Lesson 4: Filled with the Spirit – Sanctified Entirely

Lesson 3 described the conflict between the believer’s desire to follow God, and the sinful nature. This conflict is further described in this lesson, encouraging believers to acknowledge the lack that they were experiencing in their walk with God. This lesson directs believers to seek an additional experience, that of the sanctified life. This experience is accessible and real through the power of the Spirit. Once the believer has had this sanctification experience, there is the need to ‘keep in step’ (remain under the control of, submitted to) of the Holy Spirit.

Learning Activities

1. Answers to the questions in Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life, Lesson 4, are given below. Each question has some additional notes that may give clarity and understanding to passages of scripture being explored. Discuss these answers with participants, having them share the significant realizations that they encountered while doing the study personally. As the notes appear applicable, share the additional insights they provide with participants. (40 mins.)

Answers to Lesson 4

1. The Law will be in their minds, written on their hearts. Encourage participants to read the wider context to verse 34. This verse refers to the personal inner empowering to do God’s will, not simply an external expectation which is socially enforced and encouraged. Heb 8:10-12 and Heb 10:16-18 site this as a basis for the new covenant.

2. a) He preached Christ; b) The apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria. Peter and John prayed that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit. The phrase “The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them” does not negate what we have learnt about the Holy Spirit being the way people become Christian. The phrase “they received the Holy Spirit” indicates a specific activity of the Spirit that the believers became conscious of. They had not been previously aware of this activity of the Spirit.

3. He prayed that they would be strengthened with power internally through the Spirit and that they would be a complete expression of God – which is love. Note that the word “know” is usually translated to mean intimate, experiential knowledge. E.g. Adam knew Eve and she became pregnant...Gen. 4:1.

4. a) They were to stay in Jerusalem until they would have the experience of being ‘clothed with power’; b) they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit; c) the Spirit would empower them to become witnesses.

5. a. The change is that they had been washed, sanctified and justified. This highlights different aspects of becoming a Christian: being freed from guilt of sin, set apart...
and different, and judged acceptable by God (justified is a ‘forensic’ term). Note the Amplified Bible’s translation: “And such some of you were [once]. But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed, separated from, life now is different), and you were justified [pronounced righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.

b. They were worldly, infants, not ready for solid food, quarrelling, jealous, similar to non-believers in many ways. In-spite of a relationship with God, they were experiencing lack, so they were inconsistent. They had changed, yet had not changed. They were different, but still the same. There was need for a more complete work.

c. They needed an experience of thorough purification (perfect holiness). Read the context from 2 Cor. 6:14 to see the promises (“Since we have these promises...”). This passage suggests that each believer should take personal responsibility for having this experience (“let us purify ourselves”).

6. Answers vary

7. a,b,c: filled with the Holy Spirit;

8. a. Purity of heart. Note James 4:8 which linked purity of heart to single mindedness and lack of duplicity.

b. Love made complete/perfect; The word “complete” suggests ‘realized purpose, or a thing conforming to its intended purpose’. Think of this as ‘love the way it really should be’.

c. Entering God’s rest – realizing God’s provided purpose for the believer.

d. Maturity – advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity.

e. Free from sin, slave to righteousness. Think about the question: Who sets the slaves agenda for a slave? This passage suggests that the sanctified believer is submitted in service to righteousness and exclusively available for the agenda of righteousness. The believer has no other agenda.

9. a) boldness, oneness, selflessness; b) full of faith, grace, power, courage, able to forgive; 
c) joy, peace, hope

10. a) sanctification; b) sanctifying work

11. a) They were experiencing a lack in their faith, they needed increased love, strengthening of their hearts so that they could be blameless and holy. b) sanctified; avoiding sexual immorality, purity and holiness; c) They would be rejecting God; d) He
prayed that they would be sanctified completely, be blameless in their entire being; e) God; f) God wants to sanctify the believer ‘through and through’, the entire body, soul and spirit; g) He prayed that the spirit, soul and body be kept blameless; h) The believer can be very confident that God will answer his prayer for sanctification.

12. a) Be filled with the Spirit. The language used originally has the following characteristics:
   - Continuous – continue to be filled
   - It is a command – believers take responsibility for making themselves available
   - Passive tense – being filled is something that is being done to the believer
   - Plural – it implies (you all) be filled... suggesting that this expression must be experienced in community

   b) Being drunk with wine suggests false joy, strength and a sense of competency which really isn’t really there, as compared to the true/authentic source of joy, strength, competency.

   c) Answers vary

   d) 1) Speaking to one another – Corporate fellowship in an edifying way; Sing and make music in your heart to God – Worship to God that is satisfying, sincere and intimate; 2) Always giving thanks to God - Constant gratitude; 3) Submission - mutual service;


2. Have participants individually review questions 6, 8f, 12c, 14, 15 and share their thoughts on these questions. Based on all that was discussed today, ask each one to share one significant issue that God is talking with them about at this time. (15 mins)