

CA 23 TFP1 THE HOLY SPIRIT (formally CA23 TFP1 The life of Peter)

music intro

PRAY – PHONES/Watches off

Look for the



FOSTER: On our last program we discussed some of the basics for living a Christian life. Receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior was first. Then came growing in your relationship with God by living a life which includes, prayer, reading the Bible, and meeting with fellow believers. But what if you're doing all these things and still feel like you're missing something? What if you feel like this man who was in full time ministry and wrote,

“One of the most awesome moments in my life happened the night I realized for the first time that I could not live the Christian life that God desired for me in the way I was living. I repeatedly tried praying and pleading and trying again and again to change things in the way I thought, felt and acted. The more I tried to be godly, the more I felt like an absolute failure.”

This man, Charles was his name, realized he was missing something. But what could it be?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Charles' Christian life was transformed the night he discovered that it was not by his power or his efforts, but only with God's Holy Spirit that he could live a fruitful Christian life. So today we're going discuss our need for the Holy Spirit on Champions Arise. **Music Theme out**

FOSTER: Kent one of the major points we covered in our last program is that following rules are not the end goal of Christianity. Deepening our relationship with God is our goal. However, as our creator, God knows what is best for us so, if we want a fruitful Christian life, it makes sense to follow God's plan.

KENT: That's really important to understand, because, as human beings, we usually want to do the right thing, but have a real problem following rules sometimes.

FOSTER: Maybe you do, but I'm perfect.

KENT: uh huh. Should I ask your wife to confirm that?

FOSTER: Ouch! Okay, moving along.

KENT: quickly. But as I was saying, we want to be obedient. We want to love our neighbor as ourselves. But, without the Holy Spirit, we just don't have the power to do it. John Tolson and Larry Krieder, wrote in the book: *The Four Priorities*, “The life of Jesus Christ is reproduced in the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit, who makes obedience to the Word of God possible.”

FOSTER: And today I want to discuss what “the power of the Holy Spirit means. People are familiar with the Holy Spirit (some even pray in the name of “the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”) but, I don't think we understand the function of the Holy Spirit.

KENT: I agree. So let's fix that by looking at some basics regarding the Holy Spirit. The first thing is, the Holy Spirit is not an “it.” The Holy Spirit is a person.

FOSTER: You mean like God the Father is a person, and Jesus the Son is a person.

KENT: Yes. In the same way. Listen to what Jesus said in John chapter 16 verses 13 and 14, "*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. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*"

FOSTER: Clearly Jesus is referring to a person in those verses.

KENT: Yes there is no doubt. And this person, the Holy Spirit, will always direct us to Jesus Christ. Verse 14 that I just read, says "He will bring glory to me." The Holy Spirit will bring glory to Jesus Christ, and Him alone. If you hear somebody say "the spirit told me to do something" and it's not in the Bible, it is a false spirit. It is not the Holy Spirit of God.

FOSTER: But what if you hear someone say, "This is a new revelation from the spirit"?

KENT: John chapter 16 verse 13 says, "*When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.*" And Jesus said, "I am the truth, the way, and the life." Jesus is truth.

And Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8 "*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*"
So we must remember that the Holy Spirit, always points to Jesus Christ.

FOSTER: That is a very important truth to hold onto because there are a lot of false spirits out there, pretending to belong to God.

KENT: And that's not new. The verse we just read was written as a warning to Christians, 2000 years ago. But I think today, because of the internet...

➤ **FOSTER:** and satellite dishes

KENT: and satellite dishes, a false spirit can influence a large number of people very quickly. But God's Holy Spirit, will always point to Jesus Christ and God's truth in the Bible.

FOSTER: So what is the next thing we need to know about the Holy Spirit.

KENT: That if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we already have the Holy Spirit in us. Ephesians 1:13 says, "*And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.*" So we **have** God's Holy Spirit. The problem is, are we allowing Him to work in our lives?

Foster, I'd like you to re-read that quote you shared at the beginning of the program from Charles. Because it highlights this point.

FOSTER: Sure.

"One of the most awesome moments in my life happened the night I realized for the first time that I could not live the Christian life that God desired for me in the way I was living. I repeatedly tried praying and pleading and trying again and again to change things in the way I thought, felt and acted. The more I tried to be godly, the more I felt like an absolute failure."

Oh, by the way Kent, the Charles who said that was Charles Stanley.

KENT: Really, the pastor on TV?

FOSTER: That's the one.

KENT: That's encouraging, because I'm sure there's men listening who are feeling the way he felt. But now we know that the Holy Spirit is an important key to living a Christian life.

FOSTER: And before we get to the next quality of the Holy Spirit, this is Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm joined by Kent Darcie. We are continuing our discussion from last week on living the Christian life. Today we are focusing on the Holy Spirit.

So Kent, what is the next characteristic of the Holy Spirit we need to know.

KENT: The Holy Spirit works in our lives to open our minds to the Word of God. He is the one who gives us the ability to understand and apply what we read in the Bible. Jesus explained it this way in John 14:26, "the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

FOSTER: You know, sometimes people, who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, will say that they don't understand the Bible. It just doesn't make sense.

KENT: Yes. We need the Holy Spirit to open the Bible up for us. The Holy Spirit helps us understand, and apply what we read in the Bible. He brings God's Word to life. What used to be boring or we didn't think applied to our lives, or seemed crazy, **now** makes sense and provides inspiration and guidance for our lives. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." The Holy Spirit makes this possible.

FOSTER: And what else does the Holy Spirit do for us?

KENT: The Holy Spirit reminds us of what we've read and studied. For example, if we are struggling with pride, the Spirit might remind us of Jesus coming to the world in humility. When people are confronted with doing right or wrong, the Spirit will remind us of what we've read in the Bible...including the consequences.

FOSTER: Which Satan and the world tend to leave out.

KENT: Yes. Some people would say it's our conscience that guides us, but for the believer, it's God's Holy Spirit in us. The conscience can be influenced by circumstances or our own desires and feelings, but the Holy Spirit points us to God's truth—every time.

FOSTER: We just need to follow the Spirit's leading and choose to do the right thing.

KENT: Which is not always easy. Paul talked about his struggles with this in Romans 7, "*I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.*"

Obedience can be a struggle, but the Holy Spirit guides us to what the truth is.

Another thing the Holy Spirit does is pray for us. Romans 8:26 and 27 describes this.

“The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father, who knows all hearts, knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”

FOSTER: Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the Helper, and He really is, isn’t He?

KENT: oh yes. The Holy Spirit also reproduces the character of Jesus in the lives of Christians. So if the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 are characteristics of Jesus (and they are), then the Spirit is working to make them characteristic of us as well.

FOSTER: you know Kent, I keep thinking about the words I shared from Charles Stanley. He had the power of God’s Holy Spirit, but didn’t realize it.

KENT: That reminds me of a story I heard about a man who was a poor farmer. He had worked his land for years, but barely produced enough for his family to survive. One day a surveyor came and asked if they could drill a few holes on his land because the surveyor thought there might be a little oil under the farmer’s land. But the surveyor was wrong. There wasn’t a little bit of oil. There was a lot of oil and overnight the farmer was rich. But the sad part of the story is, he was rich all along and didn’t know it.

And that’s like many Christians **who have** the power of God’s Holy Spirit, but don’t know it.

FOSTER: Well Kent, our listeners know it now. And I hope they will walk in the power of God’s Holy Spirit for the rest of their days. I want to share a prayer in the form of a song called Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God.

Keith and Kristyn Getty sing the song and it describes the work of the Holy Spirit. Again, listen to these words as if they were your prayer.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me. Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Verse two asks the Holy Spirit to live in us so we are able to bear its fruits like kindness and gentleness as described in Galatians 5:22-23.

“Holy Spirit, come abide within. May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least. Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.”

Verse three is a prayer for the church.

“Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show your power once again on earth. Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice.
That in unity the face of Christ, will be clear for all the world to see.”

KENT: What beautiful words.

FOSTER: What a beautiful God we serve. We'll be right back.

Theme Music in

Program Close

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed some steps that can help us to live a Christian life. This program was based on Lesson 4 in the book "The Four Priorities," by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider. Published by The Gathering USA in 2007 and used with permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of the programs in this series at our website championsarise.org. I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

Music Theme out

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