



Discovery Series #3



Experiencing God's Power



Growing in my relationship with God, and connecting to the Holy Spirit as my source of strength.

Pastor Stan Lubeck

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Spiritual Growth Track

Our desire is that our church will be a warm healthy spiritual environment where everyone is actively seeking to grow to spiritual maturity in Christ. We take the command of Jesus very seriously that instructs us to make disciples (students) of Christ to the ends of the earth. The following materials are the tools we use to help people to begin this lifelong process of obediently following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no homework in this series of four sessions. It is designed to be covered in four separate one hour time segments in a personal one on one setting.

Base Camp #1: 1 on 1 Discovery Series Topics:

- 1) Knowing Jesus as Lord
- 2) Experiencing God's Forgiveness
- 3) Experiencing God's Power**
- 4) Experiencing God's Love

The Lord Jesus Christ wants to be our closest friend. He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and changes us into people who please our God and Father. Congratulations on taking the first step in this life transformational process of obeying Jesus as Lord of all.

Those who climb Mount Everest stop at five base camps to receive the equipment they need for the next phase of the climb. Climbers would never skip a base camp, and they stay at each base camp until they have become fully acclimated to that altitude.

In like fashion we have developed five base camps on the trail to maturity in Christ. This first study is the beginning of a four part series on the basics of the faith, which we call "Base Camp #1".

Base Camp #2 – Spiritual values central to the Christian faith.

(How to study the word, how to pray, living in community, and understanding how God has equipped you for ministry)

Base Camp #3 – Making an Impact for Christ

Base Camp #4 – Practicing Living Worship

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Review: Remember to develop the habit of keeping short accounts with God where you quickly confess sin and seek God's forgiveness and cleansing. Repent by turning to God and asking Him for the power to live the victorious Christian life.

God has not only called us to live in victory as Christians, but He has given us His Holy Spirit to fill us and enable us to succeed.

We live in a world where computers are designed to do incredible things. A laptop computer today has more capability than a computer that filled an entire room 20 years ago. Computers are currently being developed based on proteins that will make computers 50,000 times faster than today's Pentium II chips. With all this potential, the computer is not much more than a paper weight if it is not connected to a power source!



You have far more potential than any computer will ever have, and yet your usefulness to God is zero if you are not connected to God's power source, His Holy Spirit. This is why God tells us in John 15:5b "...apart from me you can do nothing."

I. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is God. (1 Corinthians 2:11,12)

B. When does the Holy Spirit enter a life?

At the moment that one becomes a Christian!

Read Romans 8:9-11 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does _____ belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who

raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. [NIV]

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were _____ in Christ when you _____ the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having _____, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a _____ guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory. [NIV]

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a _____ of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were _____ at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

C. We are to live by the Spirit

Read Galatians 5:16-25 "So I say, _____ by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is _____ to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not _____ the kingdom of God. 22 But the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in _____ with the Spirit." [NIV].

What fruit (character qualities) are produced in a life that is filled with God's Spirit? Do you see this in your life?

Do all these qualities come together with the filling of God's Spirit, or do they come separately over time?

God wants to change us from the inside out. His will is that we become more and more like Jesus Christ. But



we are not able to do it by trying harder. “Muscle Christianity” where we keep trying harder, does not work. We cannot live the abundant Christian life on our own power. We need the power of the Spirit flowing through us. As the Spirit works in our lives we will begin to see the fruit of the Spirit on display! We will see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control established instantly in our lives, and develop more fully as we grow in Christ.

If you are a new Christian, do not be discouraged if you see others who are more fruitful spiritually. Realize that it takes time to grow and mature in Christ. As you trust Christ with every detail of your life, you will grow spiritually over time and become even more fruitful.

What do you think is the result when Christians try to “muscle out” the Christian life?



II. Walk in the Power of the Spirit

A. Confess Sin and Submit to God’s Spirit.

God’s ability to work in our lives is limited by un-confessed sin. The Scripture describes this as “Putting out the Spirit’s fire“, or “grieving the Spirit.” It is the consequence of saying “no” to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Do not put out the Spirit's fire.”

Read Ephesians 4:30 “And do not _____ the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Read Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not _____ with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

How do we put out the Spirit’s fire? What do you think grieves God’s Spirit most?

Though God’s Spirit comes into our lives when we become a Christian, we can limit the Spirit’s influence in our lives by harboring un-confessed sin. It can be illustrated by a glass of water filled to the brim. When rocks (representing sin) are placed in the

glass, the amount of water in the glass is diminished. Only when the rocks are removed can the glass contain the maximum amount of water.

So God directs us to continue being filled, controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit....

Read Ephesians 5:18 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

Just as when people are controlled by wine when they are drunk, God desires that we be controlled by the Spirit as He fills us! The message is literally, “be being filled with the Holy Spirit”.

It has been said that the only way a broken vessel can stay full, is if it stays under the tap. This is a good picture of how we need to stay connected to our source of power, God’s Holy Spirit.

B. Power to overcome the evil one!

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. [NIV]

It is an incredible thing to realize that the God of the universe has chosen to take up residence inside of our lives. As God’s Holy Spirit fills us, He uses our unique personality and gifts, as he empowers us to live for Him. What a thrill to know that Jesus is looking out from our eyes as He fills us with His Spirit.

III. Benefits of Walking in the Spirit!

A. We Are Equipped for Spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

B. We Experience Freedom in Christ

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”



C. Spiritual understanding

1 Corinthians 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

D. We are sought by God.

Read John 4:23-24 “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in _____ and in truth.”

E. The Spirit helps us and intercedes.

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

F. Power, love and Self-discipline to Live for God.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

IV. The Holy Spirit Equips Us

Equips us to do what?

Read Acts 1:8

What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?

Read John 16:8

Why do you think the Holy Spirit’s power is needed to be a witness?

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit today? If not, what is holding you back? Is there sin that needs to be confessed? Won’t you make sure that you are a clean vessel filled with the Spirit of God this day?

Here is a helpful prayer:

“Dear Father, I have sinned against You by directing my own life. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Take control of my life. I want to obey You and please You. I now choose to trust You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for answering my prayer as You promised You would, if I would just ask in faith.”

Is this the desire of your heart? Then pray and tell God right now.

V. Your Choice – His Power or Yours?

Although God's Spirit lives in all Christians, not all Christians are directed and empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

Who is on the throne (the control center) in your life?

The Bible talks about three types of people:

1. The natural man.

This person sits on the throne, and has no thought for submitting to God. This person is his own god.

2. The spiritual man.

This person has chosen to place Christ on the throne, desires to obey His commands and honor Christ as Lord and King.

3. The self-centered Christian.

This person has received Christ, but is choosing not to yield to God's Spirit. This person lives a very frustrated Christian life.

Which of the three best illustrates your life? Which do you want?

Read Galatians 3:3 "Are you so foolish? After _____ with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

What happens when we try to live the Christian life in our own effort?

Continue spending time in God's Word this week.

Suggested Reading: John 15-16. Note the importance of abiding in God.

Continue your habit of Breathing Spiritually (Confessing sin, repenting and asking God to fill you with His Spirit.

Next Week:
Experiencing God's love.

