

The Four Priorities Chapter 4

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 4: What is the Christian Life? (part 2)

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Open
(10 min.)

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Open with a brief prayer.

Recap
(2 min.)

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week by asking the following questions:

- Based on our comparison between John 3 and Numbers 21, how can someone today be born again? (by simply believing in God's provision, which is only through Christ Jesus – nothing else is needed)
- According to Ephesians 1:4-14 in our Take Action section last week, what did we learn about *how* we receive the Holy Spirit? (In verse 13, it says we first heard the truth of the Gospel, then believed in Christ.)
- What did we learn about the Holy Spirit? (He is a deposit in us, guaranteeing our future inheritance; He helps us to grow in our knowledge of Christ, and to reproduce the life of Christ in the believer.)

Ask: Do you have any further questions from last week?

Opening
(5 min.)

Say: The author opens with an illustration of an inoperable home with electrical wires, but the electricity hasn't been turned on. He says that many Christians are living their lives without being "plugged into" the power which enables them to be operable (to live abundantly) in God's provisions and resources.

Ask: How is this illustration helpful in understanding how the Holy Spirit can be powerful in your life? (Consider sharing *briefly* about your own experience of both being able to operate in the Spirit and not being operable.)



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Getting
Personal, pg. 38
through
Empowered
P40
(20 min.)

Say: The author cites several scriptures that discuss the person of the Holy Spirit, which we call the 3rd person in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit.

Do: Take turns reading each of these scriptures and have them point out the role of the Spirit in each scripture on the next several pages.

Ask:

- According to Romans 8:11, how powerful is the Holy Spirit? (This life-giving spirit living in us is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead.)
- According to Acts 1:8, how does God want His Spirit to be used in us? (to be his witness, telling all people about Christ)

Say: To summarize, the Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Trinity, is God's active, personal presence on earth, empowering, guiding, and sanctifying believers. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, leads individuals to faith in Jesus, dwells within believers to seal their salvation, bestows spiritual gifts, and transforms them into more Christ-like people.

But we might ask, *how* do I tap into this powerful supply of the Holy Spirit?

Let's see how 1 John 1:5-2:6 guides us.

One Step at a
Time, pg. 40-43
(15 min)

Say: The author breaks 1 John 1:5-2:6 into three sections.

Ask: What did you find meaningful about the following?

- The Ideal Christian Life (There are some key words to pay attention to: "having fellowship," "living in," "practicing the truth." These are intentional actions on the part of the believer. By "following" Jesus, we are copying the actions of Jesus.
- The Real Struggle with Sin (All believers will struggle with sin, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, as we say, "No" to the flesh and "Yes" to the Spirit, the less we should be sinning in our journey. We will not be sinless, but we should be sinning less.
- The Ideal Christian Life 1 John 2:3-6) (If you have trusted in Christ for eternal life, you never have to ask, "Am I really a Christian?" When we fall into sin, it is because we are still trapped in bodies that can sin. Our salvation can never be lost and shouldn't be questioned. However, we *should* ask, "Am I really walking as a Christian?" If we continue in the same sins without giving them up, we are letting our sins control our lives, not the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:6, 16-19 and 7:14-25).

**Take Action
(30 min.)**

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

Next week, we'll read more about living in obedience.

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework: Read Chapter 5 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Schedule for the next meeting and close in prayer.