

# LESSON 11

## ANCHOR 11

Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me.

*John 14:26 – “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

### PRAY

Ask God to speak to you as you read His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a revelation of God’s truth and love and give you understanding of what you are about to read. Pray that you will have an Encounter with God as you earnestly seek Him. Don’t rush through reading everything and don’t rush through praying. Take some time to stop and listen so you may hear anything God wants to say to you.

After you read the scriptures, ask:

- “God, what are You saying in these scriptures?”
- “God, what are You saying to me in these scriptures?”
- “God, how do You want me to apply this to my life?”

Write in your journal as you spend this time with God.

When you become a follower of Jesus, you are not left alone to live the Christian life all by yourself and in your own power. No, from the beginning, God had a plan to save you, to equip you and to be with you every step of the way. In His infinite wisdom, God became what you needed, so you could do what was needed and get where you needed to go. **John 14:26** says, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

To Christ followers, the Holy Spirit is vital to your Christian walk – He is your Counselor, your Guide, your Comforter, your Companion, your Helper and your source of Power. He is not limited to those roles, but He does all those things, and more, to help you live the Christian life through His righteousness and power, because you cannot do it in your own power. At Encounter, we stress that repeatedly – that you need the Power of the Holy Spirit to help you live a victorious Christian life.

God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, are both in heaven. The Holy Spirit is the only member of the Trinity that is with believers here on earth - He lives within followers of Jesus Christ. Knowing who He is and allowing Him to lead you by His power is the difference between having a life of victory or a life of defeat in this world.

The Holy Spirit is the greatest power in the universe and He lives within the hearts of every Christ follower. If you have limited knowledge of the Holy Spirit in your life and, therefore, don’t give Him full operating room to work in your life, you have limited power. Without the full power of the Holy Spirit in your life, you are operating in your own human strength. But, if you give the Holy Spirit full reign and complete power in your life, and you have the knowledge and understanding that He is

all-powerful and all-knowing, then you are a force to be reckoned with - because of the force that lives within you. A person totally yielded to and guided by the Holy Spirit is filled with the same Power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead! God wants you to know that truth and live like you believe it.

It is important to search God's Word for yourself in all matters, but particularly when it comes to learning and knowing whom the Holy Spirit is and what the bible says about Him and His role as God in your life. Please read the scriptures referenced below:

**Psalms 139:7-8** – The Holy Spirit is everywhere. You cannot escape His Presence.

**John 14:16-17** – The Holy Spirit is your Counselor. Jesus told His followers that He was going to be with the Father in heaven, but that He would ask the Father to send another Counselor to be with them forever. Jesus said the world would not see or know this Counselor, but that believers would recognize Him because the Spirit of Truth would live inside of believers forever.

**John 14:26** – Jesus said the Counselor would teach His followers all things and remind them of everything Jesus had said.

**John 15:26** – Jesus told His disciples repeatedly that He would have the Father send them the Counselor after He left them to go to heaven to be with the Father. Jesus told them that the Spirit of truth would testify about Him and He equipped His followers with the Spirit of truth to help them testify and speak truth to others as the Holy Spirit bore witness of that testimony within them.

**John 16:7** – Just before Jesus ascended up to heaven to be with the Father, He told His disciples that it was for their good that He go away, because the Counselor would not come unless He went away. Jesus had come to this world and walked *beside* His disciples, teaching them His ways. The Holy Spirit was sent by God to live *within* the disciples and followers of Jesus, so the teachings of Jesus and the truth of God could become their truth with renewed understanding and power.

**John 16:7-13** – The Holy Spirit makes you aware of your sins when you are outside of God's will and ways. He shows you His truth, so you can see your need for repentance and forgiveness. Jesus stressed that this awareness and guidance is to His followers' advantage and benefit. The Holy Spirit reveals God's truth to you and directs you in godly ways of His righteousness for your own good. The Holy Spirit brings truth and clarity to the sin, confusion and chaos of the world, so He can give you the power and truth to turn away from sin and back to Him so you can have His peace and presence in your life and circumstances.

**Romans 8:2** – The Holy Spirit's life-giving power frees you from the power of sin that leads to death. The death of Jesus made a way for your salvation. When you believe and follow Him, you are born of the Spirit, meaning that you have a second birth renewal of your spirit through His Spirit (the first birth was your natural birth in your body of flesh and bones). The Holy Spirit gives you His power to live this new life.

**Romans 8:9-11** – Paul says that Christ followers have the Spirit of God living inside of them, that they are controlled by Him, and no longer controlled by their own sinful nature. Paul boldly states that, "if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you".

That's a scriptural way of saying that God's Holy Spirit living within you is the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He can raise you up into new spiritual life. He can bury your old sinful nature and resurrect your life to live by His Spirit.

**Romans 8:12-16** – Paul talks about being led by the Spirit of God. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. He talks about how that means you are an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ. Those who choose to follow Jesus are adopted into God's family. His Holy Spirit helps you live a life that makes you look like His son or daughter to a world that doesn't know Him and isn't aware that you are a part of a royal family.

**Romans 8:26-27** – The Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness and prays for you – He prays for you even when you don't know what to pray for yourself. He knows what and how to pray, especially when you don't have a clue about either. He has an internal view and knowledge of your heart. No one knows you better, and no one knows the Father better, than the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 2:10-16** – The Holy Spirit knows all things. He knows the thoughts of God and He knows your thoughts. He also gives believers the ability to know the things of God, so you can understand what God has freely given you. The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and follow God's truth. Without Him, a natural person cannot spiritually discern the truth and will of God. Before you came to know and follow Jesus as your Savior, you had no capacity to know His truth, because you did not have the Holy Spirit living within you to open up your mind and heart and guide you into God's truth.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – Paul tells Christ followers that their body is not their own. He says their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit whom is received from God and whom lives within them. His point was that God's own son, Jesus, died to save you from sin – that was a costly price to pay – and, therefore, you should honor God with your body, especially considering the fact that He lives inside your body.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11** – The Holy Spirit empowers us, individually, with spiritual gifts. He makes these decisions according to His will.

**Galatians 5:16-21** – Paul tells believers that the Holy Spirit can guide their life. The Holy Spirit can help you live out good and right desires, so you won't be led by your sinful nature.

**Galatians 5:22-23** – The Holy Spirit lives within believers and produces good fruit in the believer's life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. He gives believers the ability to rest in Him when the world around them is spinning out of control. He gives believers the ability to surrender and yield to His guidance and to have the self-control to resist temptations, bad thoughts and bad behaviors.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** – The Apostle Paul, writes about the Holy Spirit being the seal for believers (the deposit and down payment) of the promised inheritance that comes through salvation in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit, in you, "keeps" you until what the bible calls the day of redemption – the day you get to fully experience your inheritance in heaven.

**Ephesians 2:22** – Paul writes about how all believers are united by what Christ did for them on the cross. Because of the finished work of Jesus, Paul says believers are being united to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

**Ephesians 4:30** – The Holy Spirit can be grieved by the way you live. Grief is described as an emotional response to loss. To turn away from God through sin and rebellion in your life actually grieves the Holy Spirit. What would He be grieving? There are some very probable answers which include: the loss of your heart, the loss of your devotion, the loss of His best for you, the loss of peace and joy in your life. There are so many things that break His heart and the Holy Spirit grieves for you when you make choices outside of His will for you.

**2 Peter 1:21** – The Holy Spirit breathed the very words of the Bible into those who were inspired to write the Bible. Scripture was God-breathed by the Holy Spirit of God.

**Matthew 3:16, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, 1 Peter 1:10-12** – Scriptures reveal how the Holy Spirit, God and Jesus are the Trinity – that they are one God in three distinct Persons.

The ways of God can be a mystery, in that they are so far above your own ways that you could never fully understand what He has not intended for you to know. However, there are many things that God has intended for you to know. He has written about such things in His Word, so you may know Him better and you may live an abundant Christian life, wherein you are no longer a slave to the sin that held you hostage before you chose to surrender your life to Christ and follow Him. The Holy Spirit is revealed to you in Scripture. He further reveals Himself to you in your own life, as you fully embrace the truth of Scripture and allow Him to guide you into all truth and freedom.

The story of Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman in John, Chapter 4, gives a beautiful picture of how the Holy Spirit of God quenches our thirst once and for all. Jesus says He is Living Water. The Holy Spirit is the source of Living Water that continues to fill up the follower of Christ here in this world when they thirst for Him. The Christ follower will never thirst again when they drink from the well of the Living Water.

Read **John 7:37-39** – The first two verses quote Jesus saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”. The last verse says, “By this He meant the Spirit whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” This simply means that God had not sent the Holy Spirit to live in believers yet, because Jesus had not yet died on the cross for the sins of the world, been resurrected and eventually ascended up into heaven to be with the Father.

Jesus completed His mission in this world and He went to be with the Father in heaven. He repeatedly talked about how, once He went to be with the Father, the Counselor, the Spirit of truth (the Holy Spirit) would come to be with His disciples, His followers. For the disciples whom had been with Jesus and those that followed, the power of the Holy Spirit empowered and moved them like they had never been empowered when they were with Jesus. It took the Power of the Holy Spirit to give them the power, boldness, wisdom and passion to spread the gospel in a way they had never before been equipped to share.

There is a big difference between a believer that is filled with the Holy Spirit and one that is not filled with the Holy Spirit. Think about this. Your body is the temple, or the home, of the Holy Spirit. Is it obvious to everyone, on the outside looking in, that He lives within you? Can anyone and everyone see the presence of the Holy Spirit in every room, every nook and cranny, of your body? If so, you are filled with Him – you have allowed Him to completely penetrate and fill every part of the house. You have been overtaken by a Power greater than your own.

On the other hand, is the Holy Spirit put away into a corner or a closet and not given full access to His home within you? If He cannot be seen when someone looks into the “windows” of your life, then you are not filled with Him. You are limiting His power in your life and only giving Him a little space that is hidden away behind a closed door. That is a tragic scenario, if you are a Christian. It means your own power is running the show – and probably not all that well, sadly.

Read **Ephesians 5:15-19** – Paul is writing to Christ followers about how they should live by the Spirit’s power. Spoiler Alert – this passage indicates that, if you are going to be influenced by anyone or anything, let that influence be the Holy Spirit. Let Him intoxicate you with His power, so that it over-shadows every other influence in your life. Paul wrote, “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead be filled with the Holy Spirit”. Think about what Paul is really saying. He is talking about your choices and that which you choose to fill or permeate your life. You can be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, thereby allowing His influence to penetrate everything you do, so it reflects His life within you. Or, you can choose to fill your life with other things and give those things the power to influence you more than the Holy Spirit influences you. When you drink of the Holy Spirit, He fills you with living water; His Power overtakes your own desires and power. Paul is advising you to choose wisely. He even says not to live like fools, but like those who are wise. Doing so will determine how well you live the Christian life.

God wants to influence and alter your mind by transforming it according to His good and perfect will. Drugs and alcohol can influence thought and action, and the mind can regress and become easily led away from God and His wisdom. Paul is saying that you should not allow any influence to alter your mind or body to the point where it surpasses God’s influence in your life. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself if that drink, that drug, or anything else, is altering or influencing you more than the Holy Spirit influences you. Paul’s instruction to believers is to “be filled with the Holy Spirit”. In other words, don’t fill yourself up with other influences that can easily alter you and lead you away from God. Be wise in your choices.

You can trust in the Power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. The bible gives this instruction in **Galatians 5:25**, “Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives”. As a believer, you have the Holy Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit have you, so He will change the way you live. When you trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you, you will be able to say the following about Him:

1. He is my personal Counselor - The Holy Spirit wants to counsel you and He does that by guiding you into His truth. When you yield to, and agree with, His counsel, then He responds by rewarding you with His peace. If you reject, or disagree with, His counsel, then you forfeit His peace and possibly God’s blessing.
2. He is my personal Guide and He explains God’s truth to me - The Bible can never be fully understood unless the Person who breathed it into existence, the Holy Spirit, reveals and explains it to you. You would think that the disciples had the best teacher in Jesus. But, Jesus said, “The Holy Spirit (He) will guide you into truth, and He will teach you all things”.

If you study the bible with the mindset that you can read it like anything else – like any other book or a newspaper - then you will never fully understand God’s Word or know how to apply it to your life and circumstances. You have to allow the Holy Spirit to make God’s Word real to you. When you make God’s Word the authority over your life, then the Holy Spirit is faithful to make God’s Word become real to you. Have you ever read a bible verse repeatedly over the years, then, all of a sudden, you read it and it is like it’s the first time you have ever seen it, because it finally makes sense to you? What do you think happened?

This is a great example of the Holy Spirit making God's Word real to you. He quickens your spirit to relate to His Spirit and He illuminates your mind with wisdom and understanding of God's truth.

We need preachers and teachers to teach and preach God's Word – that is important. But always keep in mind the teaching in **1 John 2:27**, "As for you the anointing that you have received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him". It is clear that this scripture is directing believers to trust and follow, above all else, what they know to be real - the Holy Spirit within them, guiding and directing them into truth.

As the Holy Spirit guides and leads believers into truth, He will help you become aware of pitfalls you may face in Christianity. Believers can fall into the trap of thinking that they know the Bible, but if there is no spiritual change that is transforming their heart, then the Holy Spirit is not being allowed to work in their life. If you are not allowing the Holy Spirit to be your personal guide and interpreter, then you open yourself up to the tricks of the devil and to people who may distort the Word of God. There is great danger in reading the Scriptures without asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and lead you into truth.

The Bible is just words to you if you don't allow the Holy Spirit to teach and reveal its divine meaning to you. If the Holy Spirit is not allowed to operate and lead you like this, then you can fall into the habit of reading scripture to justify what you already believe. If you are in the habit of discarding or ignoring any part of Scripture that troubles you, or you disagree with, then you are not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you into His truth. He has to be your personal guide, so He can effectively guide you into truth.

3. The Holy Spirit is my Helper - The Holy Spirit provides and produces great things in your life if you allow Him to do so. He gives you spiritual gifts, so He can produce good fruit in you. He helps you to love like Jesus and do the things that Jesus did. Jesus died so that you may live. When you die to your human nature and your desires, the Holy Spirit is active in you and empowers you to live a life devoted to Jesus Christ.
4. The Holy Spirit is my God whom desires a personal relationship with me – The Holy Spirit is not a power to merely use. The Holy Spirit is a Person you must get to know.

In conclusion, this lesson should help you have a more biblical, practical and personal understanding of the Holy Spirit. Knowing and understanding the Holy Spirit, and allowing Him to guide your life, is absolutely necessary to a Christ follower. If you are serious about getting well, living for the Lord, and having the power to do so, then you must allow the Holy Spirit to lead your life. You have all of Him. The question is, does He have all of you?

## **QUESTIONS FOR YOU:**

1. Do I believe what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and how do I live that out in my Christian life? Write my own statements of the Holy Spirit and whom He is to me, based upon how I trust Him to lead and guide me.
2. How have I grieved, or do I still grieve, the Holy Spirit?
3. Share some experiences of how the Holy Spirit has given me peace, comfort, and counsel.
4. How is the Holy Spirit changing me from the inside out?