

# SESSION I

## THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Study the material in Session I of the *Apprentice Manual*.

Memorize the following portion of the “Model Presentation” outline:

- I. Introduction
- II. Gospel
  - A. God’s purpose
  - B. Our need
  - C. God’s provision
  - D. Our response
- III. Leading to a commitment
- IV. Immediate follow-up: Use “Welcome to God’s Family” booklet.

Note: For a complete overview of the Model Presentation study pages 181-195.

# SESSION I

## THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### WHY?

Without understanding the Holy Spirit's role in the witnessing process, you may find yourself trying to work through your own human strength and understanding. This study should be a source of encouragement as you realize the Holy Spirit is vitally involved in every phase of witnessing.

### WHAT?

At the conclusion of this session, you will understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the witnessing process and be able to recite the assigned portion of the "Model Presentation" outline.

### HOW?

You will achieve this goal by:

Identifying the three basic truths of the Holy Spirit's work in bringing lost people to Christ.

Explaining the work of the Holy Spirit according to selected Scripture passages.

Identifying four ways the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of lost people.

Gaining reassurance that the Holy Spirit leads in witnessing, according to selected Scripture.

Learning about witnessing through the Scripture.

Identifying the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Listing two things mentioned in Acts 1:8 that occur when the Spirit is received.

Telling why you believe it is important to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in witnessing.

Writing a one-page article entitled, "The Lifestyle of (your name)."

Writing a prayer to God.

Recalling the assigned portion of the "Model Presentation" outline.

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### **THREE BASIC TRUTHS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN BRINGING LOST PEOPLE TO CHRIST.**

The greatest encouragement to a witness is knowledge that the Holy Spirit is vitally involved in every phase of witnessing.

#### **1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF ALL LOST PEOPLE.**

If the Holy Spirit did not work in the lives, of lost people, no one would find salvation. The work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely vital to bring a lost person to Christ.

The witness never “takes” the presence of God to anyone. The Holy Spirit is already there preparing the person for the witnessing experience. Look specifically at the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of non-Christians.

##### **(1) The Holy Spirit reveals the truth of God's power and existence.**

The Holy Spirit reveals God's secrets and opens the lost person's heart to God's eternal truths. To deliver the message, the Holy Spirit uses these truths to deal with every element of personhood—the intellect, the emotions, the conscience and the will. The evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in a person's life is reflected in “God awareness” or “God consciousness.” Lost people pervert this presence unless someone tells them about Christ. Read Rom. 1:18-23.

##### **(2) The Holy Spirit convicts.**

The Scriptures use the word “conviction” to describe the convincing, undeniable presentation of truth. Read John 16:8-11. These Scriptures clearly present this concept. The Holy Spirit's work related to sin, righteousness and judgment is actually three phases of conviction. The Holy Spirit probes the mind and the heart to bring an uneasy but inescapable understanding of one's true condition. Without the work of the Spirit, man would remain spiritually blind and insensitive to the true nature of his condition. Read Rom. 2:1-12 and Eph. 4:17-18.

Match the following verses with the statements on the right:

- \_\_\_ Rom. 2:1    1. The goodness of God leads to repentance.  
\_\_\_ Rom. 2:5    2. He is without excuse.  
\_\_\_ Rom. 2:4    3. He is blinded and alienated from God.  
\_\_\_ Eph. 4:18   4. He faces the wrath and judgment of God.

(Your answers should be 2, 4, 1, 3.)

1) Of sin

The general awareness of “something wrong or something missing” becomes specific when a lost person hears the gospel. Through the Holy Spirit’s work and through the Word, the lost person no longer wonders what is wrong in his life. He knows his problem is separation from God. The Holy Spirit awakens a sense of guilt and condemnation. He confronts the lost person with the realization of personal responsibility for his sin.

2) Of the need for righteousness

The Bible speaks clearly about God’s conviction of man’s need for righteousness. Righteousness is the essence of God. It is revealed most clearly in Christ. When a lost person comes in contact with the righteous nature of Jesus, he sees his own need for righteousness. Read John 16:8-10.

3) Of judgment

Read John 16:11. The Holy Spirit convicts the lost person of the need to be accountable to God for what he does with his life and that God’s judgment is by a perfect standard, not man’s fleeting standards.

The Holy Spirit convicts the lost person that Christ has judged sin and all sinners. In his judgment he exposed sin and Satan’s diabolical character. Through his death on the cross Jesus judged and sentenced Satan and sin to defeat.

The Bible clearly describes the eternal destiny of the lost person. Read Matt. 25:41.

(3) The Holy Spirit enables the sinner to see the Savior.

The Holy Spirit brings the person of Christ to the consciousness of the lost person. If the lost person were convicted only of sin, righteousness and judgment, he could rightly fall into deep despair. John tells the difference between despair and hope. Read John 15:26.

(4) The Holy Spirit brings the sinner out of death into life.

The moment the sinner responds positively to the Holy Spirit and accepts Christ as Savior is the moment of transformation. The sinner is reborn, freed from the power of sin and death. This is the beginning.

The Holy Spirit acts with enabling power. New birth becomes reality in the sinner's life. He breathes the spiritual breath of eternal life into those who are spiritually dead. John explains that the rebirth is from and in the Spirit. Read John 3:5-6 and Titus 3:5.

This study has discussed one truth regarding the Holy Spirit. He is at work in the lives of all lost people as:

- . . . He reveals the truth of God's power and existence.
- . . . He convicts:
  - . . . of sin,
  - . . . of the need for righteousness,
  - . . . of judgment.
- . . . He enables the sinner to see the Savior.
- . . . He brings the sinner out of death to life.

Review this session by completing the sentence below. Fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate response.

The Holy Spirit is at work \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ as:

He reveals the truth of God's power and \_\_\_\_\_ ; convicts of \_\_\_\_\_ ; of the need for \_\_\_\_\_ ; and of \_\_\_\_\_ ; enables the sinner to see the \_\_\_\_\_ ; brings the sinner out of \_\_\_\_\_ to life.

(Use the previous discussion to check your answers.)

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN THE LIFE OF THE WITNESS TO LEAD AND EMPOWER HIS WITNESSING TO THE LOST.

The Holy Spirit precedes the witness—working to convict and convince the lost to accept Christ. His leadership is vital and reassuring.

The Bible clearly commands us to share the “good news.” One need not wait for some special feeling before witnessing. Experienced witnesses indicate that, regardless of feeling, one often has to take the initiative and probe for an opportunity to witness.

Often the Holy Spirit’s leadership is not evident until after the witness has taken a step of faith and tried to share Christ.

When a witness who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit, becomes involved in witnessing, the Holy Spirit guides him in what to say. The Holy Spirit guides in the presentation because he knows what he has been doing in the life of the lost person.

Luke 12:12 offers assurance of the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Read this verse and write about this reassurance.

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One of the exciting parts of witnessing is to hear others share how they were guided by the Holy Spirit. It is not unusual to hear one say, “Somehow I seemed to share just the right answer. I had never thought about it before and I could not believe I said it. The Holy Spirit really used me to meet that person’s need.”

The Holy Spirit not only guides the witness (utilizing the training, knowledge and personality of the witness), but he also works to persuade the lost person to accept Christ.

For review, correct the following statements regarding the first two truths discussed. Write the statement in its correct form.

- (1) The Holy Spirit is not at work in the lives of some lost people.

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- (2) The Holy Spirit is not at work in the life of the witness; the witness goes in his own power.

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(To check correct answers, refer to the discussion of the first two basic truths.)

3. DURING A WITNESSING EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN THE LIFE OF THE LOST PERSON CONVINCING OF THE TRUTH OF THE WITNESS.

As a witness shares, the Holy Spirit works in the lost person's life to validate the truth. It is as though he is speaking to the heart of the lost person saying, "Listen, what that person is telling you is true, and you need to believe." In 1 Cor. 1:6, it reads, "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you." The Holy Spirit confirms the truth of the testimony of Christ to the lost person.

Do not depend upon the way you witness or how much you know, but depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit in the process.

In 1 Cor. 2:1-5, the Apostle Paul shares the heart of his witness. Read these verses carefully; then answer the following questions "True" or "False" concerning the meaning of this passage:

- \_\_\_ An effective witness must be an impressive speaker.  
\_\_\_ God's wisdom is important, not the speaker's eloquence.  
\_\_\_ The crucified Christ should be the theme of all witnessing.

(Your answers should be False, True, True.)

This is great news! The witness is never alone. The Holy Spirit is an active partner in witnessing. The witness does not have to trust his wisdom or persuasive powers. He has to get in step with the Holy Spirit and be willing and trained to let him guide.

Write in your own words, from your experience, what the presence of the Holy Spirit means to you.

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At this point, review the three basic truths of the Holy Spirit's work in bringing lost people to Christ. When you are certain you know them, continue the study.

## **WITNESSING IN THE SPIRIT**

Because the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit are vital in witnessing, one must understand how to live so that the Spirit has the freedom to act and lead. This is essential for every Christian who would be a witness.

The New Testament clearly records the command of Jesus to witness in the Spirit. Because of the integral nature of the terms, "witnessing" and "in the Spirit," it is essential to understand the exact meaning.

### **WITNESSING**

A person witnesses about Christ as he would witness in a court of law, telling what he knows about Christ from the Bible and from personal experience. A Christian needs to be a vocal witness. A "silent witness" in court would be ineffective; the same is true in sharing about Jesus.

Jesus provides the perfect example of one who seeks people who need to know about salvation. Something about his life drew people to ask him about the way of salvation. He also initiated conversations with people who may not have sought him.



Read the Scripture references below and identify five people with whom Jesus sought to share his good news. Write the name by each reference.

1. Matt. 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_
2. John 4:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_
3. John 5:1-15 \_\_\_\_\_
4. John 8:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
5. John 9:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_

### IN THE SPIRIT

“In the Spirit” means operating through the control and power of the Spirit of God. Through this, the Christian gains authority for witnessing, wisdom for witnessing, leadership in witnessing and power for effectively communicating the message to another. “In the Spirit” actually means letting the Holy Spirit witness of Christ through his followers.

To understand the Holy Spirit’s involvement in witnessing helps us understand why Jesus told his disciples to delay their worldwide witnessing effort until the Holy Spirit had entered their lives.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus told his disciples two things would happen when they received the Spirit. What were they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

(They were to: receive power and be witnesses.)

Regardless of how proficient, capable and bright a person may be, human abilities are no match for the forces of evil that struggle to keep a lost person from Christ.

Read Eph. 6:12. What does this verse tell you about the kind of struggle in which you are engaged?

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Why do you believe it is important to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in witnessing? Base your answer on Eph. 6:12.

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The experiences of the early Christians' witnessing in the Spirit encourage us. After Jesus commanded that witnessing be done "in the Spirit," the New Testament is clear that the first-century Christians obeyed his command.

The experience of Pentecost, and the conversion of 3,000 persons was preceded by the 120 disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit and then boldly witnessing. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:4). After this, the relationship between witnessing and the Holy Spirit was emphasized constantly by the church.

Even a casual reading of Acts shows at the heart of New Testament church members' witness was "witnessing in the Spirit." New Testament Christians were not perfect nor partakers of some special secret; they simply were willing to be used by the Spirit to witness. Likely at times they failed to share or at times their witness was not accepted, though these experiences are not recorded. If these Christians excelled, it was because they were willing to yield themselves to the Holy Spirit.

Living life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a lifelong challenge. Witnessing in the Spirit is a day-by-day, even hour-by-hour, commitment. It involves a dependence upon the Holy Spirit. A Christian should depend upon the Holy Spirit at all times regardless of feelings.

The life that allows witnessing in the Spirit involves prayer—seeking forgiveness when sinful attitudes are expressed or sins are committed.

The Christian must exercise faith that claims the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit must be trusted for the leadership, the power and the control necessary in effective witnessing.

When one lives in the fullness and expectancy of the Spirit, exciting things happen! Witnessing opportunities come at the least expected times. Sown seeds spring up and bear fruit. Visitation occurring out of responsibility turns into victory. In general, life gains an entirely new dimension. Through the normal traffic patterns of life, one makes disciples (Matt. 28:19-20).

Assume that you have been asked to write an article about yourself entitled "The Lifestyle of \_\_\_\_\_ (*your name*) \_\_\_\_\_." In the space provided, write such an article.

The Lifestyle of \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name)

Evaluate your lifestyle in light of this study. Then write a prayer expressing your desire for a new realization of the person, work and love of the Holy Spirit. You also will want to express your appreciation for the way the Holy Spirit has worked in your life (conviction of sin, comforting, etc.). Include any commitment you have made to God as a result of this study.

Before you write the prayer, ask God to help you express more clearly your thoughts, feelings and desires and to teach you through this means of communication.

Dear God:

In this session with your equipper, you will have an opportunity to review this week's study and recite from memory the assigned portion of the "Model Presentation" outline. In preparation for the review session see "Tips for Memorizing" on page 180 in the Appendix.