

## **Acts Lesson 20 Handout**

**John 16:7**

**7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

**2 Timothy 1:14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.**

**1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?**

**They would have the power to live and work for God in the place God called them.**

**God saved us to get the message of Jesus out into the world.**

WHY I WAS  
LIVING A PURPOSELESS  
BORING CHRISTIAN  
LIFE.

Cessationist

Sensationalists



If you are BIBLE ONLY you will dry up. If you are SPIRIT ONLY you will blow up. If you are BOTH BIBLE AND SPIRIT you will grow up.

Removing flesh attitudes and actions and replacing them with Spirit attitudes and actions.

The Holy Spirit took over and moved the flesh out of the way and took control.

What dominates my life? The FLESH or the SPIRIT?

God I am giving control of my life over to You so help me live a life that pleases You.

**Romans 8:5** For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit.

**FLESH**

**Galatians 5:16-25**

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk *habitually* in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]. <sup>17</sup> For the sinful nature has its desire which is opposed to the Spirit, and the [desire of the] Spirit opposes the sinful nature; for these [two, the sinful nature and the Spirit] are in direct opposition to each other [continually in conflict], so that you [as believers] do not [always] do whatever [good things] you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are guided *and* led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. <sup>19</sup> Now the practices of the sinful nature

are *clearly* evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and *other* things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

# SPIRIT

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites.

<sup>25</sup> If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit].

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**Bill Bright:** I like to plan as far in advance as possible, especially for key events. But occasionally I get so busy with the many details of our worldwide ministry that an important item slips through.

**With a key conference just a couple of weeks away, I had just realized the need for a set of printed materials that would be a tremendous benefit to the conferees. As I shared the urgency with the department director responsible for this need, he responded, "Bill, we're full up already. Two weeks just isn't enough time."**

**I became impatient. Couldn't my associate see that we are in a war for men's souls, that we must seize opportunities when they arise and not limit our efforts to 8-to-5 workdays? I made my point clear to him.**

**"But if we had more notice..." he protested, "There just is no way we can squeeze in such a huge job with so little time. There's the writing, then the design and typesetting and artwork, then the printing."**

**It seemed obvious that he did not share my burden for the upcoming event. I pressed my point. "Look, this is an important international conference," I said firmly, my voice rising, "and this is no time for 'business as usual.' Please find a way to finish this project in time for the conference, even if you have to work around the clock."**

**I could tell my colleague was frustrated. But I reasoned, *We need those printed materials. Whatever it takes, we need them.***

**Within a few moments after our conversation, I sensed the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Yes, even in our well-intended service to the Lord, we can stumble – and in the name of godliness I had offended a dear brother in Christ.**

**I had failed to give him and his staff the benefit of the doubt – failed to take into account the tough workload they already were facing each day.**

**Instead of asking him to think through the possibilities with me and helping him rearrange his priorities to accommodate the new task, I had virtually ordered him to get the project done and shown little appreciation for the many late evenings his team was already devoting to their work. I had reacted impatiently rather than in a spirit of love, understanding and teamwork.**

**At this point I had a choice to make.**

**On the one hand, I could let it go. After all, doesn't the head of a large organization have the right to ramrod projects through when necessary? Didn't the end (the strategic international conference) justify the means (get the job done no matter what it takes)? And didn't my associate's hesitant attitude warrant a stern talking-to about the urgency of the hour?**

**By all human standards, I probably could have justified letting the incident go. But deep inside I would have been restless and uncomfortable as the Holy Spirit continued to point out the sin to me, and God would not have blessed my efforts on His behalf as long as this sin remained unconfessed.**

**On top of that, several of my dear co-workers would have continued to hurt as a result of my calloused attitude.**

**On the other hand, I could deal with the problem by taking scriptural action to clear the slate. The unrest in my conscience was the Holy Spirit cross-examining me as I tried to rationalize my behavior. What I had thought was forceful leadership, He was identifying as the sins of impatience and unjustifiable anger.**

**I knew that taking scriptural action was the only choice I could make that would please my Lord. I confessed my sin to Him and appropriated his forgiveness.**

**Then came the toughest part.**

**I drove down to the office complex where my associate and his team were located and asked their forgiveness. We cried and laughed and prayed together, sensing a fresh outpouring of God's love in our midst. Then we talked through our mutual needs and found a way — as teammates — to rearrange priorities and accomplish the task — on time!**

**That is what the Christian life is all about – just keeping Christ on the throne. You do this when you understand how to walk in the control and power of the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit came for the express purpose of glorifying Christ by enabling the believer to live a holy life and to be a fruitful witness for our dear Savior.**

**PRAYER “Now, as I begin this day, and as I continue throughout the day, I invite You to walk around in my body, love with my heart, speak with my lips and think with my mind. I thank You that You promised to do greater things through me than You did when You were here on the earth. By faith, I acknowledge Your greatness, Your power, your authority in my life, and I invite you to do anything You wish in and through me today.”**



*I invite You  
to walk around  
in my body,  
love with  
my heart,  
speak with  
my lips and  
think with  
my mind.*

**Recognize  
and Pray**

**The Holy Spirit  
changes us.**

**Acts 4:13**

**13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**

**Your faith in Jesus hopefully  
is personal but never meant  
to be kept to yourself.**

**Acts 4:19–20**

**19 But Peter and John answered and said to them,  
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you  
rather than to God, you be the judge;  
20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen  
and heard.”**

**God saved  
you.**

The power of the  
Holy Spirit lives within  
you.

**Lehman Strauss - We see a mighty unfolding in the Book of the Acts. Pagan powers are smitten, the lame are made to walk, the dead are raised to life, and thousands of souls are born anew. Never before were men possessed with so great an impulse to speak out for Christ. Never before had there been such a readiness and voluntary willingness to suffer for Christ. Never before had a group so large known such enthusiastic and intimate fellowship. The world was to witness a new thing. Rather than deny Jesus Christ or each other, the disciples chose to take their lives into their own hands and go forward in Christ's name even unto death. Then commenced their witness in Jerusalem, branching out to Judea and Samaria, and in due course pushing out toward the uttermost part of the earth. And how did this new constraint come? There can be but one answer--the Holy Spirit had come to abide.**

**Romans 8:6**

**<sup>6</sup> Now the mind of the flesh is death [both now and forever—because it pursues sin]; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace [the spiritual well-being that comes from walking with God—both now and forever];**

**Romans 8:9**

**<sup>9</sup> However, you are not [living] in the flesh [controlled by the sinful nature] but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God lives in you [directing and guiding you]. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him [and is not a child of God].**