

**STUDY MATERIALS & QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL  
REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP or FAMILY DISCUSSIONS  
May 28 Thru June 3, 2023**

—Here are some encouraging Bible references & quotations that relate to our study: (There are benefits in reading passages like this!)

—from **Ephesians 5: 1–2** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. **6–10** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **15–21** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And don't get drunk with wine, for that is rebellion, **but be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

—**Ephesians 2:19–22** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are in God's family**, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

—**Ephesians 1:13–14** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the **Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

—**Luke 12:8–12** “And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but

he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**”

—**Romans 8:9–16** **9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed (*since*) the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to Him. **10** But if (*since*) Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** Moreover since the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit who lives in you. **12** So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13** for if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if with help from the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba, Father.” **16** The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children.

—**Romans 8:28–30** And we can be assured that **God orchestrates all things to fit together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

—**Psalms 19:14** Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

—**1 John 4:1–6** 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. .”

—*“The greatest need the church has today is and increasingly will be the ability to discern between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error.”* —**A. W. Tozer** —*in one of his last interviews before he died in 1963*

—**Colossians 4:2–6** Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

—“We can’t say ‘no’ to temptation without saying ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit in sincere submission and cooperation.” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—*“The Holy Spirit works in our lives by peeling away our sinful habits and replacing them with godly qualities. His goal is to shape and transform us more and more into the image of Christ.”* —**GAD**

—“It’s the Holy Spirit’s job to convict, God’s job to judge and my job to love.” —**Billy Graham**

—*“Everything that God brings into our life is directed to one purpose: that we might be conformed to the image of Christ.”* —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

— “... self-control is not control by oneself through one’s own willpower but rather control of oneself through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

—**Jerry Bridges**

—**Here are some questions for personal reflections & discussion.**

—**1**— Are there any specific quotes or scripture passages that you would like to discuss with one another? Several of them might provoke or encourage some very interesting discussion!

—**2**— Stop to think about the truth that “Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (have totally trusted in what Christ has done for us).” What effect should that have on our guilty fears or anxieties that always haunt us when we do something we shouldn’t? What impact should this have on our reaction or response when we’re tempted to sin?

—**3**— What are some very practical ways for us to be assured that our minds are being controlled by the Holy Spirit? Would this work or can we be successful in this without having a knowledge of God’s Word?

—**4**— How many of the ministries of God’s Spirit can you name and describe? Why is it important to review or remind ourselves about the impact & influence of God Spirit on our lives?

—**5**— How often do you think about being an adopted child of God? How could this provide encouragement in your daily battle against sin, temptation, doubts, or discouragement?

—**6**— *What does it mean to be filled with God’s Spirit? Take a close look at Ephesians 5:1–21 (especially 1–2, 6–10, & 15–21) and see if there are any specific instructions that might help us allow God’s Spirit to control and direct our lives.*

—**7**— How frequently do you meditate on the fact that God is your loving, caring Heavenly Father? How might doing this more often protect you from falling into sinful habits?

—**8**— How often do you think about what’s included in our eternal inheritance described in Romans 8:15–17? How is this encouraging?

—**9**— *Where is the biblical balance between seeing ourselves as sinners as opposed to being saints? How do we maintain the proper perspective on who we are in Christ? How are we influenced by the idea that our sin nature is always affecting us? How are we impacted by the truth that we are rescued from the penalty of sin?*