International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 25 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

II The Spirit-Filled Life

1 The Holy Spirit Transforms Us from Within

As Philippians 2:12–13 teaches, we are to "work out" our salvation because it is God Himself who works in us, giving us both the desire and the ability to do His will. Spiritual growth is therefore not about trying harder, but about yielding more fully to the Holy Spirit. As we take small, consistent steps of obedience, He progressively transforms our hearts into the likeness of Christ.

2 Christlike Character Comes Before Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are valuable, but Scripture teaches that character is the true measure of maturity. A believer may display impressive gifts and yet lack the love that gives them value (1 Corinthians 13:1–3). Jesus calls us to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). We should evaluate ourselves and those who lead us not primarily by visible success or supernatural manifestations, but by humility, integrity, obedience, and Christlike love. False prophets are ultimately recognized by their fruit (Matthew 7:15–20).

3 Spiritual Gifts Are Given to Build Others

The Holy Spirit equips every believer with gifts for ministry, never for personal recognition or self-promotion, but to serve the body of Christ and bring glory to God. As the Church grows "speaking the truth in love," every member contributes according to the grace given, and the whole body grows in maturity (Ephesians 4:15–16). Earnestly desire spiritual gifts, while ensuring they are exercised in love, humility, and submission to Christ.

4 God's Kingdom Is Revealed Through Transformed Lives

"The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power" (1 Corinthians 4:20). God desires His Church to demonstrate both the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit. His power is seen not only in miracles but in transformed lives marked by perseverance, gratitude, holiness, and faithful obedience. Whatever we do or say should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God (Colossians 3:17).

III Discussion Questions

1. Philippians 2:12–13 teaches that we are to "work out" our salvation while God works in us. What practical habits help us cooperate with the Holy Spirit's transforming work?
2. Why do you think Scripture places greater emphasis on Christlike character than on spiritual gifts? How can we guard against valuing gifts above spiritual maturity?
3. How can believers exercise their spiritual gifts in ways that genuinely serve others, rather than draw attention to themselves?
4. In what ways can the power of God's kingdom be demonstrated through our everyday lives, even outside miraculous signs and wonders?

MEMORY VERSE

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20

✷ ACTION POINT

Let us pray that God would fill IFC Abidjan with His Holy Spirit; that we would develop Christlike character; that He would reveal and strengthen our spiritual gifts; that He would use us to serve others in love; and that the church would display both the fruit and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit's work is both inward and outward. He first transforms our hearts, producing the character of Christ, and then equips us with spiritual gifts to serve His Church and reach the world. As we continue to yield to the Holy Spirit, may our words, actions, and service reflect the transforming power of God's kingdom, bringing glory to Christ and building up those around us.