

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Blvd.
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Lesson 2: “Led to Receive the Lord Jesus”

**Scripture: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Romans 8:14.**

Goal: To embrace and fulfill our covenant relationship with God and one another.

Objectives: To understand what it means to receive the Lord Jesus Christ and to be led by the Spirit of God as a community of believers.

Introduction

As we expound upon this first part of our church covenant, we find that God initiates a special relationship to those who respond to His call. Through the movement of the Holy Spirit our spiritual eyes are opened to the truth of God’s existence. We also come into an understanding of our sinful state and the gift of salvation that God offers through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit moves upon the heart and conscience of all believers and graciously leads them to repentance and faith. The Holy Spirit seals every believer until the day of redemption. (Eph. 4: 30). It is God’s Holy Spirit, residing within us, that also binds our hearts together in Christian love and fellowship. Our covenant with God and each other becomes effective through the Holy Spirit.

The common ground on which we stand as members of the covenant community is that we were led by the Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. “Erosion of this ground leaves us with no place to stand, for all other ground is sinking sand.”¹ For we were delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son. (Col. 1:13). Led by the Spirit, we entered into the kingdom of God and into a new life, eternal life in Christ Jesus. How does being ‘led by the Spirit reveal God’s Holy Will for the Body of Christ—the covenant community? We will examine four powerful ways in which God shapes the church when we actively embrace what it means to receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Turner Jr., W.C. (2002). *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. Pg. 9
Unger’s Bible Dictionary.

1. **Being led by the Spirit: RECEIVING THE GIFT OF FAITH**

We are reminded that even the faith we have exercised to receive the Lord Jesus Christ was a gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that we are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God. Faith is a gift of God; it is the means by which we grasp the truth. “A lack of trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit cripples our walk with God and our fellowship with others. This trust concerns mysteries we cannot reach with our reason and cannot bring down to our terms”.⁴ Through faith, we realize the truth about God, Jesus Christ and ourselves. We have come to the knowledge that we were utterly lost in our sin and alienated from God. We understand that because of God’s grace and love we have been restored into relationship with Him. What precious gifts we have because of our faith in Jesus. We are redeemed from the penalty of sin, have peace with God, and have joy because of our hope in Christ. We can live victorious lives guided by His Holy Spirit.

Dialogue Questions

Scriptures for Study: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17, I Corinthians 12: 9.

1. *Can we become who God intends without faith?*
2. *Is it possible to understand God’s truth without His gift of faith?*

2. **Being led by the Spirit: EMPOWERED TO WALK WITH CHRIST AND ONE ANOTHER.**

All believers are indwelled with the Holy Spirit. His living presence in our lives empowers us to live a life pleasing to God. Romans 8:13 tells us that if we live by the Spirit, He gives power to mortify the deeds of the body. The more we submit to the leading and the control of the Holy Spirit, the more we will obey the Word and live according to the will of God. The Greek word translated ‘walk’ indicates continuous action, or a habitual lifestyle. Walking also implies progress. As the believer submits to the Spirit’s control, he or she grows in their spiritual life.⁵ The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit increases our capacity to obey the word of truth and to love one another. (I Peter 1:22) As we are receptive and responsive to the leading of the Spirit, He gives us a holy walk. [Gal. 5:23] In

⁴ Turner Jr., W.C. (2002). *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. Pg.10.

⁵MacArthur, J., (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Word Publishing, Pg. 1798, footnote for Gal. 5: 16.

walking with Christ, and with one another, faith is increased. Doubt is overcome, and we grow in grace.⁶

Dialogue Question

Scriptures for Study: Prov. 3: 5-7; Rom. 15: 7; I Thess. 5:7

1. *How does our lack of trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit cripple our walk with God and our fellowship with others?*
2. *What ought to be the quality of our relationship with the pastor and with one another as we are led by the Spirit?*

3. **Being led by the Spirit: DEEPENS OUR COMMUNION WITH GOD AND DEVELOPS A GENUINE COMMUNITY.**

It cannot be overstated that the Covenant becomes effective through the Spirit. Without the Spirit we have no communion with God and no genuine community among one another.⁵ **The Holy Spirit allows us to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Without the Holy Spirit there is no spiritual fellowship with God or the community. A special work is performed by the Spirit at the moment one experiences salvation in Christ. Through a process of regeneration the believer is given a new nature (2 Cor. 5:17) that allows him to live righteously. The Spirit also baptizes the believer into union with Christ and other believers in the church body [1 Cor. 12:13; Romans 6:3-4]. Our communion with God and fellow Christians is made a reality through the power of the Holy Spirit who produces unity and love in the church. I John 1: 3b states ‘and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ’. Oneness with God in Christ is the basis of Christian fellowship, and it cannot exist without it. ‘Fellowship’ is from the Greek word [*koinonia*], meaning “a close relationship or harmonious association as partners or sharers of the gospel.”⁶ Any congregation or church which depends upon a superficial social camaraderie to replace the truth of God’s Word and doctrine as its cohesive power blunders fatally **Our purpose as a community in Christ is locked into God’s infallible purpose for our lives. As we collectively persevere in faith through any circumstance, we receive and inherit God’s promises. The essence of God’s promises is fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We need to remember that God is faithful, and that in Him, our hope is secure. [Heb. 6: 13-18].****

⁴ Turner Jr., W.C. (2002). *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. Pg.10.

⁵Turner Jr., W.C. (2002). *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. Pg. 11

⁶Coffman, J. *Coffman’s New Testament Commentary*.

Dialogue Questions

Scriptures for Study: John 14:26; John 16: 7-13

1. *If the presence and influence of the Holy Spirit develops a genuine community or fellowship in the body of Christ, what might cause disunity in the body of Christ?*

4. **Being led by the Spirit: BEGINS THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION IN US.**

Being led to receive Jesus is not the end of something but the beginning of a process of sanctification.⁷ Sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of His holiness; it is begun in regeneration, and carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter.⁸ As we examine our lives according to God's Word, deny ourselves of worldly desires, remain watchful and pray, God will mold us into holy vessels. [Galatians 5:22, 23; Colossians 3:8-12; II Corinthians 3:18; I Peter 3:18; I Thessalonians 3:12, 13; Ephesians 5:26; I Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 10:25]

It is critical for believers to realize that sanctification is a process. It is the means by which Christians grow and experience new levels of spiritual maturity through faith and obedience to the Word and will of God. It is genuinely "walking in the newness of life," that models the Christ-likeness that is pleasing to God. (Romans 6:4). This process of sanctification is initiated by our desire to be holy as God is holy. This transformation is sustained by growth in faith and obedience in all that He commands. We are sanctified and progressively transformed from darkness into light through our study and belief in His Word. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17) The spiritual life that God wants all of us is the fullness of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15 – 17) and to be led by Him (Romans 8:14).

Dialogue Questions

Scriptures for Study: II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:22

1. *Is it possible for believers to be led by the Spirit and live as though they doubt or don't believe the Word of God?*
2. *How does the Holy Spirit sanctify the believer and the members of the household of faith?*
3. *In what way does studying the Word of God transform a believer?*

⁷ Turner Jr., W.C. (2002). *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. Pg. 12.

⁸ Brown, Newton J. D.D., 1994, *A Baptist Church Manual*, Judson Press, Pg. 19

Lesson Summary:

“Having been led...by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior...”
we:

1. **Receive the gift of faith**
 - a. **Jesus Christ** is a **gift** from God.
 - b. **Faith** is a **gift** from God.
 - c. **Faith** allows us to **trust** God.
 - d. Faith allows us to **realize the truth** about God, Jesus Christ, and us.

2. **Are empowered to walk with Christ and one another**
 - a. All believers have the **Holy Spirit indwelling**.
 - b. We ought to be **led** and **controlled** by the Spirit.
 - c. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit helps us **obey God’s Word** and **love one another**.

3. **Deepen our communion with God and develop a genuine community**
 - a. **Communion** with God and believers is **effective through the Spirit**.
 - b. The Holy Spirit begins the process of **regeneration** and gives us a new nature.
 - c. The **Spirit baptizes** us into union with other believers and Christ.
 - d. We are immersed by Christ and the Holy Spirit that produces **unity** and **love** in the church.

4. **Begin the process of sanctification in us**
 - a. We are made **partakers** of His holiness by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Sanctification is a **process**.
 - c. Christians experience new levels of **spiritual maturity** through **faith** and **obedience** of God’s Word and will.
 - d. Transformation is sustained by growth in faith and obedience.

Accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior was a choice we all made in order to participate in the covenant community in any meaningful way. Jesus saves us from sin and into a new way of life. Accepting this salvation is at the core of our faith.⁹ Being led to receive the Lord Jesus is the start of our journey with Christ and with each other. Being continually led by the Spirit of God is the element that must be kept alive in our walk. Why is this so important? Without our individual and collective submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit, our covenant community will become dysfunctional. Dysfunction occurs when we do not submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our witness as a church is rooted in this one truth. We are the community of believers, saved by grace through Jesus Christ. We have been indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit who has sealed us unto the day of redemption. If we are to be the church that God has ordained us to be, each and every heart and mind must submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit, our guide, our teacher, our keeper.

⁹Turner, J.W. (2002). *Discipleship for African-American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA.: Judson Press, pg. 12.