

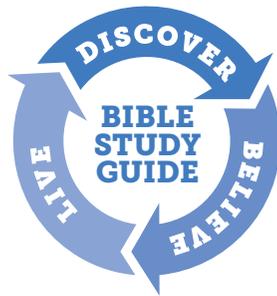
connect 360

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE
LARGE PRINT EDITION**

Living in the Spirit

RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

**Pam Gibbs
Elizabeth Coffee
Jared Burt
Bob DeFoor
Ed Jordan**



 **BaptistWayPress**
Dallas, Texas

*Living in the Spirit: Righteousness, Peace, and Joy—
Connect 360 Bible Study Guide—Large Print Edition*

Copyright © 2020 by BAPTISTWAY PRESS®.

All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America.

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations. For information, contact BAPTISTWAY PRESS, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 7557 Rambler Road, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75231-2388.

BAPTISTWAY PRESS® is registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

CONNECT 360 ALL THE BIBLE FOR ALL OF LIFE®

is registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in lessons 1-3 and 8-10 are taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in lessons 4-7 are taken from the Holy Bible, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION®, ESV® Copyright 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in lessons 11-13 are from the 1995 update of the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission. NASB refers to this edition of the New American Standard Bible®.

BAPTISTWAY PRESS® Leadership Team

Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas: David Hardage

Associate Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas:

Craig Christina

Publisher, BaptistWay Press®: Bob Billups

Marketing Coordinator: Stan Granberry

Publishing Specialist: Nancy Feaster

Production, Cover Design, and Printing: Randall House

First edition: June 2020

ISBN-13: 978-1-948618-23-6

How to Make the Best Use of This Issue

Whether you're the teacher or a student—

1. Start early in the week before your class meets.
2. Overview the study. Review the table of contents and read the study introduction. Try to see how each lesson relates to the overall study.
3. Use your Bible to read and consider prayerfully the Scripture passages for the lesson. (You'll see that each writer has chosen a favorite translation for the lessons in this issue. You're free to use the Bible translation you prefer and compare it with the translation chosen for that unit, of course.)
4. After reading all the Scripture passages in your Bible, then read the writer's comments. The comments are intended to be an aid to your study of the Bible.
5. Read the small articles—"sidebars"—in each lesson. They are intended to provide additional, enrichment information and inspiration and to encourage thought and application.
6. Try to answer for yourself the questions included in each lesson. They're intended to encourage further

thought and application, and they can also be used in the class session itself.

If you're the teacher—

Do all the things just mentioned, of course. As you begin the study with your class, be sure to find a way to help your class know the date on which each lesson will be studied. Here are some suggestions to guide your lesson preparation:

- A. In the first session of the study, briefly overview the study by identifying for your class the date on which each lesson will be studied. Lead your class to write the date in the table of contents on pages 9–10 and on the first page of each lesson.
 - Make and post a chart that indicates the date on which each lesson will be studied.
 - If all your class has e-mail, send them an e-mail with the dates the lessons will be studied.
 - Provide a bookmark with the lesson dates. You may want to include information about your church and then use the bookmark as an outreach tool, too. A model for a bookmark can be downloaded from www.baptistwaypress.org under the “Teacher Helps” menu.
 - Develop a sticker with the lesson dates, and place it on the table of contents or on the back cover.
- B. Get a copy of the *Teaching Guide*, a companion piece to this *Study Guide*. The *Teaching Guide* contains additional Bible comments plus two teaching plans. The teaching

plans in the *Teaching Guide* are intended to provide practical, easy-to-use teaching suggestions that will work in your class.

- C. After you've studied the Bible passage, the lesson comments, and other material, use the teaching suggestions in the *Teaching Guide* to help you develop your plan for leading your class in studying each lesson.
- D. Teaching resource items for use as handouts are available free at www.baptistwaypress.org under the "Teacher Helps" tab.
- E. Additional Bible study comments on the lessons are available online. Call 1-866-249-1799 or e-mail baptistway@texasbaptists.org to order the *Premium Commentary*. It is available only in electronic format (PDF) from our website, www.baptistwaypress.org. The price of these comments for the entire study is \$5 per person. A church or class that participates in our advance order program for free shipping can receive the *Premium Commentary* free. Call 1-866-249-1799 or see www.baptistwaypress.org to purchase or for information on participating in our free shipping program for the next study.
- F. Additional teaching plans are also available in electronic format (PDF) by calling 1-866-249-1799. The price of these additional teaching plans for the entire study is \$5 per person. A church or class that participates in our advance order program for free shipping can receive the

Premium Teaching Plans free. Call 1-866-249-1799 or see www.baptistwaypress.org for information on participating in our free shipping program for the next study.

- G. Enjoy leading your class in discovering the meaning of the Scripture passages and in applying these passages to their lives.
- H. You can receive the lesson preview each week by signing up for the Baptist Standard weekly newsletter at no cost. Sign up at—www.baptiststandard.com/subscription/email.

Do you use a Kindle?

This Connect 360 *Bible Study Guide*, along with several other studies, is available in a Kindle edition. The easiest way to find these materials is to search for “BaptistWay” on your Kindle or go to www.amazon.com/kindle and do a search for “BaptistWay.” The Kindle edition can be studied not only on a Kindle but also on your smartphone or tablet using the Kindle app available free from amazon.com/kindle.

Writers for this *Study Guide*

Pam Gibbs wrote **lessons one through three**. Pam is a writer and editor who lives outside of Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and teenage daughter. A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Pam has been involved in ministry for over 20 years. She recently completed training as a Certified Spiritual Director, working with individuals and leading silent retreats.

Elizabeth Coffee wrote **lessons four and five**. Elizabeth is the South Texas Regional Coordinator at the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Her work includes encouraging collaboration among Baptist institutions and emerging Christian leaders, and designing leadership development initiatives. She is a graduate of Abilene Christian University, member of the Board of Advocates at George W. Truett Theological Seminary, and Advisory Council member of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School.

Jared Burt wrote **lessons six and seven**. Jared, a native of Henderson, Texas, is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University (B.A. in Christian Studies), and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.). He serves as the Senior Pastor of Taylor's Valley Baptist Church in Temple,

Texas. He is husband to Sara and father to Abigail, Elizabeth, Levi, and Jacob. Jared and Sara are the co-authors of A Study Of series. Jared enjoys family-centered activities, hunting, fishing, sports, reading, and writing.

Bob DeFoor wrote **lessons eight through ten**. Dr. DeFoor served more than forty years as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Georgia, serving the last twenty-eight years prior to retirement as pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Both Bob and his wife Sandy are native Georgians, and both are graduates of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. They are the blessed parents of three children and seven grandchildren. Bob has taught a Sunday School lesson on radio each Saturday since 1980.

Ed Jordan wrote **lessons eleven through thirteen**. Dr. Jordan is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has written and edited a 52-lesson curriculum for new church plants, and two hermeneutic books. He writes a weekly award-winning column for the Idaho State Journal and the Gloucester Gazette-Journal, a quarterly column for the Danville Register and Bee's Southern Virginia Living Magazine, and a weekly blog for the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV.org). He and his wife live in Virginia where he serves as the pastor of the Gwynn's Island Baptist Church in Gwynn, Virginia.

Living in the Spirit

RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

<i>How to Make the Best Use of This Issue</i>	3
<i>Writers for This Study Guide</i>	7
<i>Introducing Living in the Spirit: Righteousness, Peace, and Joy</i>	11

DATE OF STUDY

LESSON 1 _____	The Baptism of the Holy Spirit MARK 1:1-8	16
LESSON 2 _____	God's Temple MARK 11:11-19	27
LESSON 3 _____	God's Approval of Jesus JOHN 1:29-34	39
LESSON 4 _____	Go Now ACTS 1:8	51
LESSON 5 _____	Joy in the Spirit ROMANS 8:1-4	61
LESSON 6 _____	Christ in You ROMANS 8:5-11	71
LESSON 7 _____	Praying in the Spirit ROMANS 8:26-27	83
LESSON 8 _____	Righteousness, Peace, and Joy ROMANS 14:17-19	93

LESSON 9	The Holy Spirit's Part in Salvation	105
	EPHESIANS 1:13-14	
LESSON 10	Grieving the Holy Spirit	117
	EPHESIANS 4:25-32	
LESSON 11	Intoxicated by the Spirit	129
	EPHESIANS 5:18-19	
LESSON 12	The Power of the Gospel	143
	1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-6	
LESSON 13	The Fruit of the Spirit	154
	GALATIANS 5:22-25	
	<i>Prayer for Living in the Spirit</i>	165
	<i>Our Next New Study</i>	167
	<i>How to Order More Bible Study Materials</i>	168

Introducing

Living in the Spirit

RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

The Spirit. The Spirit of God. The Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of Truth. The Spirit of Grace. The Spirit of Promise. The Spirit of Glory. The Eternal Spirit. The Comforter. The Counselor. The Helper. All names and titles of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Are all Christians indwelt by the Holy Spirit?

How can I be controlled by the Holy Spirit?

Can the Holy Spirit renew me?

Is the Holy Spirit God? Jesus?

What happens to a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit?

This 13-week study of the Holy Spirit will take a good hard look at what has been called the absolute key to the Christian life...*Living in the Spirit*.

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Our Day

Water baptism is an outward act that symbolizes the cleansing of your sins, but it only touches your body. Spirit baptism is an inner act that literally purifies your soul and spirit; you become Holy because the Spirit of God is Holy. That's why He is called the Holy Spirit. To be filled or baptized in the Holy Spirit means you are totally immersed in the life of God.

The promise of Jesus is still the same today. He promised the disciples something better, or someone even better. Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to live in the disciples, and the Holy Spirit would bear witness to Jesus. He would empower the believers to demonstrate the personality of Jesus, the Fruit of the Spirit. God's plan for your life is not that you will be successful. Instead He wants you to be fruitful. Fruit is simply the outward expression of our inner nature.

The Holy Spirit will equip you and empower you to serve God today. God commands us to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. In fact, it has been said that the filling of the Holy Spirit is like the wind filling a sail on a boat. And He wants to fill you. Do you have your sails up?

Living in the Spirit: Righteousness, Peace, and Joy

Lesson 1	The Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Mark 1:1-8
Lesson 2	God's Temple	Mark 11:11-19

Lesson 3	God's Approval of Jesus	John 1:29-34
Lesson 4	Go Now	Acts 1:8
Lesson 5	Joy in the Spirit	Romans 8:1-4
Lesson 6	Christ in You	Romans 8:5-11
Lesson 7	Praying in the Spirit	Romans 8:26-27
Lesson 8	Righteousness, Peace, and Joy	Romans 14:17-19
Lesson 9	The Holy Spirit's Part in Salvation	Ephesians 1:13-14
Lesson 10	Grieving the Holy Spirit	Ephesians 4:25-32
Lesson 11	Intoxicated by the Spirit	Ephesians 5:18-19
Lesson 12	The Power of the Gospel	1 Thessalonians 1:2-6
Lesson 13	The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-25

Additional Resources for Studying the Holy Spirit

Kay Arthur. *The Holy Spirit Unleashed in You: Acts (The New Inductive Study Series)*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2002.

Francis Chan. *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2009.

Jim Cymbala. *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire: What Happens When God's Spirit Invades the Hearts of His People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

Billy Graham. *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2000.

- Robert Gromacki. *The Holy Spirit. Who He Is and What He Does*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing (Thomas Nelson), 1999.
- John F. MacArthur. *Acts: The Spread of the Gospel*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2015.
- Beth Moore. *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2004.
- Charles C. Ryrie. *The Holy Spirit (Revised and Expanded)*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1997.
- Priscilla Shirer. *Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When He Speaks*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2012.
- Charles H. Spurgeon. *Holy Spirit Power*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1996.
- Charles R. Swindoll. *Flying Closer to the Flame: A Passion for the Holy Spirit*. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1993.
- R.A. Torrey. *The Baptism With the Holy Spirit*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2004.
- Warren W. Wiersbe. *Classic Sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregal Academic & Professional, 2002.
- N.T. Wright. *The Crown and the Fire: Meditations on the Cross and the Life of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Inc., 2014.

NOTES

1. Listing a book does not imply full agreement by the writers or BaptistWay Press with all of its comments.

lesson 1

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

MAIN IDEA

Spirit Baptism is an inner act that purifies your soul and spirit.

QUESTION TO EXPLORE

Why does God command me to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit?

STUDY AIM

To learn that being baptized in the Holy Spirit means to be totally immersed in the life of God

QUICK READ

There is a baptism more important than baptism in water. It is baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

When I was a child, I went to church with a friend. It was the first time I'd ever been inside a church, ever heard a Sunday School lesson, and it was also the first time I'd ever heard a sermon. During the invitation, I went down front and asked to be baptized because my friend told me that was what I needed to do. I didn't understand the meaning of baptism or what it symbolized.

Several years later, I went to a summer youth camp where I gave my heart to Jesus. When we returned home, I told the church what had happened, and I was baptized again. This time, though, I understood the meaning and significance. I wanted to be baptized as an outward symbol of what happened inwardly. On that Sunday morning, I was baptized physically because when I accepted Christ, I was immersed into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Today's story talks about both physical and spiritual baptism. John the Baptist preached repentance and physical baptism as a symbol of that changed heart. Jesus would later come and baptize His followers with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your

way”—³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

John, the Forerunner of Jesus (1:1-3)

When my family gathers around the table to tell stories, everyone speaks from their unique perspective. Every account begins at a different place. I go straight to the heart of the story, but my brother makes the story a long, drawn-out account and add details that the others forgot. But for the most part (with the exception of some whopping fish tales), the meat of the story stays the same.

Each of the Gospel writers begins the story of Jesus at a different place. Matthew began with Jesus’ ancestry, Luke talked about John the Baptist, and John spoke of the Word (Jesus) becoming flesh and dwelling among His people (John 1:14). The writer Mark began with the ministry of John the Baptist, who is often called the forerunner of Jesus.

Mark used two prophecies from the Old Testament to describe the ministry of John the Baptist. Both, Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1, foretold of a time when John would “prepare the way.” In other words, through John’s preaching, God was preparing the hearts of the people to receive the message of Jesus. John the Baptist’s voice was the first to prophesy in over 400 years (with the exception of Anna and Simeon at Jesus’ birth). The people had not heard a prophet since Malachi had spoken to Judah around 430 B.C. No doubt, as time passed, the people wondered why God had been so silent. Maybe they doubted that God had anything more to say. Perhaps they thought God had forgotten them. John’s arrival disproved both of those ideas. God was still very much at work. And today, He is still at work in the hearts of people, even though He may seem silent or absent.

Mark also spoke of John’s mission to “make paths straight for him” (1:3). When John the Baptist spoke of paths, the hearers likely thought of the massive network of roads they traveled during that time, and some of those roads still exist today. John’s role was to make paths flat and accessible. Instead of a physical road, though, John was preparing the hearts of the people. In today’s language, John was the bulldozer leveling the ground so Jesus and humanity could be reconciled. All people—Jew and Gentile alike—would have access to God’s Anointed. There would be nothing hindering the path to Jesus.

Like John the Baptist, believers can make the paths to God straight and clear. While we cannot change people’s hearts,

we can be the kind of winsome people who make a relationship with Jesus attractive. Instead of becoming a roadblock to Jesus, Christians can make God's grace and mercy desirable. We can live in such a way that we make people want to know more about God.

John's Ministry (1:4-6)

These verses explain *how* John the Baptist made the paths straight—through a strong message calling the people away from their sin and back to God. Mark said that John went into the wilderness and preached “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (1:4). Interestingly, John didn't go into the temple or the synagogue to preach to a large audience. Instead, he made the wilderness his base of operation. In a deserted area of Judea, John called the people to return to God and to be baptized in the Jordan River.

John did not preach that forgiveness of sin came *through* baptism. Rather, he was calling to the Jewish people to repent from their sins. To demonstrate repentance, the people needed to be baptized. It was an outward expression of an inner change of heart, not the means of salvation.

Ritual Cleansing

Water as a symbol of cleansing was a well-known concept in New Testament times and had its roots in the Old Testament. God required ritual cleansing or bathing under certain circumstances. For example, a person cured of leprosy had to bathe with water as a part of becoming “ceremonially clean” (Leviticus 14:8-9). The same ritual was required after a person came into contact with a grave or a dead person. In several other places in Leviticus, God commanded ritual cleansing for specific situations (6:27; 15:2-13; 16:24). Later, God commanded the Levites to go through ritual purification (Numbers 8:5-7). In the Psalms, David asked God to wash him so he could be whiter than snow (Psalm 51:7).

However, the religious leaders had twisted this symbolic act over time, emphasizing the act without focusing on the reason for it. Ritual washing became a point of contention between these rulers and Jesus. The Pharisees complained because Jesus’ disciples did not wash their hands before eating (Mark 7:1-2). Jesus condemned the Pharisees for caring more about outward cleansing than inward cleansing (Luke 11:37-41).

Verse 5 explains the wide appeal of John’s message. People came from all over the Judean countryside and from Jerusalem itself. After experiencing 400 years of silence, the people had finally heard from God and the people responded in masses. When the people repented, John baptized them

in the Jordan River, which had had a long history with God's people. This was the same river the Israelites crossed to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 3). It established a boundary line between the different tribes of Israel (Numbers 32). Elijah struck the Jordan with his cloak so he and Elisha could pass through on dry land (2 Kings 2). Even today, many believers who travel to Israel undergo baptism in the Jordan River as a symbol of renewal and recommitment to Jesus. Obviously, the mere act of being baptized there does not save a person from their sin.

Interestingly, Mark paused his story to describe John the Baptist's clothing and diet. John wore clothes made of woven camel hair. What a sight that must have been! He ate locusts, which was a sign of humility and poverty, as well as honey that was plentiful in the wilderness where John preached. Clearly, John was not concerned with impressing anyone or hobnobbing with the upper crust of society. If people came to him—or rejected him, as some did—it would be because of his message, not because of his social status or likeability.

Why Mark mentioned these small details about John the Baptist is unclear, but the description does give readers a deeper understanding of John's personality. John's clothing and eating habits can remind readers that the people in Scripture are not merely two-dimensional flannel board characters we learn about in Sunday School. They were real people with diverse backgrounds, character, and behavior. And God used all of them.

In much the same way, God uses a variety of people today. God places unique people in different areas of influence to reach people within different subcultures. Some people wear three-piece suits and share their faith with coworkers over a fancy lunch. Others wear t-shirts and talk with people about Jesus as they walk across a school campus. The point is, each of us has a role to play in the places where God has placed us, just like He used John the Baptist.

Jesus and Baptism of the Holy Spirit (1:7-8)

John preached Jesus, not himself. He pointed to Jesus, not himself. He understood his role of preparing the people's hearts for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. John understood his role as the forerunner and took up that mantle willingly.

John's humility was crystal clear. He said he wasn't even worthy to untie Jesus' sandal, a task usually performed by a slave. In saying this, John was not debasing himself out of self-hatred. Rather, in comparison to Jesus, John saw himself as subservient to Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Later in His ministry, Jesus would demonstrate humility when He washed the disciples' feet, another task only the lowest of slaves would perform.

John also understood the difference between his baptizing people and Jesus' baptizing them. When John baptized

people, it was a demonstration of repentance, of returning to God. However, no physical baptism could ever cleanse anyone of their sins. Only the sacrificial death of Jesus could bring redemption.

John saw his baptizing people with water as a precursor of what Jesus' would bring—immersion in the Holy Spirit (1:8). Physical baptism was a symbol of spiritual baptism, and that spiritual baptism was greater than and superior to physical immersion. Water can cleanse the outside of the body. Only the Holy Spirit can cleanse the inner heart of a person. Only immersion in the life of Jesus matters.

To apply this passage in your daily walk with God:

- Ask God to show you if you are immersed in the Spirit.
- Take time to reflect on how the Holy Spirit has changed your life.
- Look for the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in your daily actions.
- Evaluate your actions to see if they draw people to Jesus or turn them away.

Implications and Actions

Today's culture is full of people who claim to be Christians. Some go to church on Sunday. Others give to the poor or volunteer at a soup kitchen. Some of them have been baptized,

perhaps even in your church. However, none of these actions prove that a person is a follower of Jesus.

Today's passage makes clear that being immersed in the Holy Spirit is the defining mark of one's relationship with God. All the religious activities under the sun means nothing. Life in and through the Spirit of God is the true evidence of real conversion.

Questions

1. How do you picture John the Baptist in your mind?

2. Have you ever gone through a time when God seemed silent? What did you learn from this experience?

3. Why do you think Mark talked about John the Baptist's appearance and diet?

4. How has God used someone unusual or “different” to minister to you?

5. What do you remember about your own baptism?