



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

“COME HOLY SPIRIT”

Week 6: Growth

May 15, 2021

LISS Topics

- Week 1: God's Love
- Week 2: God Saves Us
- Week 3: New Life
- Week 4: Receiving God's Gifts
- Week 5: Receive the Holy Spirit
- **Week 6: Growth**
- Week 7: Transformation



Come Holy Spirit



Week 6: Growth – Steve Leaden

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.” John 15:5

God's Love – A Brief Outline

We have several tools to help us grow in the life in the Spirit. It is important to choose the basic means to growth in intimacy with God, especially prayer, Scripture, study, community, the sacraments and service.

A. We should spend time with the Lord through prayer, Scripture and study.

B. We are called to be part of a sacramental, faith-sharing community.

C. A Spirit-filled life includes many ways of sharing what we have found with others through service and evangelization.



Last Week

- You were touched by the Holy Spirit in some way shape or form
- You've had some kind of experience within the last week that has helped transform you or change you
- You have a new desire and a new purpose in life to serve our Lord and help people around you, even more so than what you've already been doing
- You had a kind of marriage with the Holy Spirit last week and are now in a romance period learning to fall deeper in love
- You have a desire to grow deeper in this relationship and need tools to help you grow



3 Key Areas for Growth

- Daily prayer time
- Community sharing
- Sharing Jesus with others



- **1** Seven weeks had gone by since Jesus' death and resurrection, and the Day of Pentecost had now arrived. As the believers met together that day, **2** suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house where they were meeting.
- **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. **4** And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know,[*] for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. **5** Many godly Jews were in Jerusalem that day for the religious celebrations, having arrived from many nations. **6** And when they heard the roaring in the sky above the house, crowds came running to see what it was all about, and were stunned to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples.
- "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "For these men are all from Galilee, **8** and yet we hear them speaking all the native languages of the lands where we were born! **9** Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, men from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia Minor, **10** Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the Cyrene language areas of Libya, visitors from Rome—both Jews and Jewish converts—**11** Cretans, and Arabians. And we all hear these men telling in our own languages about the mighty miracles of God!"
- **12** They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. **13** But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said.
- **14** Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen, all of you, visitors and residents of Jerusalem alike! **15** Some of you are saying these men are drunk! It isn't true! It's much too early for that! People don't get drunk by 9:00 A.M.! **16** No! What you see this morning was predicted centuries ago by the prophet Joel—**17** 'In the last days,' God said, 'I will pour out my Holy Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men dream dreams.

My Experience – Baptism In The Spirit

- 47 years ago – OLOH
- The “Band” – going out with girls, single
- Everyone I met - “You gotta have what I have!”
- I was (and still am) in love my Lord Jesus
- Meeting my wife Donna and the circumstances





1. Daily Prayer Time



4 Levels of Prayer

- Pray for myself
- Pray for others
- **Praise and worship**
- **2 way prayer (communication)**

Daily meditation (Grow your relationship, don't stagnate)

God Is In A Whisper

1 Kings 19:11-13 - And as Elijah stood there the Lord passed by, and a **mighty windstorm** hit the mountain; it was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but **the Lord was not in the wind**. After the wind, there was an **earthquake**, but **the Lord was not in the earthquake**. 12 And after the earthquake, **there was a fire**, but **the Lord was not in the fire**. And after the fire, there was **the sound of a gentle whisper**. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his scarf and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, “Why are you here, Elijah?”



Daily Prayer Time – “30 Golden Minutes”

Preferably early in the morning where there can be no interruptions, go into a quiet place, one where you can be alone with your Jesus your Savior. Seat yourself comfortably. Direct your thoughts toward Jesus and away from yourself. Leave all your circumstances behind for the next few minutes.

Meditate on Jesus. Praise Him, Glorify Him, Thank Him - let Jesus know how much you love Him and want to serve Him and commit your life to Him. Continue to praise Jesus until you are relaxed, and in tune with Him. Then read the following prayer:

"Slow me down O Creator, ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with the eternal reach of time. Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tensions of my nerves with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magic restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with an old friend or make a new one, to pet a dog, to watch a spider build a web, or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down O Creator, and send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow towards the stars of my greater destiny. Amen."





Daily Prayer Time – “30 Golden Minutes”

Next, select a Bible passage to read, preferably one to three chapters. Let the Lord Jesus speak to you whenever possible through your reading of the Bible - what can you learn? What is he trying to teach you? The Psalms are always a personal way the Psalmist communicates with God - turn here if you need the inspiration to speak personally to God.

Now communicate with God through your thoughts - speak to Him - and as with anyone you speak to, listen for His answers. Remember: He is your best and most loyal friend and the wisest. When talking with Him:

- Ask Him for **forgiveness** for any mistakes that can be recalled - discuss them with Him, ask Him to lift your burden and He will.
- **Give thanks for all the good things** that happened to you the previous day and for answered prayers.
- Turn your thoughts toward the **interests of others** - express your concern for those you love, those in need, those sick, and those you possibly resent.
- Now turn your thoughts to **your own personal needs**, both problems and opportunities - stand on Mark 11:24 and Matthew 7:7-8.

Finally, dedicate your life and your entire will to Jesus, asking Him to use you to bring glory to His name.

Now take a deep breath, and give Jesus the glory for a wonderful day ahead!!

2. Community Sharing

- Not just Sundays – beyond
- Invite you to a prayer meeting, Bible study, Zoom prayer meeting, Healing Mass
- Read God's word the Bible – Start with the Psalms and Acts – easy reading
 - If you read 3 chapters a day you can read the Bible in one year
- The Lord has you where he wants you (right here)
- (Selfish) – We Catholics have it the best (we have the sacraments, the Eucharist, and community and the Charismatic Renewal)



3. Sharing Jesus with Others

- Let him change you first
- A gentle sharing – let people ask you about the change – they will ask you “what changed, you’re different now”
- “Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words!”
 - St. Francis Assisi
- At first (my experience) – shaking people “you’ve gotta have it”



Growth = Challenges = Opportunities

- Wedding, romance period, to the long-term relationship
- The pastor who prayed for patience
- Always growth through challenges and opportunities
- Let me give you a different way to pray
 - Praise and thanksgiving
 - “God lives in the praises of His people”
 - No worrying – praise and thanksgiving
 - Like a “smile” vs. being “upset, mad”
 - How will He use your circumstances to bring glory to Him
 - Giving your life to Him – afraid of Him doing something different “I like my life” – His way is even better!
 - The habits you want to change – will be so easy if you just let Him.



Scripture References

- **Rom 8:28 - And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans. (TLB)**
- **Ps 37:4 - Be delighted with the Lord. Then he will give you all your heart's desires. 5 Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it, and he will.**
- **Col 1:12 - Always thankful to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the Kingdom of light.**
- **1 Thes 5: 16–18 - Always be joyful. 17 Always keep on praying. 18 No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.**
- **Phil 4: 4-7 - Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.**



Surrender

- If we really want God to really change your life, we need to totally surrender to God's will
- My Surrender Story
- I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. LUKE 1:38 (NLT)
- Surrender yourself to the LORD and wait patiently for him. PSALM 37:7 (GWT)

Surrender = Trust

- **Abraham followed God's leading without knowing where it would take him. Hannah waited for God's perfect timing without knowing when. Mary expected a miracle without knowing how. Joseph trusted God's purpose without knowing why circumstances happened the way they did.**
- **You let go and let God work. You don't have to always be "in charge."** The Bible says, "Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him." Instead of trying harder, you trust more. You also know you're surrendered when you don't react to criticism and rush to defend yourself. Surrendered hearts show up best in relationships.
- **Surrender doesn't weaken you; it strengthens you.**
- **Surrendered people are the ones God uses. God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, not because she was talented or wealthy or beautiful, but because she was totally surrendered to him. When the angel explained God's improbable plan, she calmly responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants." 20 Nothing is more powerful than a surrendered life in the hands of God. "So give yourselves completely to God." Ja 4:7 21**

- From The Purpose Driven Life



Surrender = Trust

- If God is going to do his deepest work in you, it will begin with this. So **give it all to God: your past regrets, your present problems, your future ambitions, your fears, dreams, weaknesses, habits, hurts, and hang-ups. Put Jesus Christ in the driver's seat of your life and take your hands off the steering wheel.** Don't be afraid; nothing under his control can ever be out of control. Mastered by Christ, you can handle anything. **You will be like Paul: "I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency." Ph 4:13**
- **Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. Jesus film (seen by over four billion people), more than 150 million people have come to Christ and will spend eternity in heaven. "When I was a young man, I made a contract with God. I literally wrote it out and signed my name at the bottom. It said, 'From this day forward, I am a slave of Jesus Christ.'"**

- From The Purpose Driven Life

You'll Be Tested (Don't Be Afraid)

- **God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (TEV)**
- **Blessed are those who endure when they are tested. When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. JAMES 1:12 (GWT)**
- Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." LUKE 12:48 (NIV)
- **Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness. MATTHEW 25:21 (NIV)**



Let God Use You

- Everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory. ROMANS 11:36 (LB)
- The Lord has made everything for his own purposes. PROVERBS 16:4 (NLT)
- The heavens declare the glory of God. PSALM 19:1 (NIV)
- **Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ISAIAH 60:1 (NIV)**



Do Everything For The Glory of God

- **Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory, and pleasure of God.** The Bible says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
- How is it possible to do everything to the glory of God? **By doing everything as if you were doing it for Jesus and by carrying on a continual conversation with him while you do it.** The Bible says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

- The Purpose Driven Life



Noah



- Noah and his family were the last of their kind on earth
- “Noah consistently followed God’s will and enjoyed a close relationship with Him.”
- “I don’t want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don’t want your offerings—I want you to know me.” – Hosea 6:6
- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” – Matt 22: 37-38
- It took Noah 120 years to build the ark. He faced many discouraging days. With no sign of rain year after year, he was ruthlessly criticized as a “crazy man who thinks God speaks to him.” Noah’s children were often embarrassed by the giant ship being built in their front yard. Yet Noah kept on trusting God.
- “By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn’t see, and acted on what he was told. . . . As a result, Noah became intimate with God.” Heb 11:7
- God gave very detailed instructions as to the size, shape, and materials of the ark as well as the different numbers of animals to be brought on board. The Bible tells us Noah’s response: “So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.” Gen 6:22

God's Plans For You

- *Jer 29:11-13 – “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*
- **My Daily Prayer – “I now ask the Holy Spirit to direct me and guide me and change my thoughts and be totally immersive in me throughout the day today, so I can be guided by your wisdom, by your grace, and by your power in order to help change the lives of others that I come in contact with. Help me to make a difference God and blessing the people today and changing others lives to bring Glory into your kingdom. In Jesus name amen!”**



Praying Throughout The Day

- Good Morning Jesus - Every morning for 10 days, when you arise – “**Good Morning Jesus**” and listen for His response (from Mother Teresa)
- Phil 4:13 –
 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I **can** do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I can **do** all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I can do **all** things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I can do all **things** through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I can do all things **through** Christ who strengthens me.”
 - “I can do all things through **Christ** who strengthens me.”
 - “I can do all things through Christ **who** strengthens me.”
 - “I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me.”
 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens **me**.”
- **Breath prayers throughout the day**
 - Praise You Lord, Thank You Jesus
- **Hourly Reminder –**
 - A watch or mobile phone with an hourly reminder – pause and Praise God



RICK WARREN

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

from the NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR of
THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

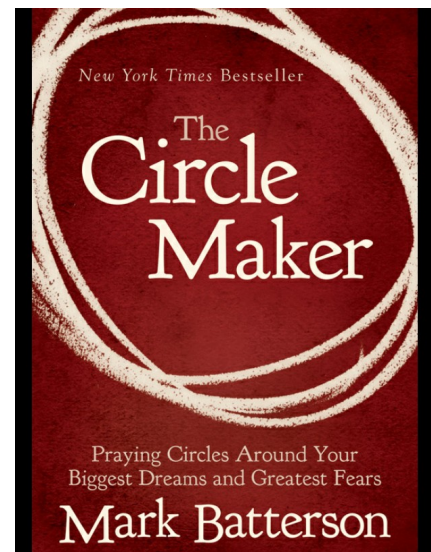
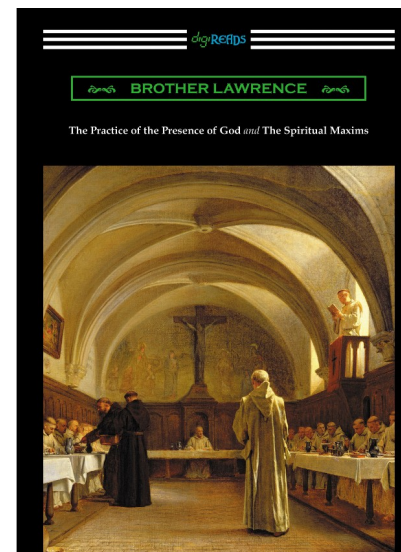
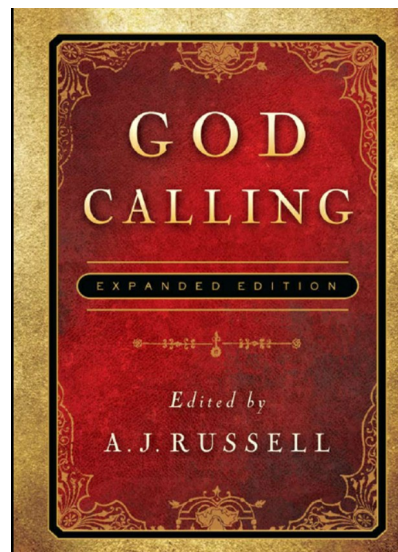
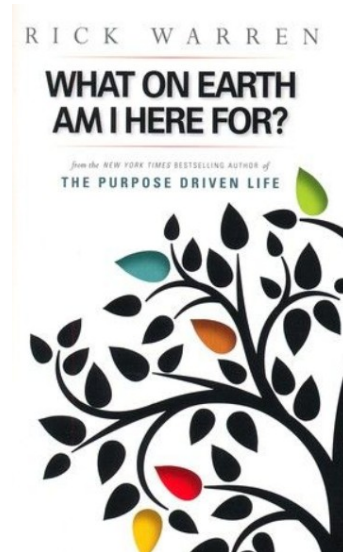
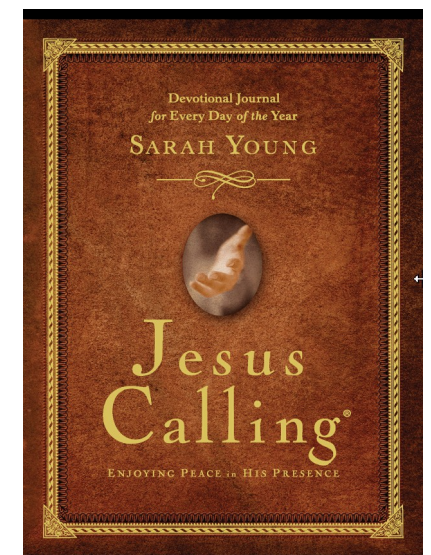
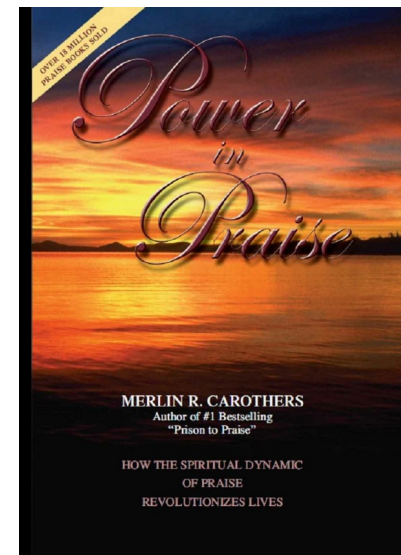
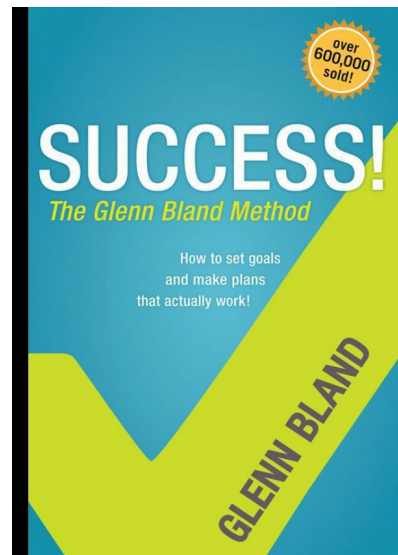
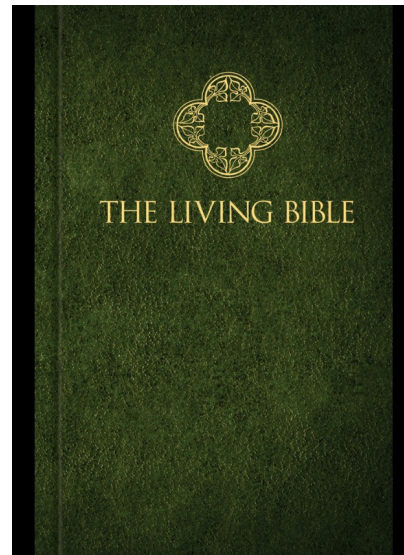


40 Day Retreat

- Read [The Purpose Driven Life](#) for the next 40 days
- An Amazon Review – “I won't give away any of the 40 day lessons, but I will say it's a great bible study and bonding experience and unravels many of the mysteries that hold us back from feeling joy, from being able to sustain meaningful relationships ... it's a great guide to embracing our purpose, feeling God's love and making meaningful connections. I mentioned this book in my women's ABF (a large group) and the majority were nodding their heads and singing it's praises. It's a great book for mentoring people new to the faith.”
- Why 40 Days?
 - Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
 - Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai.
 - David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
 - Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.

Steve's Must Reads

- The Bible
 - The Living Bible (TLB)
 - New Living Translation (NLT)
- Jesus Calling – Sarah Young
- God Calling - AJ Russell
- The Power in Praise – Merlin Carothers
- The Purpose Driven Life – Rick Warren
 - a 40 Day Retreat with Jesus
 - Daily Inspiration – The Purpose Driven Life – Bible Verses each day
- Success! The Glenn Bland Method – Glenn Bland
- The Circle Maker – Mark Batterson
 - Draw The Circle 40 Day Retreat – Mark Batterson
- Practicing The Presence of God – Brother Lawrence



A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

O Lord Jesus, how I thank and praise YOU for the everlasting life that You have given to me by Your wonderful grace and love. May I grow daily to be more like You, full of compassion, kindness and every good fruit. Saturate my heart with Your love so that I may love You more with every passing breath - my Jesus.

Thank you, for Your Holy Spirit Who is making me to be more like YOU Lord Jesus. I want to reflect Your grace and Your beauty in thought, word and deed. I ask that I may devote my time and heart to reflect on all You are and all You have done for me – so that You are magnified more and more in my life – so that the beauty of my Lord Jesus may be seen and reflected in me.

Amen

Pray ...

- Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your people and enkindle in us the fire of your love, Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.
- O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit does instruct the hearts of the faithful grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His Consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Questions to Consider:

- 1. How was your experience of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Have you noticed any fruit of the spirit or charisms since then.**
- 3. Has prayer, reading scripture, or the Mass come alive in a new way?**
- 4. How do feel newly empowered to build up the body of Christ?**

Break Out Rooms
