

## Who's in the driver's seat?

Who or what drives your life? Who do you turn to for daily guidance on how to live, what to do, where to go, whom to see, how to make decisions? Many people may turn to friends, parents, boss or spouse. Some may allow the urgent needs of the day to dictate the tone and pace of life. There are those who confess that the only person they feel they can trust is themselves.

Jesus tells us that the only Guide worth trusting is the Holy Spirit. He is the only one who knows our past completely, from the moment we were conceived to the present, and who also knows our future, from this day to eternity. Not only does He know us completely, but only He fully knows God's plan and purpose for us, today and for each day of our lives. This is why Jesus says that the secret to truly living out God's purpose is to surrender our will to the Holy Spirit.

Read these Scriptures and answer the following questions:

### **John 7:38-39**

38Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

39By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- What action precedes receiving the Spirit? (vs. 38-39)

### **Acts 2:36-38**

36"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- What conditions are given about how we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? (vs. 38)
- Who is this promise given to? (vs. 39)

### **John 14:15-27**

15"If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

22Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

23Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25"All this I have spoken while still with you. 26But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- How is our love for Christ shown to be sincere? (vs. 15, 21, 23-24)
- What is given by the Father to those who love Christ? (vs. 16-17, 23)
- What are the roles the Spirit is to play in our lives? (vs. 26)

### **Romans 8:9-14 (NLT)**

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life[d] because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,[e] you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,[f] you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

- Where does the Spirit of God dwell? (vs. 10)
- What is the consequence of allowing our sin to be in control of our lives? (vs. 13)
- What are the rewards of allowing the Spirit to be in control of our lives? (vs. 13-14)

### **1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NLT)**

10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. 11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. 12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.[f] 14 But people who aren't spiritual[g] can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. 15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. 16 For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to teach him?"

But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

- Why would a person not accept truth from God? (vs. 14)
- What does this imply about learning to understand and apply truths from Scripture?

### **Galatians 5:16-26 (NLT)**

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- What are the two opposing forces battling for control in our lives? (vs. 16)
- What results do we see happen when God's Spirit is guiding our lives? (vs. 22-23)

## **Toolbox**

Putting it all together—Look back over the last three weeks at the toolbox for each week.

## **Action Plan**

Look over the action plan for the last three weeks and the toolbox notes. Make a summary list of spiritual activities you are now regularly committed to as a result of this study:

- ➔
- ➔
- ➔
- ➔