

A photograph of a sailboat on the ocean during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. A person wearing a blue hat is visible on the deck of the sailboat. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with scattered clouds. The text "Life in the Spirit!" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Life in the Spirit!

Experiencing the Fullness of Christ

A photograph of a sailboat on the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The sailboat's mast and rigging are visible in the foreground. The title 'Life in the Spirit!' is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

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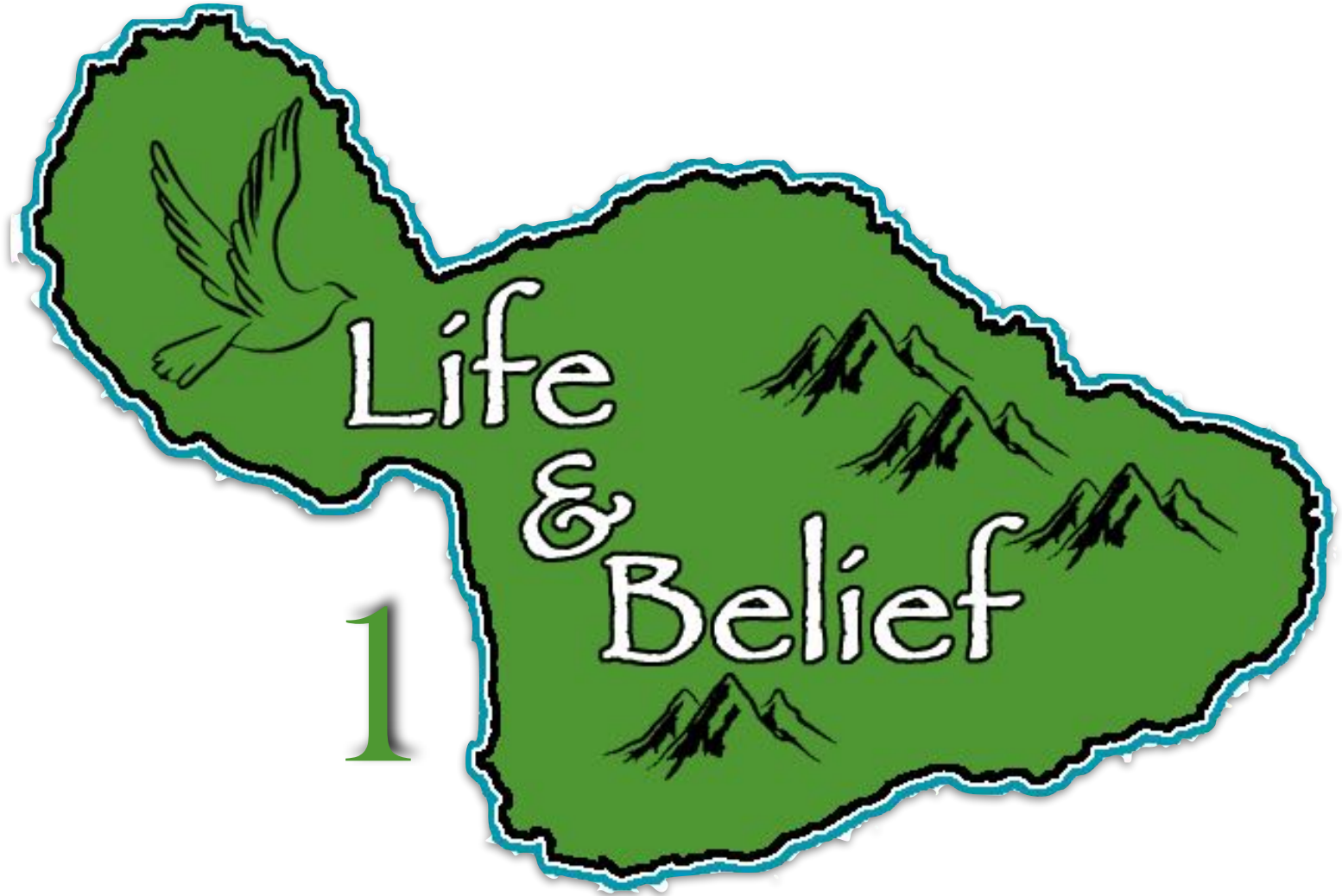
#1 The Path of the Spirit

What is Your Next Port?



The
Path of
the
Spirit

Section 1: Christian Beginnings



“So is everyone who is
born of the Spirit.” (Jn 3:8)

A) Defining the Spirit

Finding the Spirit in the Bible

- The words “Spirit” and “spirit” in the Bible need to be distinguished:
 - The capital (‘S’) refers to God Himself while
 - The small (‘s’) describes a person’s mood or inner being.

Spirit < > spirit

OT: 80

NT: 223

+

OT: 120

NT: 96

= 200

= 319

God

Spirit of God

Holy Spirit

Spirit of Jesus

mood

inner being

wind

breath

A) Defining the Spirit

Exercise #1

- Exercise #1: There was no differentiation between small letters and capitals in the original language. The meaning is determined by the context. This exercise includes Bible verses with the word 'spirit'. Circle each 'spirit' that should be capitalized because it refers to God (Spirit) and underline the correct ones (with a small 's').
- Ge 1:2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. **Spirit**
- 1Sa 16:15 Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you." **spirit**
- 1Sa 30:12 And he ate; then his spirit revived. **spirit**
- Ps 143:10 Teach me to do Thy will, For Thou art my God; Let Thy good spirit lead me on level ground. **Spirit**
- Mt 12:43 "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find it **spirit**
- 1Co 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **spirit**

B) Detecting the Path of the Spirit



“And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters” (Gen 1:2).

- “Spirit of God” (2): The ‘Spirit of God’ is first referred to as the 16th word in the Hebrew Bible. “Who is the Spirit of God and what is He doing?”
- “Spirit of God” (2): At times the Spirit of God is set against the evil spirit, “The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him” (1 Sam 16:14-15).
- Many times ‘spirit’ (small ‘s’) refers to a person’s inner being including the soul, the part that cannot be touched, “and he ate; then his spirit revived” (1 Sam 30:12).

B) Detecting the Path of the Spirit



“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God” (1Co 2:12).

- “Not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God” (2:12): clearly identifies the Holy Spirit as different from the world’s spirit.
- “We have received” (2:12): We are to be greatly influenced by the Holy Spirit.
- The scriptures even intimately refers to this relationship, “But the one who **joins** himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (1 Co 6:17). (‘S’) or (‘s’) here?

God the Spirit powerfully works in our lives.

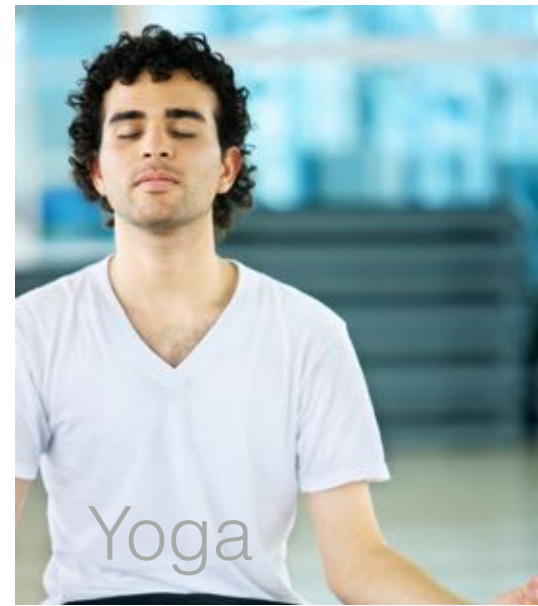
C) Confusion Over False spirits

“Beloved, **do not believe** every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 Jo 4:1).

- **Command #1:** “Do not believe every spirit” cautions us not to trust any spirit. We need discernment to evaluate the spirits out there. What spirits are out there?
- **Command #2:** “Test the spirits” is the second command instructing us to complement our caution with real testing. Evidently, we cannot trust others to guard us and need to advance to the level where we can discern between bad spirits and the Holy Spirit.
- **Explanation:** “Many false prophets have gone out into the world” shows how the spirits find their propagators to ensnare people like us.

spirits (not from God) are linked to false prophets

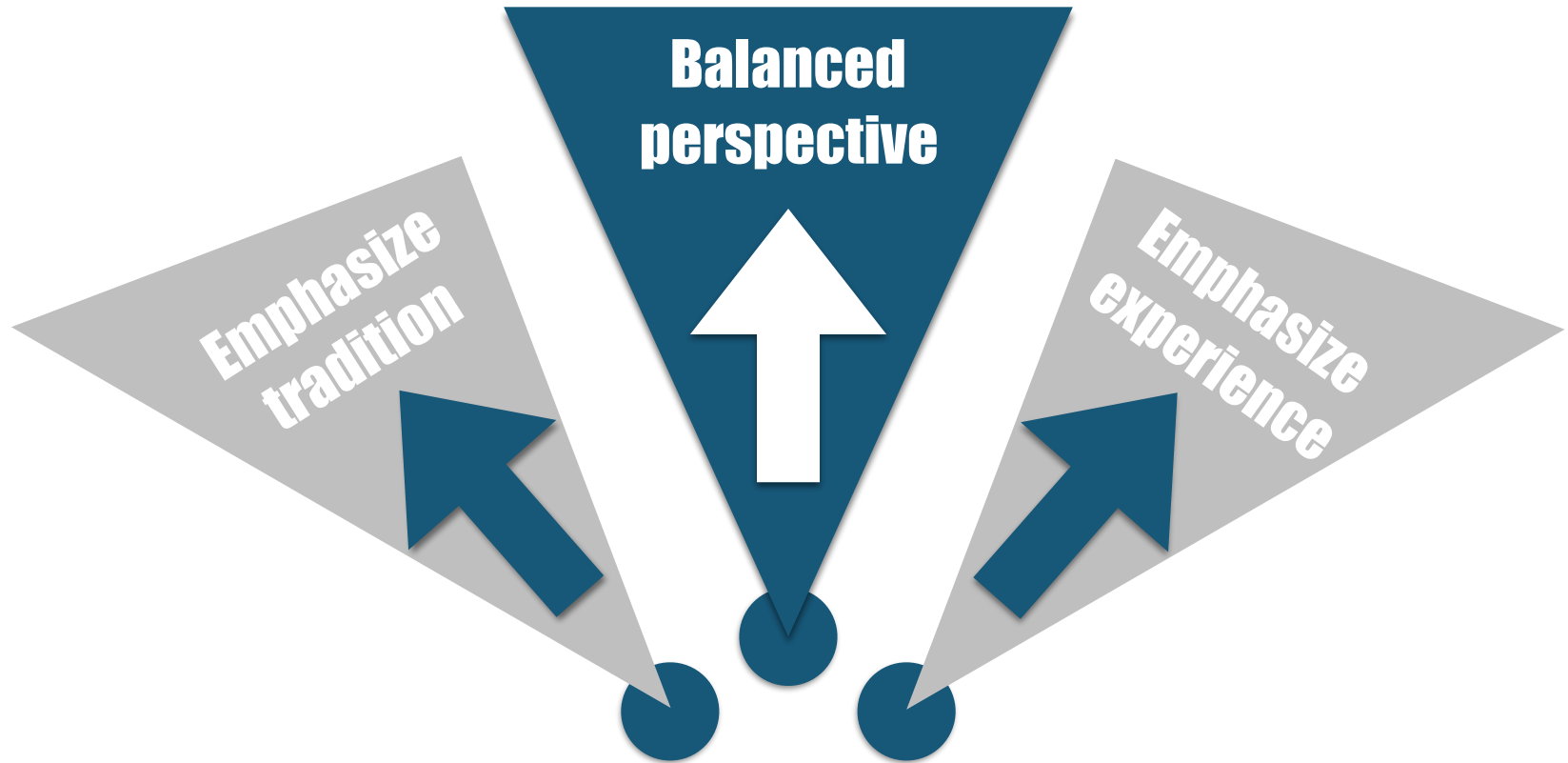
The evil one does everything to keep God’s children from walking in the fullness of the Spirit. He greatly fears ‘little’ Christs (i.e. ‘Christians’) flooding the earth!



D) Understanding Our Differing Beliefs

“There is one body and one Spirit” (Eph 4:4).

- “One Spirit”: Though there be many experiences and understandings among God’s people, there remains to be one Spirit.
- “One body” shows us the need for God’s people to live in harmony, learning from each other but not removing our discernment.
- What do you understand of the Holy Spirit?



A balanced perspective is the biblical perspective because God has revealed His truth in the scriptures.

D) Understanding Our Differing Beliefs

- **Exercise #2:** These Bible verses highlight various activities of the Spirit of God. Write down on the right a verb(s) that describes what the action of the Holy Spirit is in your own words.

Jud 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand...

Isa 4:4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning,

Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and strength, The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Eze 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me, "Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place."

Hag 2:5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

Mt 1:20 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Mt 3:11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Lu 2:26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Lu 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness

E) Living by the Spirit

“If we **live** by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit” (Gal 5:25).

Live

- Enlivened
- Empowered
- Illuminated

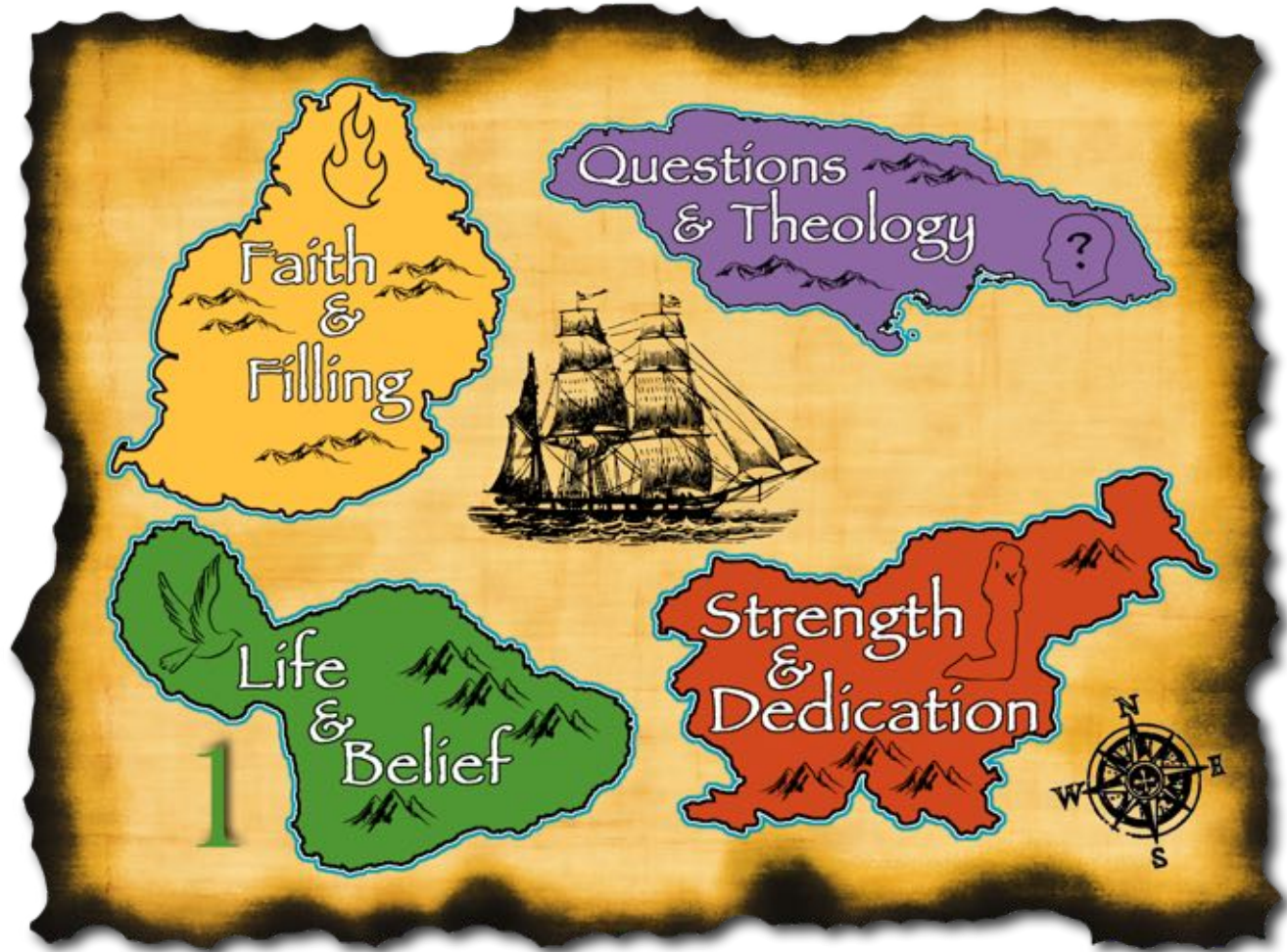
Walk

- Guided
- Strengthened
- Directed

- “Live by the Spirit” indicates that the Spirit of God is intricately involved in our lives and that many aspects of our lives are enhanced by the Spirit of God.
- “If we..., let us...” suggests that though the Christian is offered success, there are ways to not “walk by the Spirit” resulting in losing many benefits.
- “Walk” infers learning takes place each step of our daily walk.
- “By the Spirit” reminds us that we are not experts but humbly learning from the Spirit.

We need to be attentive to how the Spirit teaches us to rightly respond to Him, people, yourself and situations.

Conclusion



- A Biblical mindset is needed
- Simple to complex
- New life for empowered service
- Balance experience with knowledge
- Action accompanies His presence
- Ongoing learning requires constant reliance



Discussion Questions

- What is one thing you learned about the Holy Spirit from these two exercises?
- Why is it important to “test the spirits”? What spirit seems to trouble you the most?
- When a young believer, what is one thing you learned regarding the Holy Spirit that has positively or negatively affected you to this day?

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