

Lesson 5

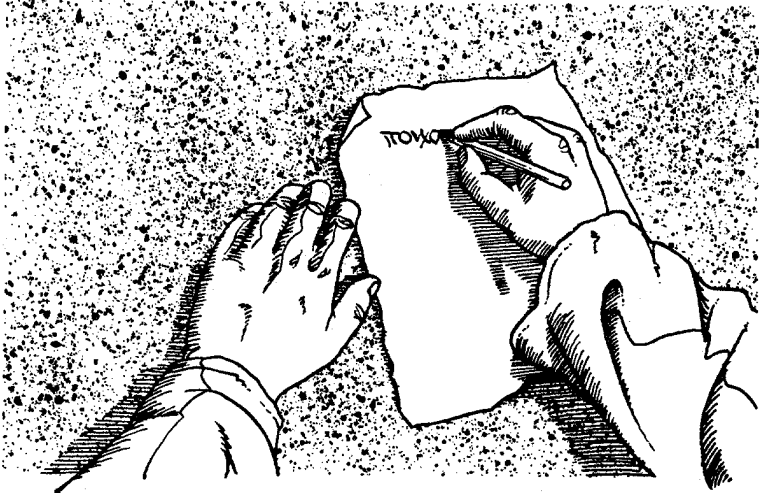
The Spirit Who Communicates

Since Creation, God has communicated with His people by various means. In the Old Testament He spoke through the Holy Spirit to the prophets, who passed on God's message to the people. Some prophets and other men chosen by God recorded His message so it could be passed from one generation to the next.

Jesus was the Living Word of God, anointed of the Holy Spirit. He came to show us what God was like. The Gospels record His teaching and the details of His ministry on earth. The written record came from men who walked and talked with Him, and they wrote through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles continued to communicate God's message. Several of them were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the message, giving us the canon of Holy Scriptures. In all of this communication, God has worked through the Holy Spirit to give His Word to men and women so that they will know and obey Him.

In this lesson we will see the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us the written Word, in anointing the Living Word, and in making us living Epistles. Today the Holy Spirit communicates God's message through you and me, and we are responsible to pass it on to others.



lesson outline

The Written Word
The Living Word
Living Epistles

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Define the terms *revelation*, *inspiration* and *illumination* as they apply to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain ways we can know the Bible is the Spirit-inspired Word of God.
- Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of being a living Epistle by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through you.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson in the manner described in the learning activities for Lesson 1. Read the lesson content, find and read all Scripture texts given, and answer the study questions.
2. Find definitions in the glossary at the back of the study guide for any key words you do not know.
3. Take the self-test and check your answers.

key words

anointing

descent

illumination

infallible

inspiration

ordeal

unblemished

lesson development

THE WRITTEN WORD

A Writing Needed

Objective 1. *Differentiate between examples of revelation, inspiration, and illumination.*

God's message to man is a life-and-death matter. The Psalmist David said, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

God's desire to communicate His message to men and women is made very clear by the writers of the Old Testament. The words "Thus said the Lord" or similar words are used more than 3800 times. It is by hearing the Word of God and acting upon what we hear that we are saved from eternal death.

The first time God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, He wrote them Himself:

Moses . . . went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. The tablets were the work of

God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets (Exodus 32:15-16).

Moses broke those tablets when he saw the sin of the people. A second time God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses with these instructions: “Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel” (Exodus 34:27). Verse 28 reports that “Moses wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.”

Why is a written communication better than an oral one? Because an oral message passed from person to person usually changes each time it is passed on.

A game called *gossip* is an illustration of this. The players sit in a circle. A message is written on a piece of paper and held by the first person. Then it is whispered from ear to ear all the way around the circle. By the time the last person repeats it to the first, the message can hardly be recognized as the one that was written.

If the written message itself had been passed around the circle, each player would have received it in its purest form. The last person would have received the same message as the first.

God’s message to man must be received exactly as God delivered it. No one has permission to change it even a little. This is why it was necessary for the Holy Spirit to give us the complete, *infallible* Word of God in written form. *Infallible* means “without error.” God’s message had to be written so that it would not change as it was spoken from person to person. It had to be complete so that no one would need to add to it or subtract from it to his own liking, and it must be infallible. While it does not treat every aspect of our present and future existence exhaustively, God has revealed what He wanted us to know about salvation, maintaining spiritual life, our responsibility to Him and our fellow man, and the future of sinner and saint. The Bible may be regarded as our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. It is the full revelation that God intended to communicate to us, and it is entirely trustworthy. Because of these things we can trust it without doubt or reserve.

When God wishes to communicate with His people, He does it through the agency of the Holy Spirit. There are three ways the Holy Spirit communicates to people: by *revelation*, by *inspiration*, and by *illumination*.

1. *Revelation* is the revealing, or making known, of something previously not known. When the Holy Spirit speaks to someone directly and tells him something he has no other way of knowing, it is a *revelation*.

2. *Inspiration* is the moving of the Holy Spirit upon a man's intellect or emotions to express the mind of God. When the Holy Spirit used the Bible writers, to record the truth without making mistakes, that was *inspiration*. This truth could be things they already knew, or it could be by revelation of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16).

Christian leaders and scholars often refer to the *plenary inspiration* of Scripture. *Plenary* carries the idea of fullness. Therefore, *plenary inspiration* means that Scripture, in its fullest extent, was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The *verbal inspiration* of Scripture is often referred to also. Scripture teaches us that spiritual truth is expressed in spiritual words (1 Corinthians 2:13). *Verbal inspiration* means that not just the ideas but the very words of Scripture are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

3. *Illumination* is the clarifying of something, the shining of a light upon something. *Illumination* occurs when the Holy Spirit helps either the writers or the readers to understand what is being written.

All of these forms of communication are used by the Holy Spirit in giving us God's message and making it come alive in our hearts. God's written Word, the Bible, was given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, because a written record was needed.

1 Read Isaiah 9:6-7. In this Scripture Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus. This is an example of

- a) illumination.
- b) revelation.
- c) inspiration.

2 If while you are reading in Matthew 8 about the healing of the man with leprosy and the many other healings of Jesus, and you realize that Jesus is also able to heal you, the Holy Spirit has given you

- a) revelation.
- b) verbal inspiration.
- c) illumination.

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

a Second Timothy 3:16 supports the inspiration of Scripture; that is, Scripture in its fullest extent was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

b First Corinthians 2:13 supports what we call inspiration of Scripture; that is, the very words were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

c When we say that God’s Word is, we mean that there are no errors in it.

4 State in your own words why a written record of God’s revelation to man was needed.

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A Writing Protected

Objective 2. *Explain the factor that has caused God’s written Word to be kept free from error with the passage of time.*

Paul told Timothy, “All Scripture is God-breathed . . .” (2 Timothy 3:16). This simply means that the writing of all Scripture was controlled by the Holy Spirit. Paul’s words are further explained by the apostle Peter (2 Peter 1:20-21):

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

In other words, the prophets and apostles who wrote the Bible were watched over and inspired by the Holy Spirit so that the words they wrote are what God wanted them to write—they are without error and can be called the Holy Scriptures.

About 40 writers contributed to the miracle book we call the Bible. They came from many different places and lived over a period of about 16 centuries. While their writings differ in expression and style, there is a supernatural unity in their message, because the guiding intelligence behind them was the Holy Spirit.

The Bible's unity is remarkable in view of the number of men God chose to write it and the period of time over which they wrote it. One Bible scholar points out that there is *one* doctrinal viewpoint, *one* moral standard, *one* plan of salvation, *one* program of the ages, and *one* world view in the Bible (Thiessen, 1979, p. 67). This was possible only because of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon those who did the writing.

The divine authorship of the Bible is confirmed by the writers of the Scriptures themselves. In 2 Samuel 23:2, in his last song to Israel, David said, “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.” Jesus confirmed the fact of David's inspiration as recorded in Samuel by stating, “David himself speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared . . .” (Mark 12:36) Again, in Hebrews 3:7 the writer quotes Psalm 95, introducing it with these words: “So, as the Holy Spirit says . . .” These examples demonstrate that the writers of Scripture acknowledged the divine authorship of the Scriptures. Jesus' testimony also reinforces this fact.

God's written Word has also been carefully protected as it has been copied over and over again and passed down from one generation to the next. This again is the work of the Holy Spirit. Certainly He would not carefully watch over the original writings of the Scriptures and then allow them to become unreliable documents when they were copied and handed down to us.

Here again, we believe the Holy Spirit has carefully guarded His divine communication so that our present Bible can be

safely called the Word of God. Many people have tried to prove the Bible to be wrong or to assert that it contains errors, but their efforts are in vain. God's Word is as reliable today as it was when it was first written!

5 In your own words explain the factor that has caused God's written Word to be kept free from error with the passage of time.

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PROTECTED BY THE SPIRIT

A Writing Recognized

Objective 3. Give scriptural proofs that the Bible is recognized as the work of the Holy Spirit and is still proving its divine authorship today.

The Old Testament as we have it was accepted as valid by Christ and the apostles, who referred to Old Testament Scriptures often in their teaching. They also recognized it as the work of the Holy Spirit.

6 Match each New Testament Scripture (right) with its related Old Testament Scripture (left). Place the number representing your choice in each blank space.

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|--------|------------------|----------------------|
| a | Matthew 22:43-44 | 1) Proverbs 25:21-22 |
| b | Luke 4:18-19 | 2) Jeremiah 31:33 |
| c | Acts 2:17-21 | 3) Isaiah 61:1-2 |
| d | Romans 12:20 | 4) Psalm 110:1 |
| e | Galatians 3:11 | 5) Habakkuk 2:4 |
| f | Hebrews 10:15-16 | 6) Joel 2:28-32 |

The influence of the Holy Spirit can also be observed in the gathering of the New Testament writings and their recognition and acceptance by the early church leaders.

By the fourth century A.D. the church had developed eastern and western divisions, which were influenced by the Greek and Latin cultures. The Holy Spirit's influence is seen as each division of the church accepted as Scripture the same 27 books that are now the New Testament. Each division of the church came to its decision independently, and both decisions came within a period of just thirty years.

Over the 16 centuries that have followed, this Book of books has been recopied thousands of times and translated into almost every known language. Wherever it is preached, believers recognize it as the Word of God, and lives are changed as the Holy Spirit makes its truths understood to the people of all nations.

In 1778 the French writer, Voltaire, predicted that in 100 years the Bible would no longer be in circulation, but that his own works would be widely published. Today the Bible is still the best-selling Book in the world, translated into more languages than any other book, and its message is preached everywhere. Voltaire's works, in comparison, are known and read by a very limited number of people.

Wherever God's Word is preached, the Holy Spirit is active to illuminate the Word and make it come alive in the hearts of men and women, bringing them to repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We recognize the Bible as God's Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, because it changes the lives of those who hear it and receive it, just as the Scriptures say it will do.

7 Find these Scriptures in your Bible, and complete the chart by writing the Scripture text beside the statement of what Scripture says about itself.

Deuteronomy 8:3	1 Peter 2:2	Mark 16:15-20
John 15:3	John 17:17	1 John 5:13
Isaiah 40:8	1 Peter 1:25	Psalms 119:103
1 Peter 1:22	Psalms 126:6	Mark 4:14-20
Psalms 119:89	Matthew 5:18	1 Kings 8:56
Romans 15:4	Psalms 119:9	Ephesians 5:25-26

GOD’S SPIRIT-INSPIRED WORD TELLS US THAT IT:	
a will endure	
b is food for our soul	
c cleanses us	
d gives us hope	
e bears fruit	
f is trustworthy	

THE LIVING WORD

Preparing the Word

Objective 4. Describe ways the Holy Spirit was involved in the preparation of Jesus for His earthly ministry.

“The Word became flesh . . .” (John 1:14) is one of the most meaningful statements in the Bible. It describes God the Son becoming a human being so that deity could communicate with humanity on humanity’s level. Before the Word became flesh, God had spoken at many times and in various ways through the prophets, but now He would communicate directly with man through His Son.

Just as the Holy Spirit was the agent of God at Creation, so He was active in moving upon the virgin Mary in creative power. Luke tells us of the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, foretelling *the birth of Jesus*. The angel told her:

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

Later, Luke tells us that Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, and when she greeted Elizabeth, “Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!’” (Luke 1:41-42).

Matthew’s Gospel sheds further light on the role of the Holy Spirit in the incarnation: “She [Mary] was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18). Thus, He who was “in the very nature God” took “the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:6-7). Very God and very man—Jesus became flesh through a unique act of the Holy Spirit and lived for a while among us (John 1:14). Later we read Jesus’ words concerning this preparation: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me” (Hebrews 10:5).

The Holy Spirit continued to be active in the preparation of Jesus for His earthly ministry. While we do not read of the Spirit’s active involvement in Jesus’ human development, the implication from what we have learned is that what the Spirit initiated in bringing about the birth of Jesus, he sustained. Luke says, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

John the Baptist reveals the unique presence of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ life on the occasion of His baptism: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him” (John 1:32). John testified further that God had given him the sign that on whomever he saw the Spirit descend and remain, the same was the Son of God (vs. 33-34). The presence of the Spirit in Jesus’ life seems to indicate that He was there to anoint Jesus for ministry, as we shall see.

The descent of the dove (the Holy Spirit) upon Jesus was a visible manifestation which everyone could see. It was immediately followed by the voice of God from heaven saying,

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

Stanley Horton points out that “the dove to the Jews was more than a symbol of gentleness and peace. It was also the sin offering which the poor substituted for the lamb (Leviticus 5:7). Jesus is God’s own Lamb provided as a substitute for the poor, the needy, the sinful of this world, which includes us all (Romans 3:23)” (Horton, 1976, p. 90).

Chapter 4 of Luke emphasizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in preparing Jesus for His earthly ministry.

8 What does verse 1 tell us about the activity of the Holy Spirit?

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Jesus was tempted by the devil for 40 days. It is clear that the *temptation of Jesus* occurred while He was being led by the Spirit. Every phase in the training and development of Jesus was under the watchful care of the Holy Spirit! Chapter 4 also tells us that after the devil finished his tempting (and failed in his effort) Jesus returned to Galilee *in the power of the Spirit*.

9 List the three instances mentioned in the text which prepared Jesus for His ministry when the Holy Spirit was present and actively involved.

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Anointing the Word

Objective 5. Give examples of ways the Holy Spirit anointed the ministry of Jesus.

Shortly after He returned to Galilee, Jesus went to His home town of Nazareth and visited the synagogue. On this occasion the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. He chose the 61st chapter of Isaiah and read these prophetic words describing His own ministry:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

10 What did Jesus say as soon as He finished reading this Scripture? (v. 21)

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His *ministry* confirmed His claim to the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He cast out demons by the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28). According to the apostle Peter, Jesus’ healing and deliverance ministry resulted from the anointing of the Holy Spirit on His life (Acts 10:38). Everything that Jesus said He would do under the anointing of the Spirit, He did in His earthly ministry!

You may find it interesting and helpful to read the four Gospels and to make a list of the healings of Jesus; the blind eyes opened, the multitudes who were fed miraculously, the deaf who were healed, the dead who were brought back to life, and the demon possessed who were delivered and given freedom from the devil’s bondage. All these were manifestations of the Holy Spirit’s work in Jesus’ ministry.

11 Glance through chapters 8 and 9 of Luke and list the activities of Jesus described in these two chapters. Can you see that they are a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy?

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In Matthew 12:34 Jesus said, “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” What is in your heart will come out in your words. Would you like to know what is in the heart of God? The Holy Spirit presents Jesus as the Word of God. Study His words and deeds. He is a perfect expression of the heart of God.

Crowning the Word

Objective 6. *Recognize in what way the Holy Spirit crowned the ministry of Jesus and made it possible for man to be fully restored to fellowship with God.*

The message of God's love involved more than preaching, teaching, healing the sick, and casting out devils. It meant also the death of God's Lamb for the sins of the world.

The cross was a horrible ordeal, but Jesus endured it willingly, with the help of the Holy Spirit. He who knew no sin had to take upon Himself the sins of the world and give His life as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The writer to the Hebrews tells us how He was able to do it: ". . . Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God" (Hebrews 9:14). In speaking of Christ's death and resurrection, Peter testified to the Jews, "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit . . ." (Acts 5:32).

The Spirit was present in creative power when Jesus became flesh; He was present in anointing power throughout Christ's ministry; He was present in strengthening power in Christ's ministry; He was present in strengthening power in Christ's great hour of need on the cross; and He was present in resurrection power to give victory over death. He is the Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11).

Just before He ascended to His Father, Jesus showed that those who believed in Him were fully restored to fellowship with God. He breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

In the beginning the breath of God had made man a living soul. Now, in a token meeting of believers just before He returned to the Father, God the Son breathed on man again, symbolizing that by the power of the Holy Spirit spiritual life is fully restored to those who will believe on Jesus and obey His Word. This would appear to be the crowning act of Jesus' ministry. Because of the resurrection, which indicated Christ's victory over sin and death, man could be reconciled to God. Spiritual death could now be overcome by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

12 What made it possible for Jesus to endure the cross and give His life for us?

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13 In which of these ways did the Holy Spirit crown the ministry of Jesus and make it possible for man to be fully restored to fellowship with God? Through His

- a) creative power.
- b) anointing power.
- c) strengthening power.
- d) resurrection power.

THE LIVING EPISTLES

Objective 7. *Find examples in given Scriptures of responsibilities we have in order to be living epistles, taught, empowered, and ruled by the Holy Spirit.*

Taught by the Spirit

Jesus knew well the weaknesses and the strengths of His disciples. Many times He rebuked them for their unbelief and wrong attitudes, but always His plan was that after He was gone they would preach His gospel. The whole future of His work on earth depended on them. They would make Him known. How could He entrust His disciples with such responsibility when He was no longer there to guide them?

The answer is simple. It centered in the divine Person who was coming to take His place as their Helper. The same Spirit that rested upon Him would come upon them. After Jesus had finished His work and was glorified, the disciples would receive the Holy Spirit, and He would instruct them and give them power to become faithful witnesses.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit as their counselor would teach His followers. The Counselor would bless them with the ability to recall the Master's teachings. We can be sure that the Counselor not only reminded them of Jesus' spoken words but also of His matchless example in responding to the many and varied needs of people (John 14:26; 15:26). Moreover, in the course of their

learning, Jesus said that the Counselor would guide them into all truth. This implies the fact that the Spirit of truth would give them the ability to discriminate between His truth and the spirit of falsehood (compare John 16:13 with 1 John 4:1-6). He would also give them insights into the future with a well-balanced knowledge of the relationship between present responsibilities and future reward.

The teaching which Christ's followers received and which they were to pass on to others was not written on tablets of stone such as Moses received on Mount Sinai. It was not simply "head knowledge" that had little relation to practical living, nor was it written, as Paul's letters were, with pen and ink. The teaching they had received was "internalized," that is, it had become a part of them, for it was written on the fleshly tablets of their hearts by the Holy Spirit, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3).

The message becomes a part of the messenger when it is inscribed on his heart by the Holy Spirit. He truly becomes a *living letter*.

LIVING LETTERS



TAUGHT, EMPOWERED, RULED BY THE SPIRIT

Are you a living letter? Has God's message been written on your heart by the Holy Spirit? Are you faithful to pass His message on to others?

14 Match the Scripture references (right) with the appropriate description of the Holy Spirit's teaching function that is either stated specifically or implied (left).

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| a The man who is taught by the Spirit develops spiritual discernment. | 1) Corinthians 2:13
2) Acts 1:8
3) John 14:26 |
| b What the believer speaks is on a spiritual level, since he is taught by the Spirit to express spiritual truth in appropriate spiritual terms. | 4) Corinthians 2:12
5) Corinthians 2:14
6) Romans 8:13 |
| c The Holy Spirit's function is to teach and to remind one of all that is Christ's. | |
| d The ability to know the vast storehouse of spiritual knowledge and experience which is one's spiritual inheritance, comes from the Holy Spirit. | |
| e The Spirit teaches us about our weaknesses and wrong acts, and He helps us to overcome. | |
| f The Spirit enlightens us concerning our responsibility to share our experience. | |

Empowered by the Spirit

To be an effective *living* epistle, one must have the power of the indwelling Spirit. Jesus knew this when He admonished, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). He also knew the importance of the Spirit's enablement when He gave the challenge to His followers to preach repentance to all nations. Thus, He challenged them to "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49), the gift of the Holy Spirit with which they were to be baptized (Acts 1:4-5). Paul recognized the relationship between exemplary Christian living and the empowering of the Spirit. Thus, in Romans

8 he instructs Roman believers to allow the powerful Helper to control their lives (v. 6) and to triumph over behavior that is unbecoming to a believer (v. 13). With the Spirit’s help we have confidence of our sonship and future inheritance (vs. 15-17). This knowledge enables us to face the dilemmas of life with serenity and peace, because fear has been replaced by security (v. 15). We can be unperturbed in the storms of life because of the Counselor’s help; we can thus reflect His peace and love as living epistles should.

15 Read 1 Peter 3:8-16. What effect will being a living epistle have on those who speak evil of your Christian behavior, according to the apostle Peter?

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Ruled by the Spirit

As a living epistle, Paul said, you are “known and read by everybody” (2 Corinthians 3:2). It is important that the same Holy Spirit who wrote the message on your heart controls the motives and attitudes of your life. You must communicate God to the world. You can be sure that the world will be watching your behavior as well as listening to your message. Your actions will, indeed, speak louder than your words.

Galatians 5:13-26 very clearly shows us what our life in the Spirit should be like. When we are led by the Spirit, we cannot do as we please. The freedom we have in Christ is not to be used to indulge in sinful pleasure, but it is to be a means of expressing the love of Christ to a sinful world.

This Scripture gives us two lists that are in sharp contrast to one another. One list describes the acts of the sinful nature. The other describes the acts of one who is ruled by the Spirit. The acts of the sinful nature are selfish acts which have no concern for others; the actions of one who is ruled by the Spirit are expressions of love toward others. The only way we can communicate God’s message to other people effectively is under the control and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

16 Complete the following chart by listing the acts of the sinful nature and the attitudes of one who is ruled by the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:19-23	
Column A Acts of the Sinful Nature	Column B Attitudes When Ruled by the Spirit

17 Read Romans 8:1-8 and answer these questions.

a Describe our state of being when we are ruled by our sinful nature.

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b How does this condition change when we are ruled by the Spirit?

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To conclude this lesson, read Luke 4:18-19 again. In this Scripture, Jesus, the living Word, proclaimed what He came to do under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He demonstrated His obedience by His life and actions. John reminds us that if we truly love God and acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, our faith will enable us to overcome the world. This refers to our “being” before God. Our behavior under the control of the Spirit will be

acceptable to God. John also says that if we love God we will obey His commands. We will demonstrate our love in practical ways. May each of us aspire to “be” what God wants us to be and “do” the things He wants us to do. Then we will bring glory to his Name.

self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. On the basis of our discussion, select the one best answer for each question. Circle the letter preceding your choice.

- 1** We are saved from eternal death by hearing the Word of God and
 - a) telling others what we heard.
 - b) remembering what we heard.
 - c) acting upon what we heard.

- 2** God wanted His Word written because He knew that an oral message
 - a) could reach more people.
 - b) changed as it was passed on.
 - c) would always be the same.
 - d) was more reliable.

- 3** When we say that God's written Word is infallible we mean that it is
 - a) inspired in part by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) written by godly men.
 - c) composed by many books written over a long period of time.
 - d) without error.

- 4** The making known of something previously not known is called
 - a) inspiration.
 - b) revelation.
 - c) illumination.
 - d) communication.

- 5** If we believe in plenary inspiration this means that we believe
 - a) Scripture in its fullest extent was inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) the men who wrote the Scriptures did not really understand what they were writing.
 - c) the Holy Spirit gave God's message to men who wrote it according to their own understanding.
 - d) most Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

6 It is by the illumination of the Holy Spirit that believers are able to

- a) understand which Scriptures are inspired.
- b) explain their feelings to God.
- c) understand the meaning of Scriptures.

7 In view of the number of men who wrote the Bible and the period of time over which it was written, which of these is the most remarkable?

- a) The Bible's unity
- b) The similarity in writing style throughout
- c) The changing customs it describes
- d) The influence of the Holy Spirit in all of the writing

8 The factor that kept God's written Word free from error even with the passage of time was

- a) the control of the church.
- b) the confirmation of Jesus that it was the Word of God.
- c) the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

9 One important proof that the Bible is the work of the Holy Spirit is that it

- a) has been translated into many languages.
- b) is recognized as God's Word even by nonbelievers.
- c) is still doing today what it says it will do in the lives of men.

10 The first visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus was at

- a) His birth.
- b) His baptism.
- c) His temptation.
- d) His resurrection.

11 Jesus' claim to the anointing of the Holy Spirit was confirmed by

- a) His ministry.
- b) His death.
- c) His resurrection.
- d) all of these answers.
- e) answers a) and c).

- 12** The only way we can be living epistles is to be
- a) ruled by the Spirit.
 - b) ruled by our own spirit.
 - c) preachers or evangelists.

answers to study questions

- 9** In His birth, in His baptism, and in His temptation.
- 1** b) revelation. (If you said *inspiration* you are also correct. The facts concerning the future were given by revelation, whereas, by means of inspiration the prophet was enabled to record accurately the message he received from God.)
- 10** “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”
- 2** c) illumination.
- 11** Women cured of evil spirits; parables and teaching; calming the storm; healing of a demon-possessed man; healing of a sick woman; raising of a girl from the dead; sending out of the twelve disciples to preach and heal the sick; feeding of the five thousand; the transfiguration; healing of a boy with an evil spirit.
- 3** a) plenary
b) verbal
c) infallible
- 12** The strengthening power of the Holy Spirit.
- 4** Your answer. I would say it was needed because a written message is more trustworthy than a message passed by mouth (that is, it remains the same). Also, a written message makes *all* of God’s Word available for everyone. It is complete and unchanging.
- 13** d) resurrection power.
- 5** The Holy Spirit who controlled the writing of the Scriptures has also protected them as they have been copied and passed down from one generation to the next.
- 14** a) 5) 1 Corinthians 2:14.
b) 1) 1 Corinthians 2:13.
c) 3) John 14:26.
d) 4) 1 Corinthians 2:12.
e) 6) Romans 8:13.
f) 2) Acts 1:8.

- 6 a** 4) Psalm 110:1.
- b** 3) Isaiah 61:1-2.
- c** 6) Joel 2:28-32.
- d** 1) Proverbs 25:21-22.
- e** 5) Habakkuk 2:4.
- f** 2) Jeremiah 31:33.

15 Peter says that evil speakers will be ashamed of their slander. Such Christian behavior will demonstrate powerfully the claims of the gospel to transform lives.

- 7 a** Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25.
- b** Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 119:103; 1 Peter 2:2.
- c** Psalm 119:9; John 15:3; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 5:23-26.
- d** Romans 15:4; 1 John 5:13.
- e** Psalm 126:6; Mark 4:14-20; Mark 16:15-20.
- f** 1 Kings 8:56 (also Matthew 5:18).

16 Column A:

Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies, and such things.

Column B:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

8 Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, and He was led by the Spirit into the desert.

- 17 a** Our minds are set on pleasing our sinful nature.
- b** Our minds are set on pleasing God.

For Your Notes