

# Lecture #3: Living a Spirit-filled Life

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## Where do we stand in spiritual maturity?

- Are there areas in our lives we struggle against?
- Am I living according to the flesh or to the Spirit of God?
- Are we accepting our circumstances entrusting God to deal with them? Or do we continue to be anxious about situations in our lives?
- How much time do we spend every day reading and meditating on the Word of God?

If we are struggling, what should we do to grow spiritually? Intimacy with God doesn't just happen. It requires determination and a significant investment of time and effort.

## ***As we seek to grow in our personal relationship with God, aiming at a Spirit-filled life, we must learn to:***

- 1. Give up the carnal mind** – “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” Rom. 8: 7
- 2. Live according to the Spirit of God** – “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” Rom 8:14
- 3. Attain the life of repentance** – If we find we have a conflict with God, whether because we have disobeyed Him, are ungrateful for His gifts, or resent that he has not granted us our wishes, we should re-examine ourselves and admit our mistakes. A sincere life of repentance will allow the Spirit of God to bring warmth of God's love to my heart “Do not quench the Spirit” 1 Thess 5:19
- 4. Embrace Trust** – Intimacy grows only in an atmosphere of trust. As we understand God's character more, our confidence will grow and we will learn to trust Him more and more. , While we do so, we need to show God that we are trustworthy.
- 5. Put God first in your life** – In order to maintain a close relationship with God, your schedule and plans must reflect His priorities. You should be available for His use and open to His directions.
- 6. Surrender** – In Romans 12:1-2, St. Paul urges us to present our bodies “...a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...” This means yielding body, soul and spirit to God for His purposes, so that our lives become a sacrificial offering to God.

For this to happen, our lifestyle must change. We should not be molded by today's culture mode of thinking and acting. Instead, we should refuse to let the world draw us away from our commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***God wants us to fully surrender our lives to Him through:***

- **Worshipping God** – He longs for us to adore Him. However praying, singing, and reading the Bible cannot be genuine worship if you are holding back a portion of our lives from Him. This can be a habit, a relationship, or an activity we want to continue such as resentment, anger or vengeance.
- **Effective service** – When we surrender to God, our service will have a significant impact and become very powerful.
- **Receiving God's blessings** – Obedience brings about blessings. Another principle is that we reap what we sow, more than we sow.

So, if surrendering to God results in genuine worship, effective service, and unrestricted blessings, why do people hold back? There are two primary reasons.

- Fear – Many people are afraid of what God will require of them.
- Selfishness – People do not want God to dictate on them how to live.

**As we surrender our lives to God, there are several indicators that we are led by the Holy Spirit.**

**1. Growing hunger to know God**

If we are maturing spiritually, we will not be satisfied with our current knowledge of God and His ways. We will yearn to know Him more deeply. This is associated with growing love for the life of worship and praise.

**2. True love for the life of purity and hate for the sins of the past.**

**3. Desire to know the truth of the Word**

A key part in the process of maturity is an understanding of the relevance of God's Word in our daily life. We must seek to discover what the Bible says about every aspect of life such as work, family, friends, etc.

**4. Greater awareness of our sinfulness**

As we grow closer to God, we will also be more conscious of the sins we are about to commit and consequently will increasingly realize how much we need to rely on God. That's not to mean that we view ourselves as worthless, but rather that we become more discerning against, sensitive to, and intolerant of the sins we once committed so easily.

**5. Quick repentance and confession of sin**

As we mature spiritually, we will not accept to continue to dwell in sin. When we stumble, we will desire to quickly repent and confess.

**6. Increasing dependence on the Holy Spirit**

Mature Christians will increasingly rely on God to help them through difficult times. Often spiritual growth happens in the midst of a struggle to cope with painful and stressful circumstances that might leave us completely helpless.

Remember, when we have a closer relationship with God, this does not mean situations will turn out exactly as we hope. Sometimes what we strongly desire is not good for us in the long run. However, we should rest assured of God's blessings and love.

