

A close-up photograph of a film strip is positioned on the right side of the page. The film strip is black with yellow sprocket holes and frames. The frames contain a blurry, warm-toned image, possibly of a person. The background behind the film strip is dark and out of focus, with some light spots.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

FILLING THE ACHING EMPTINESS

TRY JESUS COURSE BOOK 10

“Michael gave so much to the world; people didn’t understand his pain when the world started taking it back”- Tito, brother.

FILLING THE ACHING EMPTINESS

10 – I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

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It is easy to judge **Michael Jackson** (MJ) by the bizarre behavior of his later years. Some thought he was a freak. The press exploited him. Others worshiped him.

He said, "I come before you less as an icon of pop... and more as an icon of a generation... that no longer knows what it means to be children. All of us are products of our childhood. But I am the product of a lack of a childhood."

"I began performing at the tender age of five." "My father was a managerial genius and my brothers and I owe our professional success ...to the forceful way that he pushed us." **"But what I really wanted was a Dad. I wanted a father who showed me love. And my father never did that... he never played a game with me. He never gave me a piggyback ride; he never threw a pillow at me, or a water balloon."**

His song **"Childhood"**, from his *History* album, expresses this longing.

*It's been my fate to compensate,
For the Childhood I've never known...
Have you seen my Childhood?
I'm searching for that wonder in my youth*

As an adult, and as a parent he came to realise that he can't be a whole human being, nor a parent capable of unconditional love, until he puts to rest

the ghosts of his childhood. "That is why," he said, "I want to forgive my father and to stop judging him" and have a new relationship with him. Tragically MJ died June 25, 2009.

On his posthumously released album *This is It* he sings:

*I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways...
If you wanna make the world a better place ...
Take a look at yourself, and then make a change ...*

The breakdown between parents and children," he says, "has bred a new generation." He calls it "generation O."

"Generation O... a generation that has everything on the outside..., but AN ACHING EMPTINESS ON THE INSIDE."

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit who would fill that aching emptiness and help us to change.

1. What was one of the last promises Jesus made to His followers? Matthew 28:20 (page 706 in NIV Bible: International Bible Society, 00195)

And surely _____, to the very end of the age.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" He also tells us that Jesus never changes (13:5-8, page 853).

2. How is this promise fulfilled when Jesus is in heaven? John 14:15-18, 26 (page 764)

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you _____
_____ to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.... I will not leave you as orphans; _____
_____.

Who is the Counsellor? (verse 26) _____

The Greek word for Counsellor (*Parakletos*) means "one alongside to help." The Holy Spirit works IN us what Christ has worked FOR us. His work is to make real the personal, abiding presence of Jesus. He convicts us of our need for forgiveness, enables us to follow Jesus and helps us to do the right thing.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

3. In whose NAME did Jesus instruct His disciples to baptise people? Matthew 28:19 (page 706) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____,

The word name is in the singular, not plural, indicating that the three together make up the one Godhead, and that the Holy Spirit is a Person as are the Father and Jesus. The term Trinity has been used by Bible students to describe the Godhead of three persons in unity.

Although not itself a biblical term, the **Trinity** has been found a convenient term for the **one God** who has revealed Himself in the Bible as **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**. It signifies that within the **one basic nature** of the Godhead we have to distinguish **three "persons"** who are neither three gods on the one side, nor three parts or modes of God on the other, but co-equally and co-eternally God. (See *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*)

4. How did the early disciples understand who the Holy Spirit was? Acts 5:3, 4 (page 773)

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have _____
_____ and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ... What made you think of doing such a thing? You have _____."

The Holy Spirit is a person who has a mind (Romans 8:27, page 800), can teach (Luke 12:12, page 737), feels grief when we sin (Ephesians 4:30, page 829) and directs church affairs

(Acts 13:2, page 781; Acts 16:6-10, page 784).



5. How was the Holy Spirit involved in the creation of this world? Genesis 1:1, 2 (page 1)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the _____ was hovering over the waters.

The following verses in Genesis 1 show that as the Spirit moved, God spoke the world into existence. Formlessness gave way to form, emptiness to fullness, and disorder to order.

Primary Work of the Holy Spirit

6. What did Jesus say is the PRIMARY work of the Holy Spirit? John 15:26; 16:14, 15 (page 765)

When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will _____ about me.

He will _____ [Jesus] by taking from what is mine and making it known to you...

The Spirit will take from what is mine and _____

7. In pointing us to Jesus, of what does the work of the Holy Spirit consist? John 16:5-10 (page 765)

When he comes, he will convict [convince] the world of guilt in regard to _____ and _____ and _____

The Bible says that the “wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:23, page 799). Wages are something that people earn - something they deserve. The Holy Spirit is the One who helps us to see that we all have sinned and thus, as a consequence, are going to die. He also points us to Jesus, who came to save sinners by dying for them and then offering them His perfect record. When we accept Jesus we can face God’s judgment with confidence. Jesus’ life stands in place of our life and we’re accepted before God just as if we hadn’t done anything wrong. (See Guide 7, *Acquitted!*). The devil, whom Jesus calls “the prince of this world”, was defeated when Jesus died on the cross (see Hebrews 2:14, 15, page 847).

It's as if we're all sinking in quicksand and if someone doesn't help us, we're going to go under. The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus who is reaching down with His hand to pull us out. The devil tries to deceive people into thinking that God is against us, and thus not to accept Jesus' help. It's the work of the Holy Spirit to convince us to accept it. At that point we can choose to accept Jesus' help or to reject it.

The Holy Spirit and the Word

8. Of whose words will the Holy Spirit remind us? John 14:22-26 (page 764)

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will _____ you _____ and will _____ you of _____ I have said to you.

The Bible is called the Word of God and so is Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:13, page 836; John 1:1, 2, 14, page 750). The Holy Spirit usually works through the words of the Bible, as people read and believe them. As the Spoken Word of God and the Holy Spirit worked together in the creation of the world, so do they work together in the recreation of people who trust in Jesus (See Genesis 1:2, 3, page 1; John 1:1; 3:5, page 750).

9. What is the response of those who love Jesus? How does this relate to receiving help from the Holy Spirit? John 14:15-17 (page 764)

If you love me, you will _____ what I command.

Remember the man who visited his doctor with some terrible complaint? He said to the doctor: "Doctor, I'm feeling very sick. Please help me! But don't expect me to follow your instructions." What a fool!

What would the doctor be likely to say? "**Unless you follow my instructions implicitly, I cannot help you.**" And so it is in the Christian life: we must obey God's Word if we want the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.

How We Receive the Holy Spirit

10. How do we receive the promised Holy Spirit? Ephesians 1:13, 14 (page 827);

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. _____, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

Jesus said: "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive" (John 7:38, 39, page 757).

11. Through what means do we receive the Holy Spirit? Galatians 3:14 (page 824)

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that _____ we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

When we accept Jesus as our Saviour and receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life, we at the same moment receive the Holy Spirit into our lives.

How the Holy Spirit Helps Us

1. GUIDES US IN LIFE

In what way does the Holy Spirit guide us? John 16:13 (page 765)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and HE WILL TELL YOU WHAT IS YET TO COME.

THE DOVE MAN

It is said that a certain guide who lived in the deserts of Arabia never lost his way. He carried with him a homing pigeon with a very fine cord attached to one of its legs. When in doubt as to which path to take, he threw the bird into the air. The pigeon quickly strained at the cord to fly in the direction of home, and thus led the guide accurately to his goal. Because of this unique practice he was known as “the dove man.”

So too, the Holy Spirit, the heavenly Dove, is willing and able to guide us to find fulfilment and meaning in life if we're willing to follow Him. He won't let us down!

2. GIVES A NEW BEGINNING AND DIRECTION IN LIFE

When talking to Nicodemus, a leading teacher in Israel, Jesus likened the change in the human heart when we accept Him to being “born again”. How did He say this “new birth” takes place? John 3:5-7 (page 752)

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God UNLESS HE IS BORN OF WATER and the SPIRIT.”

Jesus came to this world to save us from our sins - to give us a second chance. Sadly many people don't accept Him. John says that “to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right

to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.” (John 1:12, 13, page 750)

3. SPEAKS TO GOD FOR US

How does the Holy Spirit help us with our prayers and inner longings? Romans 8:26 (page 800)

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES [speaks] FOR US with groans [deep feelings] that words cannot express.

4. GIVES SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible says that when we accept Jesus we receive spiritual gifts. Who determines which gifts each believer in Jesus receives? 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (page 813)

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, JUST AS HE DETERMINES.

The purpose of spiritual gifts is for the building up of the members of the church. Everyone, when they accept Jesus' gift of eternal life, receives at least one spiritual gift. The apostle Paul says that when Jesus went to heaven He gave gifts to those who trust in Him. Paul said: “It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13, page 828)



5. HELPS US SHARE JESUS

How does God help us to be witnesses for Him?

Acts 1:8 (page 770)

But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES ... to the ends of the earth.

It is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that makes Christianity a dynamic, supernatural, saving religion. To deprive our lives of the Holy Spirit would be as disastrous as to deprive the earth of its atmosphere! The Spirit of God is mentioned 350 times in the Bible (88 times in the Old Testament and 262 times in the New Testament).



6. HELPS US DEVELOP CHRISTLIKE QUALITIES

What is the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22-24

(page 826)

But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

7. GIVES SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

While describing the Spirit-directed life, what prayer does Paul offer for followers of Jesus?

Ephesians 3:16, 17 (page 828)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may STRENGTHEN YOU WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Cashing Our Cheques

MICHAEL JACKSON, on his *This is It* album sings: *I have to find my peace cuz / No one seems to let me be / False prophets cry of doom / What are the possibilities?* The Holy Spirit is the One who can guide us through these uncertain times and helps us find peace. He is the member of the Godhead that applies to our lives what Jesus has achieved for us. Someone has said: “The Lord Jesus draws a cheque for my use. The Holy Spirit cashes the cheque and puts the money into my hands” (S D Gordon, *Quiet Talks on Power*, page 64).

Are we claiming our heritage? An officer making a tour of inspection on a great liner in mid-ocean, found a man sitting behind one of the funnels

eating cheese and crackers. In answer to the officer’s inquiry as to why he was eating there, he reported that he had brought his lunch along to save expenses. Day by day he had been eating in this secluded spot.

“But man,” said the officer, “your meals were all paid for when you bought your ticket. You should be eating in the dining salon with the other passengers.”

Jesus said that when we accept Him as our Saviour we receive the promised Holy Spirit to help us live as His followers. God has blessed us “with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3, page 827).



How often people accept Jesus as their Saviour and then go around as homeless, or live as beggars, when they are the children of the King of the universe. Are you claiming your heritage?

Yes, I have accepted Jesus and believe the Holy Spirit does guide my life.

I would like the Holy Spirit to guide my life.

How encouraging is it for you to know that Jesus is with you through the Holy Spirit? _____

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