John 14:16*

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

Unity in Christ *Ephesians 2:14-17*

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternity *Revelation 21:22-27*

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

We believe that everything we have or own belongs to God.

10 CORE PRACTICES OF A DISCIPLE

Undiluted Worship *Matthew 22:37-40*

Loving the Lord God with all of our physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual vigor and, my neighbor as myself.

Constant Abiding *John 15:1-11*

Abiding in Christ in order to be faithful and bear fruit.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

Reading the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for daily life.

Desperate Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

Praying to God to know Him, laying requests before Him and, finding direction for daily life.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

Fellowshipping with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, other people's lives and, in the world.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

Using my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Total Forgiveness *Ephesians 4:30*

Practicing forgiving others as God has forgiven me in Christ.

Tangible Compassion *Matthew 25:31-46*

Showing compassion to those in need and so minister to Jesus Himself.

Generous Giving *2 Corinthians 8:7*

Giving away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

God Space *Ephesians 6:19-20*

Increasing the quantity and quality of our gospel conversations

10 CORE VIRTUES OF A DISCIPLE

Love - a sincere affection for others *1 John 4:10-12*

Love is acting in someone else's interest no matter who they may be, no matter how you feel, and no matter what it costs.

Joy - a delight unaffected by circumstances *John 15:11*

An inner delight in God that is sustained in spite of the changing seasons of life.

Peace - an abiding sense of harmony *Philippians 4:6-7*

Relationships are free from friction. Positively, it describes harmonious relations with others in the church.

Patience - a willingness to stick with things *Proverbs 3:3-4*

Being willing to live with a difficult situation for a long time—even if things are slow to change or never change.

Kindness - a sense of compassion in the heart *Job 6:14*

An inner disposition that puts others at ease and out of which kind actions flow.

Goodness - a goodness that flows outwardly *1 Thess. 5:15*

Choosing to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness - an unwavering loyalty *Psalms 26:3*

Being the kind of people who keep our word to one another.

Gentleness/Humility - an attitude of humility without any

entitlement; a lack of self-awareness *Philippians 4:5; 2:3-4*
Gentleness is power and strength under God's control. Humility is considering others above myself, if I consider myself at all.

Self-Control - an ability to direct your energy wisely

Titus 2:11-13

The strength to restrain our desires, emotions, and actions has to come from within rather than from some outside source.

Hope - a certainty of what is to come *Hebrews 6:19-20*

Coping with the hardships of life and with death because of hope in Christ.

Each week this Bible Study will feature either a core belief, practice or virtue vital for growing disciples.

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