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PNEUMATOLOGY

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The study of Pneumatology is of immense benefit to the Christian. In the pages of Scripture, we come face to face with the third Person of the Trinity, God Himself in spirit, and we see His very personal and intimate ministry to us. Through Him, we come to know God's love for us "because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5). To understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to find joy in His role as our Comforter (John 16:7; Acts 9:31) who not only helps and comforts us, but who comes to our rescue when our hearts are so burdened we cannot even pray for relief (Romans 8:26). When we pursue the knowledge of the Holy Spirit we find, to our great delight, that He not only lives within us, but He does so forever, never to leave or forsake us (John 14:16). All these truths are burned into our hearts when we study Pneumatology.

In this Study of the Holy Spirit I pray that it will be intriguing, enlightening, refreshing, and revealing as we focus on the person and purpose of the Holy Spirit. This is not an exhaustive study because we find Him and His presence throughout the Old and New Testament but this will be a practical study for our daily lives. We are living in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit whom our Lord Jesus Christ promised over two thousand years ago, we will learn that we can trust him to be there working in and through us all the days of our lives. So May God bless you and keep you, invite a friend to join us in this study. Remember "3Ps Alive in 2025!

Prepared by Pastor Kermit Perry

May 8, 2025

Lesson 1: Who is the Holy Spirit

(Psalms 139:7-12; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Ephesians 3:14-20)

Discussion Starter

There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others see the Holy Spirit as an impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Christ. Since there are so many misconceptions how do we determine who the Holy Spirit is?

The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent

Psalms 139:7-12

7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

Discussion Question 1

How important is it for you to know that you are never alone?

The Holy Spirit is Omniscient

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.

12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. 13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. 14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

15 Those who are spiritual (Spirit Led) can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. 16 For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

Discussion Question 2

• How has your life changed since you've been born again?

The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent (Ephesians 3:14-20)

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through *His Spirit* in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we

ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever

and ever. Amen.

Discussion Question 3

• How can we allow the power of God to be made manifest in our lives?

Applying the Text

We can know that the Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He

possesses a mind, emotions, and a will. The Holy Spirit thinks and knows.

The Holy Spirit can be grieved. The Spirit intercedes for us. He makes

decisions according to His will. The Holy Spirit is God, the third

Person of the Trinity. As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the

Comforter and Counselor that Jesus promised He would be. So let's learn

how to submit to His leading.

Memory Verse

"I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your

presence!"

Psalms 139:7 NLT

May 15, 2025

Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 16:1-14)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the *Spirit* of God was hovering over the surface of the waters." Genesis 1:1-2 NLT

Discussion Starter

How do you view the Old Testament and the New Testament? Do you see them as two different standards or do you see them in harmony with each other fulfilling God's plan?

Saul Has Been Rejected (1 Samuel 16:1-4)

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." 2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

4 So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"

Discussion Question 1

• Is there anyone or anything that can hinder God's plan for His people?

This is Not the One (1 Samuel 16:5-7)

5 "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too. 6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Discussion Question 2

 Have you ever been guilty of choosing or rejecting someone by the way they look? If so, what would be a better way?

David Anointed King of Isreal (1 Samuel 16:8-13)

8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen."
9 Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." 10 In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him." 13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. *And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.* Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

Discussion Question 3

How do you know that you have been chosen by God? Explain

Saul Rejected & God's Spirit Removed from him! (1 Samuel 16:14) 14 Now the *Spirit* of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear.

Applying the Text

In Old Testament times the Spirit of God moved upon men and women empowering them to do His will, today the Spirit of God indwells His people. So let us continue to listen as He the Holy Spirit leads and guide us to bring glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them.

People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.""

1 Samuel 16:7 NLT

May 22, 2025

Lesson 3: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

(John 1:32-34; John 14:15-18, 23-26; John 16:5-15)

Discussion starter: In these times that we're living in, how important is the Holy Spirit in your life? How long have you had that understanding?

The Holy Spirit Testifies (John 1:32-34)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me. '31 I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

Discussion Question 1

Do you see the trinity in these verses? Explain

The Holy Spirit our Advocate (Comforter)

(John 14:15-18, 23-26)

15 "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know

him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

23 Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. 24 Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. 25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, *the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

Discussion Question 2

What is the most comforting part of these verses to you personally?

The Holy Spirit Points to Jesus

(John 16:5-15)

5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.

10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He

will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you

whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine;

this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

Discussion Question 3

What do you think the disciples' thought as Jesus uttered these words?

Applying the Text

It is of the upmost importance that we understand that God has given

believers His Spirit to comfort us, help us, teach us and to bring all things to

our remembrance that which God has taught us.

Memory Verse

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not

speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about

the future."

John 16:13 NLT

May 29, 2025

Lesson 4: Empowered By The Holy Spirit

(Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-21)

Discussion Starter

When you think of things that are powerful, what comes to your mind? What is the most powerful thing you've ever seen?

Commanded to Wait on the Promise

(Acts 1:1-8)

1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. 3 During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" 7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Discussion Question 1

 Since we know that God is faithful and His Word is true, why is it so hard sometimes to wait on Him for our prayers and petitions to be answered?

The Promise Fulfilled

(Acts 2:1-4)

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Discussion Question 2 & 3

- Why is it so important to trust the promises of God?
- Are there consequences for not trusting His promises?

What is Going On?

(Acts 2:5-12)

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.

6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia,

10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs.

And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

Discussion Question 4

What should we do when we don't fully understand what God is doing?

We are not Drunk

(Acts 2:13-21)

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 17' In the last days, 'God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. 19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Discussion Question 5 - 7

- Do you remember the first time you recognized the Holy Spirit working, moving, or operating in your life?
- What impact did that have upon your life?

 How important was it for Peter to quote the word of God from the prophet Joel 2:28-32?

Applying the Text

In this lesson we reflect on the birth of the church of Jesus Christ, and the church is still alive and well today. The reason the church is alive and well today is because He is still saving, filling, delivering, empowering, teaching and leading His people today. Let us continue to give God praise today that others may ask "what must I do to be saved."

Memory Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.""

Acts of the Apostles 1:8 NLT

June 5, 2025

Lesson 5: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Discussion Starter:

How do you feel when you receive an unexpected gift from someone? Have you ever returned a gift to anyone?

Introduction: Before we survey the spiritual gifts, we will look at two Greek words used to describe the gifts of the Spirit: (pneumatika) refers to their source, the Holy Spirit (pneuma) of God; and charismata refers to the fact that they are granted as an act of God's grace (charis). The spiritual gifts are given by grace and are not based on our worthiness or personal abilities; they are given according to God's sovereign choice. The gifts are given by the Spirit of God; thus, the gifts are a part of the new life granted to us in Christ and may be drastically different from our perceived capabilities or desires prior to salvation.

From Past to Present

(1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities *(Spiritual Gifts)* the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. 2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. 3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Question 1

How has your life changed since being born again?

No One Has All the Gifts

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Discussion Question 2

 How important is it to walk in the gifts that God has freely given to us as it relates to church?

This is Serious

(Romans 12:6-8)

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership

ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Discussion Question 3

 Why was it necessary for Paul to write these words to the early church?

To God be the Glory

(1 Peter 4:10-11)

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Discussion Question 4

 How can we be sure that we are operating in the Spirit and not in ourselves?

Applying the Text

It is of paramount importance that we adhere to the principles outlined in scripture: ("And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.")

Colossians 3:17 NKJV

Memory Verse

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT

June 12, 2025

Lesson 6: Comforted by the Holy Spirit

(2 Corinthians 1:3-11)

Comfort: To ease the grief or trouble of someone, consolation in times of

trouble.

"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his

love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and

compassionate?"

Philippians 2:1 NLT

"The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it

became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the

encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers."

Acts of the Apostles 9:31 NLT

Discussion Starter

Have you ever been on the giving or receiving side of comfort? In what

circumstances did these actions take place?

The God of Comfort

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful

Father and the source of all comfort. 4 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.

Discussion Question 1

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 Where can we find comfort when there is no one around to comfort us?

A Suffering Way

(2 Corinthians 1:5-7)

5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. 6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. 7 We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.

Discussion Question 2

 Why does being a follower of Christ sometimes cause us to suffer at the hands of others?

Trusting God in Difficult Times (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

8 We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. 9 In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. 10 And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. 11 And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.

Discussion Question 3

 How can we prepare ourselves for trials that we may face now or in the future?

Applying the Text

Jesus said that in the world we will have tribulations but be of good cheer or comfort because He has overcome the world. As we walk in faith let us remember that if God allows it to come to us He will bring us through it!

Memory Verse

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort."

2 Corinthians 1:3 NLT

June 19, 2025

Lesson 7: Controlled by the Holy Spirit

(Romans 8: 1-17)

Discussion Starter

When considering the concept of control or being controlled, what is the

initial thought that comes to your mind?

No Condemnation

(Romans 8:1-4)

Condemn: to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after

weighing evidence and without reservation; to pronounce guilty

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For

the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of

sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through

the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on

account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous

requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to

the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Discussion Question 1

Did you ever experience a sense of quilt before coming to the Lord, if

so how did you deal with it?

Pursue Life and Peace

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(Romans 8:5-8)

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. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Discussion Question 2

 How can we avoid being carnal minded as followers of Christ in the times we're in?

Embrace Your Identity

(Romans 8:9-11)

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His

Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Discussion Question 3

 In your opinion what are characteristics of a Spirit filled man or woman of God?

Children of God

(Romans 8:12-17)

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 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. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Discussion Question 4

 "What blessings come with being a child of God, and have you experienced them personally?

Applying the Text

To be led and controlled by the Spirit of God is a marvelous thing, and it is based on our obedience, trust, and willingness to yield ourselves to Him. It is an ongoing process as we are confronted with life's issues every day of our lives.

Memory Verse

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 NLT

