

Omega Course

Exploring
the
Christian Life

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'Minster House'
Heron Way Ilminster TA19 0BX

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Omega-Course

PART TWO

Exploring the Christian Life

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15. Is Jesus Christ Coming Again?

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(1) The Promise Of Christ

'I will come again' John 14. 3.

(a) The Promise is Certain
'I will come'

(b) The Promise is Significant

'The Lord Himself will descend
from heaven'
1 Thessalonians 4. 16.

The Lord Jesus will come -
Personally
Bodily
Literally

(2) The Purpose Of His Coming

To raise the dead in Christ.
1 Thessalonians 4. 16.

To change the Christians living
still on earth.
1 Corinthians 15. 52.

To catch away both, those who
were dead and those who are
alive, to meet the Lord Himself
in the air, to be with Him forever.
! Thessalonians 4. 17

The coming of the Lord to
the air will mean:
1. The dead in Christ will be
raised.
2. The living Christians will
be changed.
Both will be transformed and
translated to heaven.

30. Is Jesus Christ Coming Again?.

2 JOIN OTHERS IN LOCAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

New believers were added to the
Church at Jerusalem

Acts 2 v 41

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

THE WORD 'CHURCH' MEANS
A 'called out' ASSEMBLY.

Those who believed and were
baptised were added to the
Church (*called out assembly*) at
Jerusalem Acts 2 v 41, 47.

In a similar way local Churches
were planted at Antioch, Corinth,
and in many other places.
Acts 13 v 1. 1 Corinthians 1 v 1-3

CHRISTIANS IN LOCAL CHURCHES:

Fellowshipped together.
Learnt God's word together.
Acts 2 v 42.

Prayed together.
Celebrated the Lord's Supper
together.
Acts 2. 42; 12. 5, 12; 20. 7
1 Corinthians 11. 33 - 34.

Functioned together.
(like members in a human body)
1 Corinthians 12.14 - 26.

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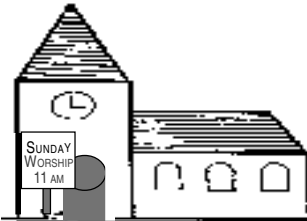
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THE CHURCH IS NOT THE BUILDING

How would you assess
the importance of local
Church fellowship?

3 Where Do I Go From Here?

THE CONDITION OF GOD'S GUIDANCE.

1. YOU MUST HAVE A HUMBLE MIND.

'The meek will He teach His way'
Psalm 25. 9.

To ask for guidance is to confess you do not know the way

2 YOU MUST HAVE AN OBEDIENT HEART

God guides you through the clear statements in the Bible.

He will guide you about marriage
2 Corinthians 6. 14

He will guide you about questionable things
Romans 14. 1 - 17

He will guide you about going to Church
Hebrews 10. 25.

He will guide you by His Holy Spirit about Christian service.
Acts 16. 6, 7.

3 YOU MUST HAVE A SURRENDERED

WILL ACTS 9. 6.

To realise God's guidance involves being -
Ready to do that which He wants.

Waiting upon God is not
TIME WASTED
BUT
TIME INVESTED.

8. When and How Should I Pray?

'Men ought always to pray and not to faint' Luke 18. 1

Prayer is to God the Father
Matthew 6. 6

Through His Son - Jesus Christ
Ephesians 2. 18.

In the Holy Spirit
Ephesians 6. 18.

LEARNING FROM THE MODEL PRAYER
Matthew 6. 9 - 15.

Jesus taught the principles of prayer in His model prayer

WHEN YOU PRAY

Be Reverent verse 9.
'Our Father... hallowed be thy name

Be Conscious of God's Interest
verses 9 - 10.
Thy Kingdom
Thy Will be done.

Pray for Spiritual Blessings
verses 12 - 13.
Forgive us
Lead us not into temptation
Deliver us from evil.

Pray for Daily Needs
verse 11.

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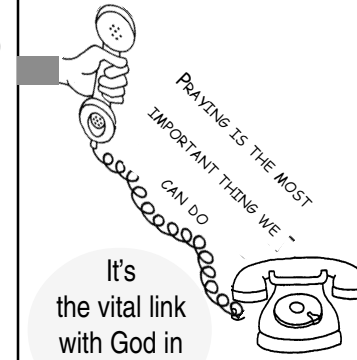
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It's the vital link with God in heaven

Prayer is best undertaken in privacy where there can be no intrusion and no interruption.

CONDITIONS FOR PRAYER

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A life without Prayer
is like a house
without a roof - Open
to all the elements

- PRAY EXPECTANTLY**
Luke 11. 9 - 10
- BELIEVE GOD WILL ANSWER**
Mark 11. 23 - 24.
- HAVE A FORGIVING SPIRIT**
Mark 11. 25 - 26.
- ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL**
1 John 5. 14 - 15.
- HINDRANCES TO PRAYER*
- UNCONFESSED SIN**
Psalm 66. 18
- WRONG MOTIVES**
James 4. 3.
- LACK OF FAITH**
James 1. 6, 7

13. How Can I Know God's Guidance?

THE PROMISE OF GOD'S GUIDANCE.

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ITS NOT RIGHT IF
WHAT YOU PLAN
OBSTRUCTS
YOUR SPIRITUAL
PROGRESS
OR SILENCES
YOUR TESTIMONY

- 'I will guide you with my eye'
Psalm 32. 8
- God is able to guide you
Psalm 73. 24.
- God is willing to guide you
Proverbs 3. 6.
- God doesn't want you to make mistakes. Pray, 'Lord what will You have me to do' Acts 9. 6.

THE NATURE OF GOD'S GUIDANCE

- (a) It is Divine guidance
'I' will guide
- God is infallible,
His ways perfect
He never makes an error of judgement
- (b) It is Individual guidance
I will guide 'you'
- (c) It is Practical guidance
God will guide you in every phase of your life - for example:
In your career, friendships, marriage, where you might live, which Church fellowship you should join.

HOW CAN I RECOGNISE MY GIFT?

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1. BY PRAYER

'Lord what will You have me to do'? Acts 9. 6.

2. BY PERSONAL DESIRE

'Follow after love and desire spiritual gifts'
1 Corinthians 14. 1.

3. BY EXERCISE

'Neglect not the gift that is in you'
1 Timothy 4. 14.

'Stir up the gift of God which is in you'
2 Timothy 1. 6.

4. BY THE RECOGNITION OF OTHERS

'Let the prophets speak two or three and let the other judge'
1 Corinthians 14. 29.

Gifts are given by the Spirit to be used in His power. The development of gift is under the individuals control

WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

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PRAY AT ALL TIMES

1 Thessalonians 5. 17

The Lord Jesus prayed early in the morning and at evening

Mark 1. 35; 6. 46, 47

Daniel prayed three times daily

Daniel 6. 10.

Paul and Silas prayed at midnight

Acts 16. 25.

WHAT SHALL I PRAY?

Prayer will Include:

Adoration.

Confession.

Petition.

Supplication.

Thanksgiving.

FOR WHOM SHALL I PRAY?

For all men.

For Kings

For all who are in authority

1 Timothy 2. 1 - 4.

What benefit do you see in a consistent prayer life?

9. How Can I Resist Temptation

INTRODUCTION

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The devil is a spiritual being who is active in rebellion against God and His people

1. BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL

THE DEVIL IS A REAL PERSONALITY

He is a Fallen angel

Isaiah 14. 12-15; Luke 10. 17-18.

He is a Murderer John 8. 44.

He has many Wives

Ephesians 6. 11.

He is Powerful -

but can be resisted

1 Peter 5. 9

He is Cunning

He deceived Eve in Eden

Genesis 3. 1 Timothy 2. 14.

He is Evil

He destroyed Job's business, family and health. Job 1 and 2.

He constantly blinds the thoughts of men 2 Corinthians 4. 4.

The Christian's Defence against the devil and his wiles -

PUT ON THE WHOLE

ARMOUR OF GOD

Ephesians 6. 11 - 18.

8. How Can I Resist Temptation?

What About Healing Today?

DOES GOD EVER HEAL HIS PEOPLE?

The answer is - **Yes.**

'Epaphroditus was so ill he was 'near to death', but God had mercy on him. This means that God raised him up, doubtless in answer to Paul's prayers.

Philippians 2. 25 - 30.

All through the history of the Church there have been similar instances of God putting forth His power in healing.

DOES GOD ALWAYS HEAL HIS PEOPLE?

The answer is - **No**

Even though much prayer is offered the sickness remains, it persists -

'Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick' 2 Timothy 4. 20.

He was a Christian, he served God in the gospel with Paul, but Trophimus was not healed.

God simply does not heal every Christian who falls sick.

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The Bible does not teach that its always God's will to heal sickness. But it does teach that God is able to heal the sick when it is His perfect will to do so.

25 What Are Spiritual Gifts?..

ARE MIRACULOUS GIFTS FOR TODAY?

THE NEW TESTAMENT PERIOD

There were offices extraordinary: (apostles and prophets). So there were gifts extraordinary.

1. The gospel message was new
2. It was evidenced by signs and wonders and acts of power
3. The miraculous display of divine power accompanied the preaching of the apostles

The gifts were part of the credentials of the Apostles as the authoritative agents of God in founding the Church Hebrews 2. 4.

THE CHURCH PERIOD TODAY

It is reasonable to expect that the continuous manifestation of similar signs would cease when -

1. The Apostles and prophets are absent.
2. There is no new message to confirm.
3. The canon of scripture is now complete.

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2. BELIEVE ALL WRONG DOING IS - SIN

DON'T EXCITE SIN

DON'T EXCUSE SIN

DON'T EXPECT TO SIN

WHAT IF I FALL INTO SIN?

Confess the sin immediately.

The blood of Jesus Christ ... cleanses from all sin 1 John 1. 7

If we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us our sin 1 John 1.9.

We have an Advocate - Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins 1 John 2. 1 - 2.

HOW CAN I OVERCOME LUST?

'Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed When lust conceives it brings forth sin' James 1. 14,15.

Don't encourage corrupt fantasies.

Don't conjure up pleasurable experiences.

The mind is the fountain from which actions flow.

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Sow a thought and reap an act.
Sow an act and reap a habit.
Sow a habit and reap a character.
Sow a character and reap a destiny.

3. AVOID SINFUL THOUGHTS.

Don't fill your mind with what is impure it result's in lust - burning, passionate, overpowering lust.

The media encourages lustful thoughts

Immoral thoughts are Sin
Matthew 5. 28.

A lot of modern Television is filth control it vigorously -

Switch it off.

Some Books, Magazines and Newspapers will promote lust -

Don't read them.

.....
 • SIN in prospect appears beautiful,
 • in retrospect its hideous

INSTEAD -

Read and Obey the Bible

Psalm 119. 9,11

Yield your members to God

Romans 6. 16.

Pray for help

Hebrews 4. 16

Confess and forsake known sin

1 John 1. 9.

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CONTRAST BETWEEN

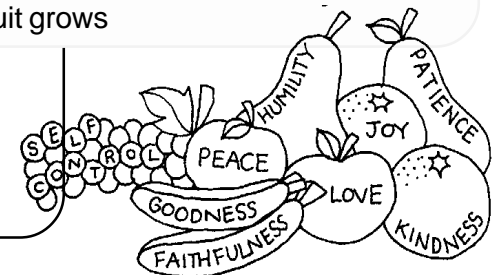
GIFTS
and
FRUIT
of
THE SPIRIT

GIFTS

1. Connected with Christian Service
2. Variety (gifts are in the plural)
3. Limited (not all the gifts for all Christians)
4. Not linked with spirituality
5. Gifts are given

FRUIT

1. Connected with Christian character
2. Unity (fruit is in the singular)
3. Unlimited (All the fruit for All Christians)
4. Connected with spirituality
5. Fruit grows



11. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

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HIS WORK IN CREATION.

The Spirit brought the cosmos out of chaos by His brooding and force Genesis 1. 2.

HIS WORK IN REGENERATION

The work of regeneration, or the new birth, is attributed to the activity of the Spirit

John 3. 5; Titus 3. 4, 5

HIS WORK IN RESURRECTION

God will quicken our mortal bodies through the Spirit

Romans 8. 11.

TO SUMMARISE

The Holy Spirit's Work in:

CREATION.

REGENERATION.

RESURRECTION.

Demands a Divine Person with Infinite Power

'**HE**' NOT 'IT.'

WHAT ABOUT THE GIFT OF TONGUES?

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1. THE NATURE OF TONGUES

TONGUES WERE REAL LANGUAGES

At Pentecost Acts 2. 6; 8. 11.

The Jews recognise the apostles were telling the mighty works of God.

In Cornelious house

Acts 10. 15 - 17.

Peter and the Jews with him knew Cornelious was extolling God.

2. THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES

At CORINTH - tongues (the same word as in Acts 2) were a sign to Jews 1 Corinthians 14. 21,22

At PENTECOST - tongues were a sign to unbelieving Jews

Acts 2. 4-12.

In CORNELIOUS HOUSE - tongues were a sign to saved Jews who questioned Gentiles being saved

Acts 10. 45 - 46

At EPHESUS - tongues were a sign to the local Jewish community

Acts 19. 8 - 9.

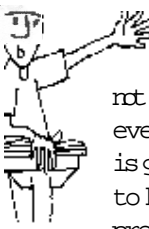
WHY ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN?

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not everyone is going to be a great preacher

but Everyone can introduce their friends to the Saviour

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How important do you consider the gifts of the Spirit are for active Christian service?

1. FOR HEALTHY GROWTH IN THE BODY-THE CHURCH
Ephesians 4. 12 - 17

2. FOR ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
1 Corinthians 12. 7; 14. 3 - 4.

THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

Christians have a common Responsibility Luke 19. 12 - 26

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS.

Christians have differing Capacities Matthew 25. 14 - 30

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD.

Christians do not have equal opportunities Matthew 20. 1 - 16

In these Parables of Jesus the use of the gifts resulted in more gifts, more blessings.

THE LORD JESUS EXPECTS YOU TO USE YOUR GIFT

20 What Are Spiritual Gifts?.

THE HOLY SPIRIT
IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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1. BROUGHT ORDER OUT OF CHAOS Genesis 1. 2.

2. ENDUED MEN WITH SKILL
Bezaleel Exodus 31. 2

3. EMPOWERED MEN FOR:
Leadership - Gideon
Judges 6. 34.
Kingship - David
1 Samuel 16. 13
Prophetic Office - Ezekiel
Ezekiel 2. 2; 11. 5.

THE HOLY SPIRIT
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The holy humanity of Jesus Christ was conceived by the Spirit
Luke 1. 35.
The Spirit Convicts the world
John 16. 8 - 11
The Spirit Renews the Christian
Titus 3. 5.
The Spirit Sanctifies the Christian
2 Thessalonians 2. 13.
The Spirit Fills the Christian
Ephesians 5. 18

13 What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

12. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

The Holy Spirit and The Church

The baptism of (in) the Spirit incorporated many members into the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12. 12 -13.

Jew and Gentile believers shared the same access to the Father. Ephesians 2. 18.

The Holy Spirit and Local Churches

Local Churches are temples of God by the indwelling Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3. 16,17.

Overseers in the local Church are made by the Spirit

Acts 20. 28.

Gifts were given by the Spirit to Christians in the local Church

1 Corinthians 12. 4, 7, 11.

Policy of the Church was directed by the Spirit

Acts 13. 1 - 4.

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14 What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

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19 What are Spiritual Gifts?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE **GIFT** AND THE **GIFTS**

1. The **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit is Himself Acts 2. 38; 10. 45.
2. The **GIFTS** are special abilities and responsibilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Spiritual Gifts are not natural talents. 1 Corinthians 12. 1

Spiritual gifts are:

1. Grace Gifts ('charisma')
1 Corinthians 12. 4.
Undeserved gifts
Distributed by the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12. 11
2. Diverse Gifts
1 Corinthians 12. 4 -10
Romans 12. 6 - 8.
Ephesians 4. 7 - 11

There are many different
gifts
but no one has them all.



WHO FILLS THE CHRISTIAN?

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

ROMANS 8. 2,10.

THE SPIRIT OF FAITH

2 CORINTHIANS 4. 13

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

JOHN 14. 17.

THE SPIRIT OF GRACE

HEBREWS 10. 29

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM

EPHESIANS 1. 16,17.

THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

ROMANS 1. 4.

*THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT*

FOR:

Activity Galatians 5. 16.

Conflict Galatians 5. 17.

Guidance Galatians 5. 18.

Fruitfulness Galatians 5. 22 - 23.

Service Galatians 6. 7 - 10.

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18 What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

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Because every Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, it does not follow that every Christian possesses all the spiritual gifts
1 Corinthians 12. 28 - 31.

15. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

*The Holy Spirit
and
The Christian*

The Gift of the Holy Spirit is universal to every Christian.
Romans 8. 9

The Holy Spirit is the power for living and witnessing for Christ
Galatians 5. 16 Acts 1. 8.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

Imparted by God
Romans 12. 4.

Bestowed by Christ
Ephesians 4. 7.

Distributed by the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12. 4

A VARIETY OF GIFTS WERE GIVEN
TO THE EARLY CHURCHES

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE:
Free Gifts
For Each One
For the Profit of All.

*The Filling
of the Spirit
and
the Christian*

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EPHESIANS 5. 18.

THE COMMAND

Be filled with the Spirit

THE CONTINUANCE

Keep on being filled.

THE CONTRAST

Be not drunk with wine

THE DRUNKARD:

Has lost control of himself.
His speech is crude.
His songs are bawdy.

Be filled with the Spirit

THE CHRISTIAN:

Controls himself
2 Timothy 1. 7.
His speech is gracious
Colossians 4. 6.
His songs are spiritual -
Ephesians 5. 19.
'singing and making melody in your heart'

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BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT for

Boldness Acts 4. 13.

Generosity Acts 4. 36, 37

Christlikeness Acts 7. 60.

Inward Joy Ephesians 5. 19.

Upward Thanksgiving 5. 20.

Outward Submission 5. 21.

HOW CAN I BE FILLED?

Be Surrendered
'Present your bodies'
Romans 12. 1.

Be Separated
'Be not conformed to this world'
Romans 12. 2.

Be Spiritually-minded
'Be ye transformed'.
Romans 12. 2.

