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Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
Morning Bible Study 11am
Wednesday, November 18, 2026
What Every Christian Should Know
"Who and What is the Holy Spirit?"

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THE HOLY SPIRIT — PART 2

The Evidence of His Presence & Learning to Depend on Him

Primary Scripture: Galatians 5:16–25
Supporting Scriptures: John 14:16–17; Romans 8:9–16, 26; Ephesians 5:18
Central Truth: The evidence of the Holy Spirit is not only what God does through us, but what He is transforming within us.

1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jesus promised another Helper (Comforter) who would abide with His followers (John 14:16–17). The Spirit is God's personal presence, not merely a feeling or a powerful worship experience.

Three important terms:
Indwelling — the Spirit lives in those who belong to Christ (Romans 8:9).
Filling — believers are called to live continually under His influence (Ephesians 5:18). **Sanctification** — God progressively forms Christlike character in us (Galatians 5:22–25).

2. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF HIS WORK?

- **Conviction:** The Spirit exposes sin and leads us toward repentance and obedience (John 16:8; Romans 8:13).
- **Assurance:** The Spirit bears witness that we are God's children (Romans 8:15–16).
- **Transformation:** The Spirit grows Christlike character in us (Galatians 5:22–23).
- **Empowerment:** The Spirit equips believers to witness and serve (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11).

3. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT — GALATIANS 5:22–23

- **Love • Joy • Peace • Patience • Kindness • Goodness •Faithfulness • Gentleness • Self-control**

The fruit of the Spirit describes character, not a public performance. It becomes visible in how we treat people, respond under pressure, forgive, and exercise self-control.

Gifts versus fruit: Spiritual gifts equip believers for ministry; spiritual fruit reflects Christlike maturity. Giftedness does not automatically equal maturity (1 Corinthians 12–13; 3:1–3).

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can someone be spiritually gifted but spiritually immature? Why?
2. Which fruit of the Spirit is most difficult to demonstrate when you are offended?
3. What is the difference between conviction and simply feeling guilty?

4. WHY DO BELIEVERS STILL STRUGGLE?

Read Galatians 5:16–17. The flesh and the Spirit are opposed. Having the Spirit does not mean temptation disappears.

Spiritual growth involves daily surrender and learning to obey God in the middle of struggle.
Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Scripture warns against grieving and quenching the Spirit. Our words, attitudes, and resistance to God's work matter.
"The presence of a struggle does not automatically mean the absence of the Spirit."

5. FIVE PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Surrender daily** (Romans 12:1–2). Begin the day yielding your plans, motives, and reactions to God.
- **Seek wisdom before decisions** (James 1:5). Pray, examine Scripture, and welcome wise counsel.
- **Pause before reacting** (James 1:19–20). Practice: **Pause. Pray. Proceed.**
- **Remain rooted in Scripture** (John 14:26; Colossians 3:16). Test spiritual impressions by God's Word.
- **Ask for help in weakness** (Romans 8:26). Pray even when you do not know what to say or do.

6. A SPIRIT-LED RESPONSE

Someone embarrasses you publicly at church. You feel angry and want to respond immediately. What might your flesh urge you to do? Which fruit of the Spirit do you need? How can you address the issue truthfully and graciously?

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Serving Gifts	Speaking Gifts
Giving	Teaching
Administration / Leading	Exhortation
Mercy	Pastor-Teacher
Faith	Evangelist
Helping	* Prophet
Hospitality	* Apostle
* Healing	* Tongues
* Miracles	* Interpretation of Tongues
	** Word of Wisdom
	** Word of Knowledge
	** Discerning of spirits

* Foundational gifts that ceased after the completion of the canon of Scripture.
** Many also classify these gifts as foundational, temporary gifts.