

From page 14 (“and growing in our intimacy with God”)

**How might your life be different if:**

You were learning what is really true?

You were realizing what things are wrong in your life?

You were allowing God to change the wrong things in your life?

You were learning how to keep thinking and acting correctly?

*Is this what you want for your life?*

# Knowing God Personally

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# Leader's Guide

<b>RELATIONSHIP POSTIONAL</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENTIAL</b>
Begins When We Receive Christ	Begins When We Receive Christ
Is Eternal	Is Moment By Moment
Never Changes	Changes When We Sin
Maintained By Christ	Maintained By Us Confessing Our Sin(s)



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# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## *now and forever Assurance of Salvation*



When a person knocks at your door, you have three choices: You can ignore the person who is knocking. You can tell the person to go away. Or, you can invite the person in. It is the same way in our relationship to God. *Read Revelation 3:20.*

*A word picture of a person exercising faith.*

What door is this verse talking about? **door to one's heart** \_\_\_\_\_

What are we supposed to do? **hear & open (act of faith) the door of one's heart** \_\_\_\_\_

What will Jesus do? **come in & commune with person** \_\_\_\_\_

Would Jesus tell you a lie? **No!** \_\_\_\_\_



Have you ever signed a contract? A contract is an agreement between two people. Each person agrees to do his part. For example, if you borrow money to buy a car, you sign a contract in which the car dealer agrees to sell you the car, and you agree to make monthly payments to pay for the car. God is willing to have a contract with us. *Read 1 John 5:11-13.*

God has given us **eternal life** \_\_\_\_\_

This life is found in His **Son** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have the **Son** \_\_\_\_\_, you also have eternal life.

When did eternal life start for you? (*John 5:24*) \_\_\_\_\_

*Ask person to explain how he/she received eternal life.*



Let's imagine that you go into a store to buy something. While you are looking, you lay down your coat. You get home and then you realize that you are missing your coat. So you return to the store and go to the Lost and Found Department to see if they have your coat. Jesus tells us that His "Lost and Found Department" is a little different. *Read John 6:37-39.*

## Clarifying Questions (continued)

- c) Are you aware of anything in your life that would hinder/prevent God from having fellowship with you and from empowering you for kingdom work? If so... 1 John 1:9.
- 4) **Experiencing His power** (summary: God offers His power to Christians)
  - a) How would you describe the difference between being "indwelt" with the Holy Spirit vs. "empowered" by the Holy Spirit? (Rom. 8:9; John 7:38-39)
- 5) **Obedying Him** (summary: Obedience through dependency upon God)
  - a) How would you explain to a Christian how he can "walk in the Spirit"?
  - b) From your understanding is "walking in the Spirit" and "being filled with the Holy Spirit" optional for Christians? Explain why.
  - c) (optional) On a scale of 0 – 5, how consistently would you rate yourself as far as "walking in the Spirit" and "being filled with the Holy Spirit"?
- 6) **Show it** (summary: New identity in Christ; new truths concerning who we are)
  - a) How would you describe your **new identity** in Christ, i.e., now a child of God – John 1:12?
  - b) How has knowing who you are in Christ affected how you live your life?
- 7) **Growing** (summary: growing in our intimacy with God)
  - a) How does a person grow in his intimacy with God?
- 8) **Living like it** (summary: a changed life relates to others in new ways with new attitudes)
  - a) In what ways has becoming a Christian and walking with God impacted your relationships with others? With Christians? With non-Christians?

# Clarifying Questions

- 1) **Now & Forever** (summary: person has understanding if he is saved or not)
  - a) Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?
  - b) Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, 'Why should I let you into My heaven?' What would you say?
- 2) **Trusting Him** (summary: Christians mature as they depend upon God)
  - a) As you walk by faith, what areas have you seen God work?
  - b) If someone were to ask you how he might grow his faith in God, how might you respond? (Rom. 10:17)
- 3) **Following Him** (summary: Christians are prone to stray; how to reestablish fellowship with God)
  - a) How would you define sin? (James 2:9; 4:17; Rom. 14:23; 1 John 5:17)

**James 2:9** (NIV)  
<sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

**James 4:17** (NIV)  
<sup>17</sup> Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

**Romans 14:23** (NIV)  
<sup>23</sup> But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

**1 John 5:17** (NIV)  
<sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.
  - b) In your own words, how does a Christian cleanse himself from sin?

How many of God's children will Jesus lose? **None** \_\_\_\_\_

Will God ever need to go to a "Lost and Found Department" for one of His children? **No** \_\_\_\_\_



Picture in your mind a person with very big hands holding a coin between his two hands. It would be hard for someone much smaller to get that coin out of his hand. Look at the picture. Could someone with hands that big protect the person in his hands? Of course! *Read John 10:28-29.*

Where is the most secure place a person can be? **In God's hands, i.e., God's protection** \_\_\_\_\_



The valley between these cliffs separates these two people. No matter how far they can jump, they still would not be able to reach the other side. However, if the canyon is filled in with dirt, they are no longer separated. *Read Romans 8:38-39.*



What can separate us from God's love? **Nothing!** \_\_\_\_\_

Are these verses that we have read true? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Can you trust the God who gave these promises to you? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

*Keep growing by . . .*

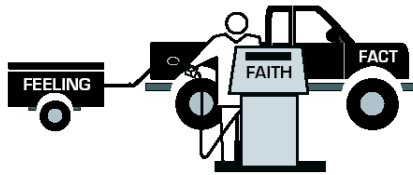
*Thanking God each day that Christ is in your life.*

*Reading chapters 1-3 of the Gospel of John.*

# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## and trusting Him



This diagram illustrates the relationship between **fact** (God and His Word), **faith** (your trust in God and His Word) and **feeling**. When filled with gasoline, the pick-up will run with or without the trailer. **In the same way, do not depend on feelings to live the Christian life. The promises of God in His Word, not our feelings, are our authority.**



If someone offers you a gift, what do you have to do to get it? You really don't need to do anything. But you do need to be willing to accept the gift. It is the same way with God's gift of salvation. *Read Ephesians 2:8-9.*

Salvation is a **free gift** \_\_\_\_\_ from God; it cannot be earned.

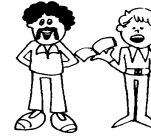


Here is a person sitting on a chair. He is trusting the chair to hold him up. He's not worried about falling on the floor because his experience tells him that the chair will not collapse. He has faith in the chair. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:7.*

How do Christians walk through life with the Lord? **By faith** \_\_\_\_\_  
***In what areas might a Christian "walk by faith"?***

Another word for faith is the word **trust**. We sit on a chair and relax because we trust the chair to hold us up. In the same way, the Christian learns to relax and trust God with his daily needs.

### WITNESSING:



This man is telling his friend about the most important thing in his life, his relationship with Jesus Christ. To tell others about Jesus we need to have the right attitudes. *Read Romans 1:14-16.*

What are three attitudes that Paul shares about witnessing to others?

vs. 14 **under obligation** \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 15 **eager to preach** \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 16 **not ashamed of the gospel** \_\_\_\_\_

### *Read Acts 1:8*

Where does the power to witness come from? **Holy Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_

### OBEDIENCE:



This man has a decision to make. Is he going to choose God's way or man's way? We make many decisions during our lifetime. Many times the real issue is whether we are going to choose God's way or our own way. There are serious consequences to these decisions. *Read Luke 6:46-49.*

What happens to the person who puts God's words into practice?

**Has a solid foundation – withstand the storms of life** \_\_\_\_\_

What happens to the person who does not put them into practice?

**Has a weak foundation – washes away by storms of life** \_\_\_\_\_

### *Read John 14:21*

We prove our love for the Lord by **keeping/obeying** \_\_\_\_\_ His commandments.

*Keep growing by . . .*

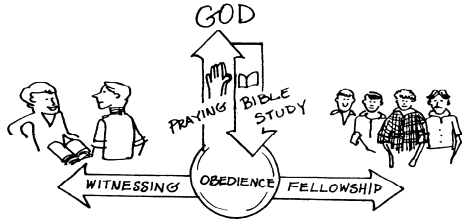
*Thinking of one area of your life that you need to be more obedient in. Pray about this each day.*

*Reading chapters 19-21 of the Gospel of John.*

# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## and living like it in relationship to others



As you look at the diagram above, you see that Bible study (God talking to us) and prayer (us talking to God) help build our relationship with God. Fellowship (sharing our lives with other Christians) helps build our relationships with those who the Bible calls brothers and sisters in the Lord. Witnessing (communicating what we know to be true about Jesus and what He has done in our lives) helps us share our lives with those who do not yet have a relationship with God. Obedience (our willingness to listen to God and change our attitudes and actions) allows us to continue to build our relationship with God, with other Christians, and with non-Christians.

### FELLOWSHIP:



As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is important to spend time with other Christians and to share our lives with each other. *Read Acts 2:42.*

What four things were the Christians in the early church devoted to?

- Apostles' teaching** \_\_\_\_\_ (Bible teaching)
- Fellowship** \_\_\_\_\_ (Gathering with other believers)
- Breaking of bread** \_\_\_\_\_ (Eating together)
- Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_ (Group prayer)

*Read Matthew 5:11-12*

Following Christ may result in **insults, persecution, slander** \_\_\_\_\_.

How could fellowship with other Christians help a person who is being persecuted? (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

**Encouraging one another to love & good deeds** \_\_\_\_\_

The story is told of a mother who knew that she was dying. She loved her children very much, yet she knew that she would not be able to raise them. There was so much she wanted to tell them. She wanted to tell them how much she loved them and she also wanted to give them instructions on how to live their lives. She decided to write a long letter that would contain her thoughts. Soon after writing the letter, she died. Later, as the children got older, they started reading the letter. It contained so much information about their mother that they did not know. It also told them how to be successful in life, as well as warning them about certain things that they should stay away from. They soon found themselves wanting to read and reread the letter.



GOD'S WORD

The Bible is a letter from God to us. It tells us about Him and His love for us. It's also full of instructions on how to live the Christian life. *Read Romans 10:17.*

How does our trust grow? **Hearing (studying) the word of God/Christ**

*Where can a person hear the word of God/Christ?*



In the illustration, the bird has found the worm that God has provided for him to eat. God also is willing to provide everything that we need. *Read Matthew 6:25-27.*

If God can take care of the animals, can He take care of us **Yes** \_\_\_\_  
**On a scale of 1 – 5 , at what level are you currently trusting God?**  
 Learning to trust God with our needs and problems is a part of spiritual growth. What are two problem areas that you can start trusting God with?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep growing by . . .**

**Telling God daily that you want to learn to trust Him with your life. Tell Him about the specific things that you want to trust Him for.**

**Reading chapters 4-6 of the Gospel of John. Look for things that tell us what Jesus is like.**

## and following Him



Sheep have a special relationship with their shepherd. The shepherd wants the sheep to stay close to him so that he can protect them and take care of them. Many times in the Bible Jesus refers to His children as sheep. *Read John 10:27.*

What does Jesus say sheep should be doing? **1) Listening to Jesus;**  
**2) Following Jesus**



In this illustration, the sheep are not behaving the same way they did in the first illustration. Sheep do not always listen to and follow the shepherd. But they are still sheep and have a life-long relationship with the shepherd.

The same is true with us and our relationship with our shepherd, Jesus Christ. When we receive Christ we become children of God. What happens when we sin? Is His life removed from us? No. Is our fellowship with Christ broken? Yes. In order to have fellowship with God restored, we must tell Him we have been wrong and claim His forgiveness. There is a big difference between the word "relationship" and the word "fellowship." Our relationship with God is the special bond that we have with Him because we are His children. This bond is permanent and never changes. Fellowship with God has more to do with our communication with Him. Sin can get in the way of our communication with God.

*"Receive Christ" see John 1:12 (p. 11)*

*Relationship vs Fellowship chart go to page 19.*

How does 1 Peter 2:25 describe sin? **Going astray (away from the shepherd)**

How does Romans 14:23 describe sin? **Lack of faith in God**



Remember in our last lesson we talked about the person who could sit in the chair because it was reliable. He didn't need to worry about whether it would hold him up or not. In this picture, the boy is confused and doesn't trust the chair to hold him up. Sometimes we have doubts that God will do what He promises or we don't have faith in God in certain areas of our lives. Many times this is a result of unconfessed sin in our lives. *Read Psalm 32:1-5.*

*What do these words really mean?*

**Training (doctrine)** -- instruction, learning what is true

**Rebuke (reproof)** -- realizing what is wrong in our lives

**Correcting** -- changing what is wrong in our lives

**Training in righteousness** -- learning how to keep thinking and acting correctly

Take a separate sheet of paper and write down your answers to these four questions. **<<Please go to page 19>>**

How might your life be different if:

You were learning what is really true?

You were realizing what things are wrong in your life?

You were allowing God to change the wrong things in your life?

You were learning how to keep thinking and acting correctly?

*Is this what you want for your life?*

**PRAYER:**



This man is taking time to pray because he has learned that his heavenly Father wants to listen to him and He wants to answer him. *Read 1 John 5:14-15.*

What do these verses promise us? **God hears & answers our prayers in accordance with His will**

*Read Philippians 4:6-7*

What happens if we share all of our needs and concerns with God?

**Peace of God guards heart & mind in Christ Jesus**

*Keep growing by . . .*

**Reading chapters 16-18 of the Gospel of John.**

**Writing down promises from the Bible that you can claim in prayer.**

# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## and growing in our intimacy with Him



Just as there are certain elements that we all need if we want to be healthy and to grow physically, there are also essential elements that we need to grow spiritually. Physically, we need food, sleep, and exercise to grow and to maintain physical health. Spiritual growth centers around three basic relationships: our relationship with God, our relationship with Christians, and our relationship with non-Christians.

### BIBLE STUDY:



Before Jesus started His public ministry, the Spirit led Him into the Desert for forty days. During this time, while He did not eat any food, He was faced with some strong temptations from Satan. He was hungry and Satan told him to turn some of the desert rocks into bread. But Jesus knew that there was something more important than food for His body. Read His answer to Satan in *Matthew 4:4*.

What does Jesus say we need to live on? **Every word from God** \_\_\_\_\_

Where are the words of God written down? **Bible/Scriptures** \_\_\_\_\_



Most of the things that God wants to say to us are written down in the Bible for us to read. The Bible is useful to us in our everyday living. Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17*.

Why is reading God's Word so important? **Makes us equipped for every good work** The Bible is useful to us for **teach, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.**

What happened before King David confessed his sins to the Lord?  
**Body wasted away, vitality was drained** \_\_\_\_\_

What happened after David confessed his sins to the Lord?  
**God forgave the guilt (shame) of his sin(s)** \_\_\_\_\_



This person is taking time to think about and deal with the unconfessed sin in his life -- those things that affect both his fellowship with God and his ability to trust God. Read *1 John 1:9*.

The key word in this verse is the word *confess*. Confess means to agree with God. There are three parts to confession:

1. We agree that a specific attitude or action is sin and that it saddens God.
2. We thank God that He has forgiven our sin, *because we agree with God that all of our sins have been forgiven (Col. 2:13-14)*
3. We repent -- we allow God to change our attitude toward our sin and to change our conduct, *because we agree with God's view of our sin, so we don't want to repeat the sin(s).*

Take a few minutes alone with God to:

Let Him show you any unconfessed sin in your life.



Write down on a blank piece of paper each sin that God brings to your mind. When you are finished, write the word "FORGIVEN" across your piece of paper.

Thank God that He has forgiven your sins, then destroy your list.

*Keep growing by . . .*

**Confessing** each sin as soon as God brings it to your mind during each day.

**Reading** 1 John chapter 1 each day.



# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## and experiencing His power



Suppose that we have a radio that does not seem to be working. We do everything that we know to check it, but it just seems to not have any power. Then we check the plug and we realize that it hasn't been plugged into the socket. As soon as we plug it in, the radio works. Electrical power comes only by plugging the plug into the socket where the power comes from. If we don't insert the plug into the socket, nothing will happen -- there is no power. *Read John 7:38-39.*

Where does the power to live the Christian life come from? **Holy Spirit** *See Acts 5:1-4 Holy Spirit is God.*

A person who is only beginning to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit should not expect to be as fruitful as more mature Christians.

### THE BIBLE DESCRIBES 3 KINDS OF PEOPLE:

*Read 1 Cor. 2:14 - 3:3*

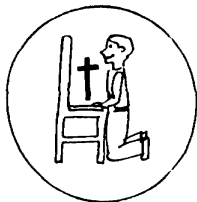
*Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 --* **Natural** *Man (without the Holy Spirit)*



This circle shows that the person is in charge of his own life. He is on the throne of his life. Christ, represented by the cross, is outside of the life.

1) **If this person were to die, where would he go? (hell)** 2) **On whom is this person relying? (self)**

*Read 1 Corinthians 2:15 --* **Spiritual** *Man*



This circle shows that Christ is in the life and is in charge. Christ is on the throne of this person's life. The person is kneeling which shows that he is willing to yield his desires to Christ so that he can please Him.

1) **If this person were to die, where would he go? (heaven)** 2) **On whom is this person relying? (God)**

### 4. You have eternal life.



When a person puts his trust in Jesus Christ as his personal savior, he crosses from death to life. *Read John 5:24.*

When do we get eternal life? **1) hear God's word, 2) believe in God, i.e., place our trust in God**



This is a picture of a caterpillar and a butterfly. A caterpillar is an ugly little creature who spends his whole life crawling in the dirt. It cannot fly even if it takes flying lessons or buys a set of artificial wings. But one day it weaves a cocoon around itself and later emerges as a beautiful butterfly. The butterfly, because it is now a butterfly, naturally is able to fly. It is a completely different creature. A similar thing happens to us spiritually when we receive Christ. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.*

When a person receives Christ he becomes a **new creature/creation**

When a baby is born, he is a new creation. He is complete. He won't grow any more fingers, toes or other parts of his body. But, this baby is not mature; he needs time and the help of his parents to grow up. The same thing is true in our spiritual lives. When we are born again, we have a new life. But it will take time and the help of more mature Christians for us to grow spiritually.

What changes have you seen in your life since Jesus came in?

#### Keep growing by . . .

**Thanking God each day that:**

- \* **Christ came into your life**
- \* **Your sins are forgiven**
- \* **You are God's child**
- \* **You have eternal life**
- \* **You are a new person in Christ**

**Reading chapters 13-15 of the Gospel of John.**



# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

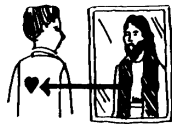
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## and knowing our new identity in Christ

WHEN YOU RECEIVED CHRIST, MANY THINGS HAPPENED:

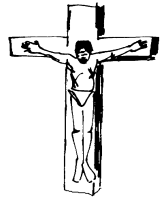
### 1. Christ came into your life. *Read 1 John 2:3-6*

How can we be sure that Christ is really in our lives? **If we keep/obey God's commandments** \_\_\_\_\_



When you look into a mirror you see a reflection of yourself. In the same way, Jesus Christ should be reflected in our lives if He is living in us. This reflection will become more clear over time as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 2. Your sins are forgiven.



We are not forgiven by God because we are sorry for our sins or even though we confess our sins. We are forgiven because Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. *Read Colossians 2:13-14.*

What did God do with your sins? **Forgave sins** \_\_\_\_\_

How many of your sins did He forgive? **All - Past, Present & Future**



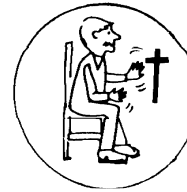
### 3. You are God's child. *Read John 1:12-13*

What does this verse say that you have become? **Child of God** \_\_\_\_\_

We receive physical life from our parents: we receive spiritual life from **God** \_\_\_\_\_.



What is the relationship between these two people? They are father and son. The son has inherited certain physical, mental, and emotional traits from his father. We, as children of God, have a spiritual inheritance.



*Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - **fleshly/carnal/worldly** Man*

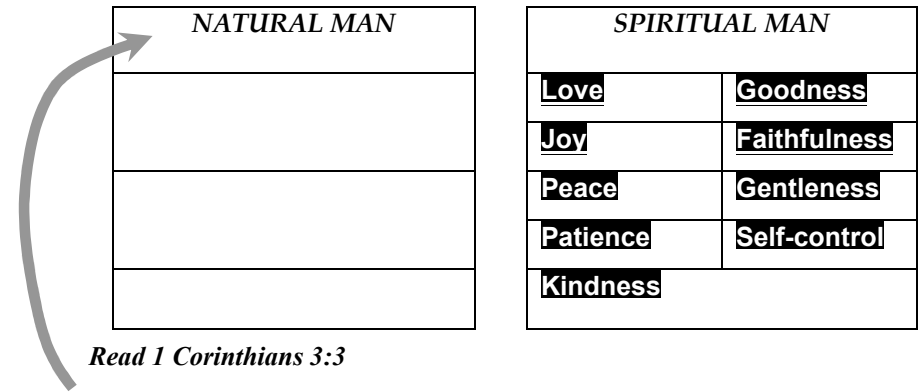
What is happening in this person's life? The person has once again taken back the control of his own life. Christ is still in this person's life, but He is no longer on the throne of his life.

1) *If this person were to die, where would he go? (heaven)* 2) *On whom is this person relying? (self)*

What does Paul call the carnal (worldly) Christian? **Brethren/brothers (who act as infants in Christ)**

The carnal (worldly) Christian trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life instead of fully trusting God. *Read Galatians 5:19-23.*

In the first box, list three things from verses 19-21 that describe your life before you received Christ. In the second box, list all the fruit of the Spirit from verses 22-23.



*Read 1 Corinthians 3:3*

The life of the carnal Christian can be much like that of the **natural** man (the person who really isn't a Christian).

Which lifestyle pleases God the most? **Spiritual man** \_\_\_\_\_

Which lifestyle do you want?

**Keep growing by . . .**

**Confessing any sins that God shows you in Galatians 5:19-21 and Colossians 3:5-9.**

**Reading chapters 7-9 of the Gospel of John.**

# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY ...

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## and obeying Him



What are two things that are happening in this picture? The Holy Spirit wants to direct and empower this man's life, but he is deciding to control his own life and has made the decision to steal the apple. He has chosen to ignore the voice of God's Spirit. *Read Galatians 5:16-17.*

How can a Christian overcome carnal desires? **Walk/live by the Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_

You can be filled with the Spirit by faith. God has given a *command* and a *promise*.

### HIS COMMAND -- Ephesians 5:18

What two things does God command?

1. **Do not get drunk with wine** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Be filled with the Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_

### HIS PROMISE -- I John 5:14-15

When can we be certain that God will answer prayer? **Pray according to God's will** \_\_\_\_\_

According to Ephesians 5:18, God's will is for us to be **filled** with the **Spirit**.

If you have confessed every known sin, you can ask God to fill you with His Spirit.

## HOW TO PRAY IN FAITH TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

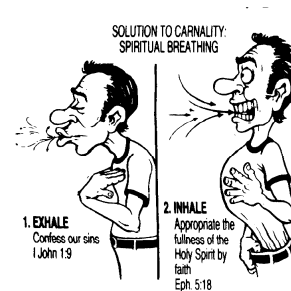
We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. However, true prayer is one way of expressing your faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

"Dear God, I need You. I know that I have been in control of my life. I now invite You to again take control of the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You *commanded* me, and as you *promised* in Your Word that You would do. Thank you for filling me with the Holy Spirit."

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, you can pray in faith and God will answer your prayer.

If you get back on the throne of your life through sin (by being disobedient to God), breathe spiritually.

*Spiritual breathing* (exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure) is an exercise in faith that enables you to continue to experience God's love and forgiveness.



Exhale -- Confess your sin

1. agree with God about your sin
2. thank Him for His forgiveness of it
3. repent -- be willing to let God change you

Inhale -- Trust God to control you and give you His power

*What influences a person's physical breathing rate? (rate varies with need for oxygen) What influences a person's spiritual breathing rate? (depends on how often he is aware of his unconfessed sin(s))*

Keep growing by . . .

*Confessing each sin as soon as God brings it to your mind.*

*Reading chapters 10-12 of the Gospel of John.*