



# A Disciple's Heart

Growing in Love and Grace

*Session 4: By the Power of the Spirit*

# *A Disciple's Heart:*

## Session 4 Objectives

- To gain an understanding of the Trinity and the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of perfection.
- To recognize we all have spiritual gifts – what are yours?
- To identify the “dross” in your hearts that you are willing to surrender to the love of God in Christ.  
(See homework from Malachi 3:1-4)



# OPENING PRAYER

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

—St. Richard of Chichester (1197–1253)



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# BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

*Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*



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*As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”*

*Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*



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*After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away, and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”*

—Acts 1:1-11 CEB



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# Discussion of Acts 1:1-11

Why 40 days?

How do you define the Holy Spirit? ...the role of the Holy Spirit?



Spirit = paraclete (“called to one’s aid”)

Advocate (like represent someone in court)

Comforter, Companion, Teacher, Gifter

Refiner, Purifier

Empowers



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- How do you make room in your life for the Holy Spirit to act? ...to be:
  - Comforter
  - Companion
  - Teacher
  - Gifter
  - To refine and to purify
  - Empower



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How do you understand the Trinity?

Have you experienced God as Father? Creator?

Have you experienced God as Son? Redeemer?

Have you experienced God as Spirit (in all of His roles)



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- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (listen for a word or phrase)
- How can you get in touch with the gifts you have been given? (Hint: Ministry Discovery)



# CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

- Saint Ignatius Prayer (Acts 2:1-21)



# EXPLORATION

## Key Points:

- For disciples in the Wesleyan tradition, the heart of the matter is always a matter of the heart—a heart transformed by the love of God into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus invites us to join in the dance of life and love that is shared by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (John 14:10, 20)
- Jesus gave the disciples the promise of power to be his witnesses in this world.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for the common good.
- The Holy Spirit comes as the refiner's fire to burn away the dross that keeps us from the life of holiness we deeply desire. Sanctification is the process by which the Spirit of God makes us holy.



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# NEXT STEPS

- Homework (based on Malachi 3:1-4)
- Spiritual Discipline practices – involve YOU and GOD (the Holy Spirit)
  - Lectio Divina
  - Centering Prayer Method
  - St. Ignatius Prayer Method
  - Small Group, Holy Club Questions



# LOOKING AHEAD

- Christian community



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# TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

What was your “take-home” message—the one thing that spoke most loudly or clearly from today’s session?

