

*Education is an
Inoculation*



*For Understanding the Ministry
of the Holy Spirit in the Midst of
Our Suffering*

Education is an Inoculation for Understanding the Ministry of the
Holy Spirit in the Midst of Our Suffering

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Resources used in the Preparation of this Booklet

Scripture quotations are from
The King James Version of the Holy Bible

**Dedicated to Mama Rose, a member of Highland
Missionary Baptist Church
Gainesville, Florida**

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Suffering	3
Identity of the Holy Spirit.....	5
Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.....	6
Personal Relationship with God the Father and God the Son.....	7
Transformation of the Mind.....	9
Fruit of the Spirit.....	13
Power of Prayer.....	15

Christ established His church during His earthly ministry, and commissioned His churches to carry the Gospel message of Christ to a lost and dying world. We believe this is the first and foremost responsibility of Christ's church to carry out the great commission given by Christ to His churches. *Matthew 28:18 -20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:8; 2Corinthians 5:18 -20;*

Christ has called born again believers, His children to minister to the suffering of others, both individually and collectively. *Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; Luke10:30 -37; Matthew 25:31-40; Acts 11:27-30; 1Corinthians 12:26; 1John 3:16-18; 2Corinthians 1:3-4; Proverbs 23:22; Leviticus 19:32; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; 1Timothy 5:3-5, 8-10, 16; Genesis 2:24; Galatians 6:1-2.*

This free informative booklet was written from a lay responder's perspective. That others might understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the midst of suffering.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit, this is a subject that is very dear to my heart as you will see in your reading of this pamphlet.

There was a time in my own life when I had very little understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and all the graces of God that were available to myself and all those who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour. I would actually go throughout life's daily routines without even considering the ministry of the Holy Spirit or the work that He was trying to accomplish in my life on a daily basis.

In the midst of my own suffering the Lord burdened my heart to enter into a study of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It was through this study that I found myself asking God to forgive me for my ignorance concerning all of His graces that were available to me through the power of the Holy Spirit. Finally after two years of allowing my flesh nature to dominate my life, I now was able to move forward trusting in our Lord Jesus and the power of His Spirit. Praise God!

True transformation through, not around our suffering only comes about through a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus and the Power of His Spirit. It is only then that we can truly say that *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28."*

It is our heartfelt prayer that this brief study may help you as well to understand all of God's graces available to you in the midst of your sufferings within this life.

Suffering



In order that we may truly understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our suffering, I feel that we need to first briefly discuss how individuals may potentially be impacted in the midst of their suffering.

Pain and suffering is a direct result of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and exists throughout the entire world. All men and women are going to experience suffering. As we open the word of God, we can see example after example where suffering created a major crisis in the life experience of a person. Pain and suffering will affect each one of us at some point and time in our life.

There are many reasons why we experience suffering. Our suffering may be the result of sin in our lives, self-inflicted because of the choices we have personally made outside the Word of God and His Sovereign will in our lives **2 Samuel 12:7-15; Psalm 119:67-71; Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:6-7.**

Our suffering may be the result of the advancement of the Kingdom Work. For example; the life of Joseph **Genesis 45:4-8 and Genesis 50:15-20** and the man which was blind from his birth **John 9:1-3**. The apostles and our Savior Jesus Christ all suffered as well.

Our suffering may be the result of the choices others have made. There are times in our lives when if we are not careful, we can lose sight of how the decisions we make can not only impact our relationship with God, but significantly impact the entire family circle.

It is like throwing a rock into a puddle of water; where the rock lands, this is the choice one makes. Then there is the ripple effect on the surface of the water, which will always extend out further than the point of contact.



Every decision we will ever make throughout our lifetime will have the potential to impact others.

Our suffering may be the result of a traumatic event in one's life: the death of a family member, unemployment, money problems, divorce, natural disasters (such as earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions or landslides) or work related disasters. Some have been abused, burglarized, robbed, mugged, abducted, raped, kidnapped, and terrorized. Life threatening injuries to oneself or a family member, terminal health conditions, and loss of contact with loved ones are just a few examples.

Any one of these traumatic circumstances in one's life can significantly impact survivors: physically, emotionally, cognitively and spiritually. Suffering has the potential to affect the total personality of an individual; the body, the thinking, the feelings, the will, the behaviors and relationships. Suffering is holistic in terms of its impact. All of these emotions are normal responses to suffering in one's life, this includes Christians as well. And in our **flesh nature** these emotions can dominate our lives.

As we consider the suffering that each of us **will** experience throughout our life time, it can become very depressing. I want to encourage you as you find yourself overwhelmed in the midst of your suffering, not to allow the cares of this world to discourage you.

We that have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and personal Saviour have something that others in this world don't have, that is hope in Christ. Our name has been written in Heaven, in the Lamb's Book of Life **Luke 10:20**. Nothing can or will ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord **Romans 8:39**.

Identity of the Holy Spirit

You might be asking yourself, *who is this Holy Spirit?* He is referred to in the Bible as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Christ, The Comforter, and the Spirit of Truth **Luke 11:13; 1Corinthians 3:16; Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11; John 14:17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; 16:13**. These are just a few titles of the Holy Spirit that we see mentioned in scripture.

I know that there are some who may have this idea that the Holy Spirit is just an impersonal force or God's energy. Now let's see what the Bible has to say concerning the Holy Spirit's personality. One thing we find is the Bible uses many personal pronouns to describe the Holy Spirit such as *him, he, and himself* **John 14:16,17,26; John 16:7-8,13-14; 1Corinthians 12:11**.

The Bible is very clear on the fact that the Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a "something." The Holy Spirit is a "He." The Holy Spirit is a personal being with emotions **Galatians 5:22-23** and **Ephesians 4:30**, possessing a mind **Romans 8:27**, and a will **1Corinthians 12:11**. **1Corinthians 2:11-12** also tells us that the Holy Spirit possesses knowledge.

The Holy Spirit is a personal being just as God the Father and God the Son are personal beings. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead **1John 5:7**.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit a personal being with emotions, a mind, a will, possessing knowledge, and who's true identity is the third person of the God head. Not only did God empower His church with the power of the Holy Spirit **Acts 2:1-4**, but He resides within me and you and all those who are truly born again believers in Christ Jesus.

John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

1Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Romans 8:9

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

We, that have received Jesus as our personal Saviour, have been sealed with the Holy Spirit "*unto the day of redemption*" **Ephesians 4:30**. When God the Father and God the Son looks upon us, He sees His child. Can you imagine we are a child of the King, a child of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe?

Personal Relationship with God the Father and God the Son

It gets even better. Not only did God create me and you in His holy image or likeness with a rational mind, intelligence, and possessing an immortal spirit *Genesis 1:26-27*; our immortal spirit enables us to have a personal relationship with our Lord through the work of the Holy Spirit witnessing with our spirit through the scriptures *Romans 8:16*.

Christ's intercessory prayer for all the saints was that we would be **one** with God the Father and God the Son as He and the Father were one *John 17:21*.

Life of Submission

You might be asking the question now, how can I attain this personal relationship with God the Father and God the Son in my own life? A life of **submission** to the sovereign will of God within your personal life is the key.

The first step in having an intimate relationship with our Lord begins with giving all of ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy, set apart, devoted to God in every area of our lives, and allowing His will to be accomplished within and through us, that our lives might bring Him honor and glory.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The second step to having an intimate relationship with our Lord begins with the total understanding that we are absolutely helpless apart from the empowerment of the Holy Spirit within us.

All who have received Jesus as their Lord and personal Saviour can live a spirit filled life.

This is accomplished because of our new regenerate nature allowing the Holy Spirit to have complete control and influence over our hearts, our thoughts, our motives, our relationships and our dreams.

We do this by allowing the Holy Spirit to exercise all of His attributes; knowledge, power, holiness, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith within and through each of us.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit:

As I read through the Gospels, I see how the disciples were taught directly by our Lord. They had witnessed the many miracles of Jesus ministry. They saw lame men walk, blind men see, and even witnessed men raised from the dead. That's not all, Jesus even gave His disciples power and sent them out preaching, curing diseases, healing the sick, and casting out devils

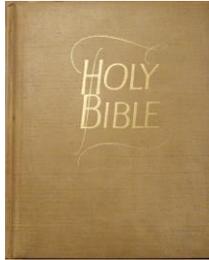
Matthew 10:1-15; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6.

You would think after all they had learned and witnessed they would have surely been ready for Christian service.

We read in ***Acts 1:4-8*** that Christ specifically instructed **His disciples** to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. That they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost, and receive power. In Acts 2 we find things were accomplished.

A life of Christ service that brings honor and glory to our Lord Jesus is **not** attainable apart from a spirit filled life through empowerment of the Holy Spirit within believers.

Transformation of the Mind



The Word of God contains 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Bible was written in three different languages; Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

God communicated His thoughts, what we know as the written Word of God or the Bible, through the power of the Holy Spirit to as many as 40 different writers with different backgrounds and who lived as much as 1600 years apart.

All scripture is God breathed and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, for training in righteousness.

2Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

The Word of God; was written for our learning **Romans 15:4**. It furnishes us with milk while we are babes in Christ that we may grow into mature Christians **1 Peter 2:1-3** and it teaches us how to live. It brings us comfort in the mist of sorrows.

The third step in having an intimate relationship with our Lord begins with allowing the Word of God to inwardly transform our hearts and minds, to change our way of thinking.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

There was a time in my own life when the only time I ever opened my Bible was in church. The best thing that ever happened to me was when I enrolled in a Bible theology course through Faith Bible Institute.

Because of all the homework I had no choice but to set aside study time in the scriptures.

This truly was the biggest blessing of my life. It was during these times that the Holy Spirit through the Word of God began to transform my heart and mind, that I might better understand the sovereign **Will of God** in my own life.

You see God did not just give us His Holy Word through the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us the Holy Spirit the third Person in the Godhead, to illuminate our hearts and minds with the truths of God's Word. That we might understand the thoughts of God as we have them recorded in the Scriptures.

We can teach in a classroom and preach from a pulpit, we can share the Greek and Hebrew definitions from our studies, but only the Holy Spirit can take the Word of God and inwardly penetrate and transform hearts and minds.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12

*But God hath revealed them unto us by **his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the **Spirit of God**. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

John 16:13

*Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

John 14:26

*But the **Comforter**, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Have you ever had a verse of Scripture jump off the page and affect you in a way that takes you by surprise? Have you ever read a passage that is very familiar to you, and you gain new insight from it? Have you ever been in an uncomfortable situation and from out of nowhere a verse comes to mind that brings you comfort or a renewed perspective? When these things happen, most likely the **Holy Spirit**, the **Comforter**, the **Spirit of Truth** is at work illuminating hearts and minds, with the specific truths we need for the moment.

Mama Rose, she truly did enjoy her Bible studies. I remember the times that she was quick to tell me not to call her around 3pm. She had set this time aside every day to read her Bible. She had read through the entire scriptures multiple times. She did not spend time in the scriptures in order to prepare any lessons. She just enjoyed spending time with her Lord.

Mom did not have much in life, but what she did have she would let you know that it belonged to the Lord.

She was also quick to let you know that this was not her home. Her home was in heaven with her Lord Jesus. She truly did have a personal relationship with Christ.

As Mom entered into her last days in this life, even then she was quick to let the family and I know her home was in heaven and she was ready to go home to be with her Lord.

From what I witnessed as she laid in the hospital bed, there is no doubt in my mind that in the midst of her suffering **The Comforter** was illuminating her heart and mind; consoling, encouraging, strengthening and uplifting her with the specific truths from God's Word she needed for the moment.

I will also have to say that as I grieved the loss of my mother. I cannot count the times that various verses of scripture would come to my heart and mind. I believe it was during these times of my own suffering that **The Comforter** was illuminating my heart and mind; consoling, encouraging, strengthening and uplifting me with the specific truths within God's Word. The very truths I needed for the moment. This has also been my experience in other areas of my life as well.

In order to have a personal relationship with our Lord and live a spirit filled life; in order to stand having our loins girt about with truth in spiritual warfare *Ephesians 6:14*, I cannot overemphasize the importance of setting aside time for a daily Bible study.

Not only will the Holy Spirit help each of us to inwardly grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God's Word; but as we are faced with persecution and the many difficulties, trials and temptations of this life that **will** come our way, He will illuminate our heart and mind. In the midst of all of our suffering and heartache He will console, encourage, strengthen and uplift each of us with the specific truths within the Word we need for the moment.

If you are in the midst of suffering at this time in your own life, let me share with you what I have discovered.

When I set aside time to study God's Word in the midst of my own suffering, what I discovered was during my study time my stress level decreased. Even though it was only temporary, I was so grateful for the relief. I encourage you to try it.

Suffering has the potential to impact one's life both horizontally with family, friends and co-workers; and vertically with ones relationship with God. In the midst of suffering one may even separate themselves from God's house.

Every time the Word of God is opened; whether in a church building or in our own homes is an opportunity for the Holy Spirit through the teaching and preaching of the Word to illuminate our hearts and minds. We then experience the blessings as He consoles, encourages, strengthens and uplifts each of us with the specific truths within God's Word we need for the moment.

By separating ourselves from God's house, we also deprive ourselves of the encouragement that can come through our fellowship with our brethren **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

Fruit of the Spirit

Mama Rose: The last days of Mom's life were a difficult time for me as I knew that the day to day relationship that we had would soon end.

This was also a sweet time because I understood how the frailties of life and the suffering Mom endured in the later years of her life would soon end as well.

Her immortal spirit is now in the presence of our Lord Jesus **2 Corinthians 5:8**. Praise God!

I remember being with Mom in her last days. She would just look at me and smile with her finger pointed toward heaven. She knew that she would soon be joined with her Lord Jesus. I witnessed something in Mom's character during her last days as she lay in that hospital bed that truly impacted me in ways that words cannot explain. There were others who have expressed as well how they were overwhelmed by what they witnessed in Mom's character.

God tells us in His Word that *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* **Romans 8:28**.

As I grieved the loss of my mother, I have continually reflected upon her inner faith, her inner joy and the emotional peace she outwardly expressed as the Fruits of the Spirit naturally flowed through her in the midst of her suffering.

I would have to say that my suffering has been for my own good. And I truly had the opportunity to witness what it means to have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus through Mom's personal testimony.

The Word of God tells us that to those who have experienced a spiritual birth, receiving Jesus as our Lord and personal Saviour, He (God) has given us the authority and ability through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, to become children of God ***John 1:12-13.***

As children of God we are to continually walk in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, allowing the fruit of the Spirit to naturally flow through our hearts ***Galatians 5:16, 25.***

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The Fruit of the Spirit:

1. **Love** - A genuine heartfelt love for God and the love of God flowing through the hearts of believers.
2. **Joy** - A sense of well-being or an inner contentment within the heart of believers no matter what circumstances they may be experiencing in life.
3. **Peace** - This is an inner peace, producing outward results from being in a right relationship with God and understanding God's sovereignty in the midst of one's suffering.
4. **Longsuffering** - an inner ability to bear with others and unbearable circumstances without allowing our emotions to overwhelm us.
5. **Gentleness** - Being kind and considerate toward others.

6. **Goodness** - The practice of doing good because of our sincere love for God and in obedience to the truths of God's Word.
7. **Faith** - Faith is an inward trusting in God's sovereignty. Believing that God **will** accomplish His sovereign will and purpose in this life and throughout eternity.
8. **Meekness** - A surrendered will, a humble spirit within the believer.
9. **Temperance** – God's self-control under pressure, in every area of one's life.

I want to encourage you to lean on Jesus, that you may experience all of God's graces through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, as you redefine your life day by day, month by month, in the midst of your suffering.

Power of Prayer



There are times in our Christian walk that we find ourselves not knowing how to pray or what to even pray for due to the nature of the circumstances.

It is during these times that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to intervene on our behalf.

In our infirmities, in our weaknesses and in our suffering the Holy Spirit is intervening and interceding in our prayers on our behalf. When we find ourselves in a state of confusion and don't know how to pray properly or what to pray for He is groaning to our heavenly Father that His sovereign will would be accomplished within our lives. **Praise God!**

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

As we face difficulties in this life we find ourselves dealing with misery, sadness, grief, sorrow, distress, misfortune, possibly depression and despair. We need to boldly enter into the throne room of God with faith and total confidence, trusting God with all our heart, mind and soul. Thanking God for His answer even though we might not understand. Having an understanding that God has our best interest at heart, whatever that might be, as we pray.

When we enter into His throne room trusting Him with our whole heart, it is during these times that God will give us a peace within that only God can. The Holy Spirit will guard our hearts and minds. He will give us that emotional peace in our hearts and a mental peace in our minds.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

It is our heartfelt prayer that this brief study has heightened your awareness of God's graces, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, that are available to God's children in the midst of their suffering.

We hope that through a life of **submission** to the sovereign Will of God within your own personal life, you will experience those graces.

You might experience a personal relationship with God the Father and God the Son, by allowing the Holy Spirit to exercise all of His attributes within and through you. God's Spirit will minister to your spirit illuminating your heart and mind through the scriptures.

You might experience the fruits of the Spirit flowing naturally within and through you, experiencing an emotional peace in your heart and a mental peace in your mind that surpasses all understanding can be found in the midst of your suffering.

True transformation through, not around our suffering only comes about through a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus and the Power of His Spirit.

It is only then that we can truly say that *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* **Romans 8:28**.



Mama Rose
May 31, 1938 to January 23, 2012



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Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



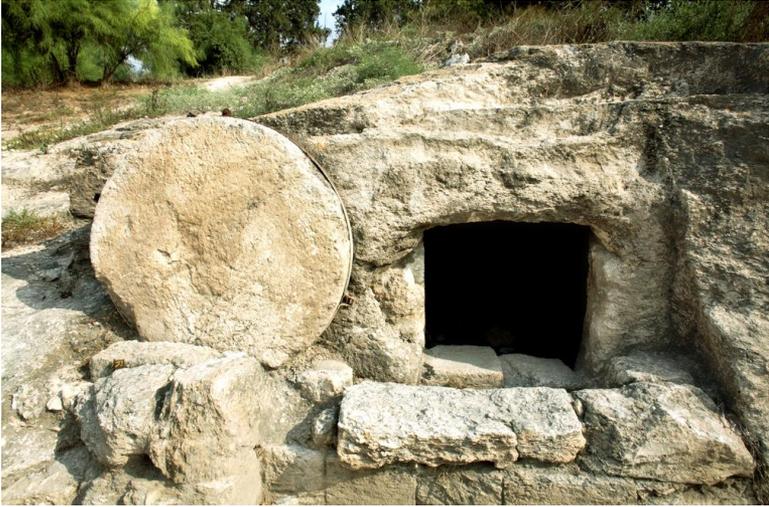
Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He Is Risen



Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.