



GCS D
GRACE CENTER FOR
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

STUDY GUIDE



HOW ON EARTH CAN I BE SPIRITUAL?

By Bob Pate



ABOUT THIS GUIDE



This study guide is brought to you by the Grace Center for Spiritual Development (GCSD), an extension ministry of Grace School of Theology. Our desire is to provide non-degree learning opportunities for anyone who wishes to grow in their spiritual walk.

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The Abundant Life: God's Part and Our Part

SESSION 1

In John 10:10b Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and that you may have it more abundantly."

KNOW

RECKON

YIELD

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.

God's Part

John 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth."

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Our Part

Conquering the Flesh

Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"

Galatians 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Romans 8:5: "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eyes has not seen, nor ear heard. Nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

"The tragedy of life is not what men suffer, but what they _____!"

Dr. Sumner Wemp

*Most Christians don't even realize _____
_____ is available.*

1 Corinthians 2:10-3:3 NKJV

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, no one knows

Notes



The Abundant Life: God's Part and Our Part

SESSION 1

(Continued)

the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Chapter 3 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

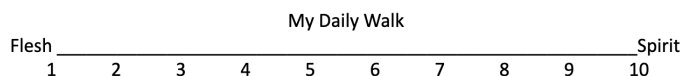
Three Types of Men That Paul Describes:

- The Natural Man
- The Spiritual Man
- The Carnal Man

John 15:5 Apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 John 1:9 When we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

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Walk in the Spirit's Power

SESSION 2

Notes

John 4:14b "...But the water that I give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up unto everlasting life."

Acts 2:4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 11:24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 13:52 And the believers were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Truths to Apply for God's Power in Our Lives:

1. Present myself as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-12)
2. Agree with God that I can do nothing in my own power (John 15)
3. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

"The Christian is to walk with God. That's his purpose. He is to walk after Christ. That's his pattern. Finally, he is to walk in the Spirit. That's his power."

— Dr. Sumner Wemp

Galatians 5:25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

As a Christian, we are to walk...

- with God (Gen 6:9)
- in the Spirit (Gal 5:16)
- worthy of our calling (Eph 4:1)
- in love (Eph 5:2)
- in the light (Eph 5:8)
- in wisdom (Eph 5:15).

The key to walking in the Spirit is to have a deliberate, conscious _____ upon the Holy Spirit.



Walk in the Spirit's Power

SESSION 2

(Continued)

Benefits of walking in the Spirit:

Galatians 5:16 NLT So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The Spirit can lead only when a person sees himself _____ from the law and placed under _____.

Even the weakest saint can experience the _____ of the deity of the Son of God when he is willing to _____.

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What Can Hinder Our Walk With the Spirit?

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

To **quench** means to:

- Suppress
- Stifle
- Squelch

To **grieve** means to:

- Suffer grief
- Mourn
- Any sin that we commit grieves the Spirit.

Matthew 22:37-39 You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



The Object of Our Faith

SESSION 3

Romans 1:16 The Gospel of Christ... is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

Philippians 2:12-13 Work out your own salvation... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

The Bible says that the object of our faith is

1 John 5:11 This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this is in His Son.

Philippians 2:12b-13 ...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

"While justification is based on faith alone and is a work of God, sanctification is presented in Scripture as a work of man and God and is achieved by faith plus work." — Joe Dillow

Changes That Occur When We Are Saved

- **Born of the Spirit**
- **Sealed by the Spirit**

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.

What's Included in the Promises of God

- The certainty of possession by God.*
 - The certainty of the promise of His salvation*
 - The certainty of His purpose to keep us until the day of redemption.*
- **Baptism of the Spirit**
 - **Indwelt by the Spirit**

Notes



The Object of Our Faith

SESSION 3

(Continued)

1 Corinthians 6:19, Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.

Galatians 2:20 ... but Christ lives in me.

"Every Christian _____ the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit doesn't _____ every Christian".

- **Anointed by the Spirit**

Romans 6:11-13 NLT So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have a new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.

Romans 7:19 NLT "When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway."

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them too, all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **and were by nature** children of wrath, even as the rest."

Galatians 5:17, For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

"Understanding the presence, position, and relationship of the old and new (nature) within the life of a believer is essential to experiencing a wholesome and balanced life." — **Charles Ryrie**

I have been crucified with Christ. I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20**

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Grow in Grace

SESSION 4

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to mature Christians. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk and not with solid food, because you couldn't handle anything stronger. And you still aren't ready; for you are still controlled by your sinful (flesh) desires... You are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 10:5 Phillips Our battle is to break down every deceptive argument and every imposing defense that men erect against the true knowledge of God. We fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ.

2 Peter 3:18 Phillips ...you should grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death unto life.

Key to Grow in Grace: Understand Sanctification

What Sanctification is not:

Improvement in practical _____.

Impossible for child of God to _____.

What Sanctification is:

The new _____ to God and the new
_____ that corresponds.

_____ to the service of God –

Notes



Grow in Grace

SESSION 4

(Continued)

_____ to God _____ transformation of
one set apart - _____ of Holy character

"Sanctification for the Christian is past, present, and future; or positional, progressive and prospective sanctification." - Elmer Towns

Philippians 1:6 "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

3 Steps of Sanctification

Position—Positional sanctification—I was sanctified

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.

Experience—Progressive sanctification—I am being sanctified

1 Thess. 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Consummation—Prospective sanctification—I shall be sanctified

1J ohn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.

Positional sanctification is the relationship with God
which we enter by _____
_____.

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

Progressive sanctification - God continues to work in
the life of every Christian to change him into the
_____.

Notes



Grow in Grace

SESSION 4

(Continued)

Prospective sanctification is yet to come. When we arrive in _____.

The key word for our daily growth in life is _____.

2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God... bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

This is a battle for our _____.

1 Peter 4:10 NLT God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

Philippians 2:13 NLT For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Romans 1:11-12 NLT ... so I can share a spiritual blessing with you that will help you grow in the Lord. I'm eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other.

Revelation 3:14-17 And to the angel of the church of the Laodicean write, 'These things says the Amen the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

"God has huge purposes to accomplish through His people in our day. Our world is changing, and God is orchestrating His people for His purposes."

- **Henry Blackaby**

Notes



Grow in Grace

SESSION 4

(Continued)

*Spirituals gifts - we have the responsibility to
_____ our gift, to allow the Holy Spirit to
_____ the gift in us, and then allow Him to
_____ that gift through our daily lives.*

Tips to help in discovering our gifts:

- 1. Be informed**
- 2. Be willing.**
- 3. Be active.**

Do not neglect the gift that is in you.

1 Timothy 4:14 NKJV

Notes



What is God's Will?

SESSION 5

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 4:12 ... that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1. God's Sovereign Will.

2. God's Redemptive Will.

John 6:40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. God's Moral Will.

4. God's Individual Will.

5. God's Permissive Will.

6. God's Circumstantial Will.

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Notes



What is God's Will?

SESSION 5

(Continued)

Things That Are the Will of God:

1. Sanctification, or holiness, in _____ purity (1 Thess. 4:3)
2. Redeeming the _____ we are given (Eph. 5:15-17)
3. Doing our _____ as unto the Lord (Eph 6:6)
4. Praying without _____ and thankfulness (1 Thess. 5:17-18)
5. Obeying the various _____ under which we live (1 Pet. 2:13-15).

"The life that is pleasing to God is not a series of religious duties. We have only one thing to do, namely, to experience a life of relationship and intimacy with God."

- Richard J. Foster

Notes

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NLT And my message and my preaching were very plain. I did not use wise and persuasive speeches, but the Holy Spirit was powerful among you. I did this so that you might trust the power of God rather than human wisdom.

Acts 1:8a NKJV ... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

Ephesians 6:10 NKJV Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

1 John 3:2-3 NLT Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when He comes we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

1 Corinthians 10:11 NLT All these events happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us, who live at the time when this age is drawing to a close.



What is God's Will?

SESSION 5

(Continued)

Revelation 3:19-22 NLT I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone I love. Be diligent, and turn from your indifference. Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends. I will invite everyone who is victorious to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with My Father on His throne. Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying.

Where's the Beef?

"The divine enablement provided under grace is nothing less than the infinite power of the indwelling Spirit." - Lewis Sperry Chafer

Only when we yield to the Holy Spirit, not by _____, will we ever experience His power in our lives.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace - who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with His blood - may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

Notes



The Spirit's Blessings Through Suffering

SESSION 6

Job 5:7 People are born for trouble as sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1 How frail is humanity! How short is life, and how full of trouble!

John 16:33 ...here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.

*"The motivation behind everything that God does in our lives and everything He allows in our lives is love."
- Charles Stanley*

Reasons for Deserved Suffering

*"God's purpose is to lead a believer to _____,
_____, or _____ those habits, attitudes,
and beliefs that keep the believer from growing into the
full stature of Christ's likeness."*

- Charles Stanley

Results of Brokenness

*"God's purpose is to lead a believer to _____,
_____, or _____ those habits, attitudes,
and beliefs that keep the believer from growing into the
full stature of Christ's likeness."*

- Charles Stanley

*All that matters is God and His _____ in my
life.*

My life is no longer mine to live but _____.

*I can't live an _____ life without the Holy Spirit
leading me.*

We are made into the _____ of Christ.

Notes

Undeserved Suffering

The Spirit comforts you and strengthens you:

*Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind
is stayed on You because he trusts You.*

*2 Corinthians 12:9 says, But He said to me, 'My grace is
sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.'*



The Spirit's Blessings Through Suffering

SESSION 6

(Continued)

Romans 15:13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Notes

OUR VISION

Developing spiritual leaders in every nation who can teach others about the love of Christ – a love that cannot be earned and cannot be lost.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bob Pate is a biblical studies teacher, lay counselor, and mentor to men seeking to walk more intimately with Christ. He earned his MA Degree in Religion, emphasizing Pastoral Counseling, from Liberty Theological Seminary. He holds a BS Degree in Church Ministries from Liberty and a BA in Sociology/Psychology from Cameron University. He also finished continuing education credits through the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Bob's past ministry experience includes serving as Director of Single Adult Ministries at McLean Bible Church in McLean, VA. He led an average of 135 men and women through biblical studies addressing singleness, divorce care, and single parenting. For the past 20 years, he has consistently led small groups and taught Bible Studies in Texas, Georgia, Virginia, and Louisiana. He is a featured speaker at retreats and churches, specializing in ministering to singles and men struggling with sexual addictions.

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