

# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 19

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## Lesson 19: The Holy Spirit: God's Gift to Us

### Scriptures:

Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39, 16:5-11; Acts 2:1-4, 38-39, 6:1-6, 10:34-48; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 2:11-18, 22; 1 John 3:24

### Lesson Goals:

To help the learner know that God cares enough that He sends His Holy Spirit to be with us.  
To help the learner know that when we trust Christ as Savior, we immediately receive God's Spirit  
To help the learner know that God's Spirit in us assures us that we can overcome difficulties

### Scripture Memory:

**We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.  
(1 John 4:13)**

### The Lesson:

There was once a girl who did not have a home. Her parents had made mistakes and left her on her own. She no longer had a place to live. At night she took shelter under a bridge and wrapped herself up in an old worn blanket. During the day, she knew where to look in dumpsters to find food that restaurants had thrown out. Some of it was very good, but some of it was dangerous because it was too old and could make her sick. She was always afraid, because there were people on the streets and in the alleys that could hurt her. She was always a little scared, a little hungry, a little cold, and very lonely. She prayed every day for help from God. She believed there was a God and couldn't understand why He might have forgotten her.

Then, one day, a kind lady saw her huddled in a doorway in the alley. The lady was manager of one of the restaurants that disposed of food in the dumpsters. She invited the girl to come into the restaurant for a meal. Then she invited the girl to go home with her. Then she invited the girl to become her daughter. She promised to care for her, protect her, listen to her, and be her voice when she needed someone to talk to grownups for her.

That is what God did for us when He sent His Holy Spirit into the world. God wants us to have a feeling of comfort, even when there is trouble in our lives. God wants us to be aware of His concern for us. He wants us to have a protector when we are threatened. God loves us so much that He wants us to know that He is with us.

God's Holy Spirit is given to every believer. There is no exception. He comes into the life of the believer the moment that person accepts Jesus as Savior. The Bible is very clear; the gift of the Holy Spirit is immediate, absolute, free, and for everyone.

God uses people in whom the Holy Spirit lives. In Acts 6:1-6, there was a need for leaders. The people were encouraged to select persons who had asked Jesus in their hearts and in whom the Holy Spirit lived. These were people that could be counted on for doing God's work. In Acts 11:24, we are told that Barnabas, who would later go on mission trips with Paul, "...was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith..." Acts 13:52 tells us that the disciples were "filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit." Christians are given gifts from the Holy Spirit like wisdom, faith, and goodness.

God is with us. Matthew 10:19 and 20 tell us that there will be times when we will have troubles. When that happens, God is with us and will help us deal with the trouble. Jesus was telling His disciples that if they told the story of Jesus, they might be persecuted by the religious leaders at that time. He said that they might even be taken to court. But He told them, "don't worry, God's Spirit will give you a clear mind and help you speak up in your own defense."

Stephen, a disciple who lived during the time Jesus lived, took God at His word and spoke out for Jesus. There were some folks who wanted to keep him quiet. They tried to argue with him and trip him up in his preaching. They could not, because Stephen depended on God's Spirit to lead him. (Acts 6:9, 10)

We also know that, according to I John 4:4, the Spirit of God in us is stronger than anyone or anything else. We can be sure that when God's Spirit lives in us we have God's power available to us.

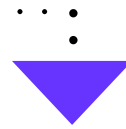
### Life Application:

But how can we be sure that God's Spirit does live in us? We read almost the same question in I John 3:24. "How do we know that God lives in us? We know it because of the Holy Spirit He gave us." We find the answer in Acts chapter 2, verse 38, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Then** your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Did you know that the Bible says, "The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned? That is because people do not believe in [Jesus]." (John 16:9) How about you? Are you guilty of sin? If you have never believed in Jesus Christ, the answer is yes. The Bible tells us that "all have sinned." (Romans 3:23) But we read today that "God treats everyone the same. He accepts people from every nation. He accepts **all** who have respect for Him and do what is right." (Acts 10:34-35) Jesus' death on the cross made the way for us to be set free. Jesus did this "so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by believing in Christ." Don't you want to be set free from sin? Won't you place your trust in Jesus today? At the moment you do, God will send you the gift of the Holy Spirit. He will help you and guide you and remind you of the things Jesus has said.

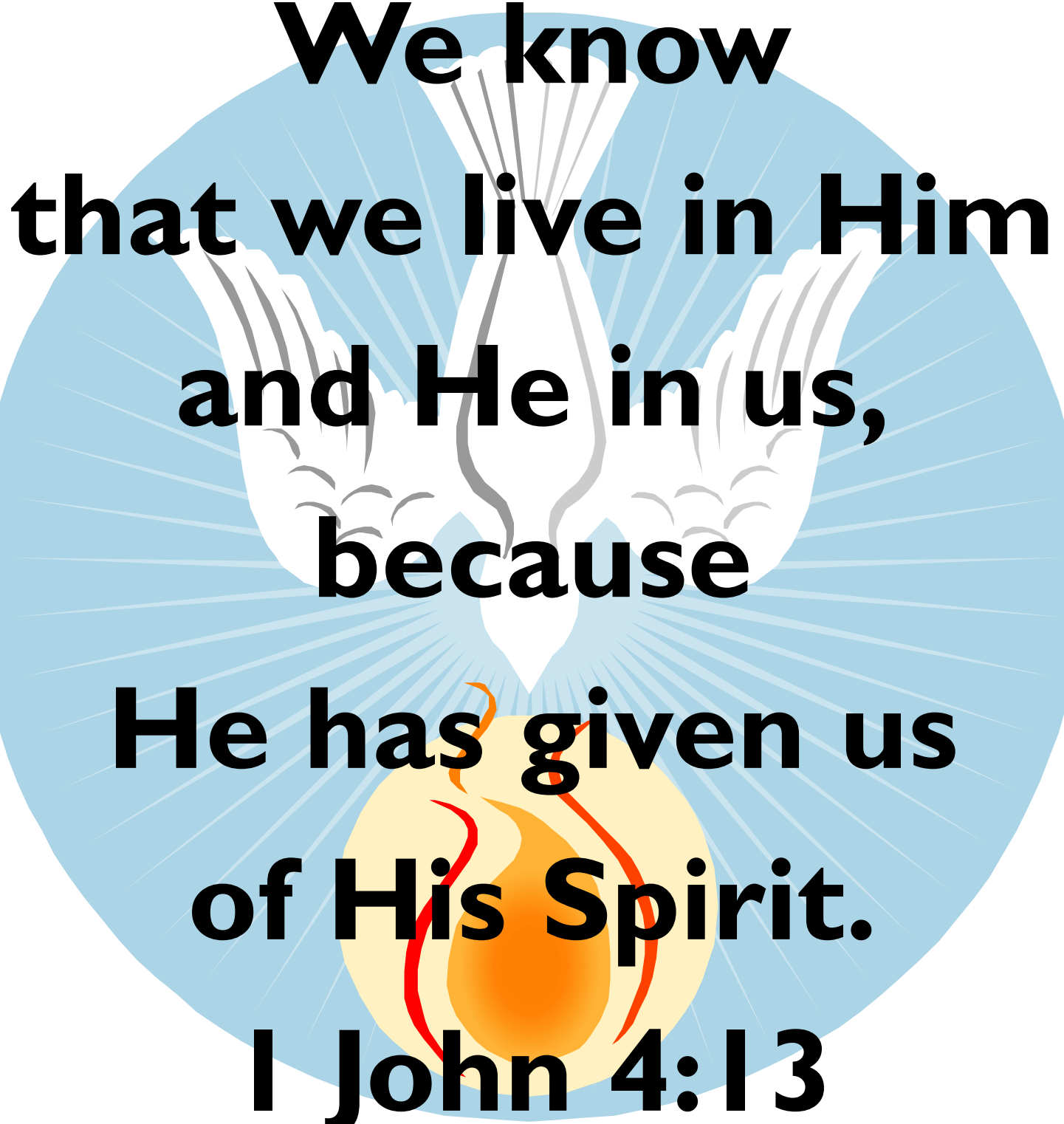
And if you have chosen to follow Jesus, do you always let Him have control of your life, or do you sometimes do things your own way? If you are like me, you sometimes want to make your own decisions and do things your own way. That is called sin. When you decided to follow Jesus, He removed all of that old sin from before, but doesn't that new sin make you feel far away from God? Sin messes up our friendship with God. So what do we do? Do you and I need to accept Jesus all over again? No! What we need to do is tell God all about our sin, even though He already knows what we have done. Then we need to turn away from it and ask for forgiveness from God. He has promised to forgive us and to clean us up! Isn't that good news? Thank God for making you uncomfortable with sin in your life. You know, that is the Spirit Himself testifying with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)



Planning for Lesson 20  
The Holy Spirit: Ever Present, Everywhere,  
God's Revealer



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - When the Holy Spirit was first poured out on believers, they were given the ability to speak foreign languages they had never learned. Provide the memory verse in many languages. Review the memory verse together. Thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit to believers.
  
- ◆ To illustrate how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, bring a candle, match, and a clear glass bowl, cup, or something comparable. Light the candle, then put the glass over it. Slowly the flame will burn out because there is no oxygen. Explain that although we cannot see oxygen, it is there and is needed to sustain the fire. We cannot see the Holy Spirit but He is real and helps us in many ways.
  
- ◆ To illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit, bring an electric (or battery operated) appliance to class; for example, an ipod, flashlight, portable CD player, etc. will do. Remove the power source before class. Encourage your students to use the appliance. When it doesn't work, encourage them to find out why, if necessary, showing them that it isn't plugged in or doesn't have batteries. Relate this to our Christian life. Read John 15:1-5.
  
- ◆ Sing "I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N," "Father, I Adore You," "Create in Me a Clean Heart," "Spirit Song," "Sweet, Sweet Spirit," "Blessed Assurance," "No Condemnation," "Amazing Love."
  
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read John 14-16 together and discuss why it was better for the disciples (and us) that Jesus return to heaven.
  
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** In Acts 2:1-12, the word "tongue(s)" is used three times. (The word "language," or *dialektos*, is also used.) The original Greek word for "tongue," is a word that is used to mean either the actual tongue in one's mouth or speech or language, known or unknown. Spiros Zodhiates, in The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary-New Testament, explains that when the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they "began to speak with other tongues" (Acts 2:4) that these were tongues (languages) different from their own. They were speaking languages they had never learned before. And in Acts 2:11, when the crowd speaks of having heard "them in our own tongues speaking the mighty deeds of God," they heard a particular language or dialect spoken by a particular people. Discuss how the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to speak foreign languages so that others could understand. Learn words or phrases from other languages and teach them to your students.



**We know  
that we live in Him  
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1 John 4:13**

The gift of the Holy Spirit is

**fr\_e**

**a\_so\_ute**

**\_mme\_ia\_e**

**and f\_r e\_ery\_ne.**

# Word Search



T	O	G	F	I	T	E	Y	L	O	S	P	I
O	L	T	H	E	A	L	S	C	O	S	P	H
N	P	E	N	T	H	L	A	N	G	U	G	P
R	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	Y	R	E	V	E
O	U	E	G	R	A	A	L	O	S	T	E	N
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N	E	G	L	O	H	N	E	P	G	I	F	T
A	I	U	T	H	E	P	L	U	O	T	S	O
L	C	A	N	O	T	G	U	E	D	A	E	F

**Pentecost**

**gift**

**help**

**every believer**

**language**

**lead**

**Holy Spirit**

**tongue**

**God**

# Word Search



T	O	G	F	I	T	E	Y	L	O	S	P	I
O	L	T	H	E	A	L	S	C	O	S	P	H
N	P	E	N	T	H	L	A	N	G	U	G	P
R	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	Y	R	E	V	E
O	U	E	G	R	A	A	L	O	S	T	E	N
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G	I	F	A	L	F	I	G	E	L	H	E	S
N	E	G	L	O	H	N	E	P	G	I	F	T
A	I	U	T	H	E	P	L	U	O	T	S	O
L	C	A	N	O	T	G	U	E	D	A	E	F

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