THE SEMINARS

In his great discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus made a promise to his disciples:

"I will pray the Father and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (Jn 14:16-17)

Jesus knew that when he was no longer on earth, his disciples would not be able to live the kind of life he had called them to by their own strength and ability. He knew that Christians would need a supernatural source of strength, that they would need the strength and power of God himself. So he promised to his disciples the very Spirit of
God, and on Pentecost that Spirit came down upon them, to remain with the Christian people forever. The lives of the disciples were radically transformed by the Holy Spirit: they were able to preach the Gospel of Jesus in boldness and power, their words were accompanied by signs and wonders, they drew together to live in new communities, united in one mind and one heart.

Today Christians of all denominations are rediscovering the power that Jesus gives his people through the Holy Spirit. They are discovering the power to live together in love and peace, to heal the sick and comfort the afflicted, and to worship God with new and abundant praise. Above all, they are discovering a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their very own Lord and Savior. The power of the Holy Spirit has made such a vital and tangible change in their lives that more and more people can see that power at work and begin to desire this new life for themselves. Everywhere, people are coming alive to the new life in the Spirit, and they want to find out more about that life, they want to discover a new relationship with Jesus.

The Life in the Spirit Seminars are designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. For those who are not Christians at all, they can serve as an introduction to Christianity and a time to make a first commitment to Jesus Christ. For those who are already Christians, they offer help in finding a fuller release of the Holy Spirit to live a deeper Christian life.

The seminars are a series of talks and discussions which take place over a period of seven weeks. In the fifth week of the seminar, there is an opportunity for people to be prayed with to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The four weeks
before that time are devoted to an explanation of the basic Christian message of salvation and of what it means to be baptized in the Spirit. During the final two weeks, the teaching is oriented towards further growth in the life of the Spirit.

But more than a series of courses or lectures, the Life in the Spirit Seminars are a chance for Christians who have found a fuller life in the Holy Spirit to come together with people who want to know more about that life, to share with them, and to help them take the first steps of a new life themselves. For this reason, the team that presents the seminars is one of their most important elements. To provide the right kind of contact for the people taking the seminars, there should be one team member for every three or four new people.

The Life in the Spirit Seminars have a very limited goal. They are designed to be only the beginning, only the first step in a completely new way of life. For people to continue to grow and develop in this new life they need to come together with others who are living this same way to receive support and further teaching. For this reason, the seminars should be presented in the context of a Christian community or prayer group where people are already living the life in the Spirit together. People completing the seminars should be brought into the life of these groups where they can receive the guidance and support they will need to go on with their new life.

GOAL

The goal of the Life in the Spirit Seminars is very limited. They are designed to help people find a new and fuller and better life as Christians by laying or strengthening the foundation of a truly Christian life. "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is
Jesus Christ." (I Cor 3:11). The seminars, then, are concerned with the most basic part of Christian life: establishing a person in Christ. To accomplish that goal, there are four things the Life in the Spirit Seminars try to do.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS TRY:**

1. to help those who come to the seminars establish or re-establish or deepen a personal relationship with Christ;

2. to help those who come to the seminars to yield to the action of the Holy Spirit in their lives so that they can begin to experience his presence and can begin to experience him working in them and through them;

3. to help those who come to the seminars be joined to Christ more fully by becoming part of a community or a group of Christians with whom they can share their Christian life and from whom they can receive support in that life;

4. to help them begin to make use of effective means of growth in their relationship with Christ.

There are many things that people need besides these, but it is better for us to do what we can do well than to take on too many things and have none of them achieve their goal.
If done well, the Life in the Spirit Seminars will bring people to the point where they want to go on in the Christian life. They have made the basic commitment, they have experienced God and the effects of faith, they have a hunger for the things of the Spirit. They need more help if they are to go further, but they should be ready to go further.

PROGRESSION

The Life in the Spirit Seminars have a simple progression that leads towards and away from the fifth week. In the first four weeks, the people in the seminars are prepared to turn to the Lord in a deeper way and establish a more effective relationship with him. In the fifth week they are led to make a commitment to Christ and they are prayed with to be baptized in the Spirit. In the last two weeks, they are helped to enter into a process of growth in the new relationship they now have with the Lord.

WEEK 1

In the first seminar, everyone is new. Some need motivation to make the decision to stay. All need an orientation toward the seminars that will prepare them to make use of the seminars more fruitfully. The first seminar is mainly introductory. The presentation talks in a simple way about God’s love and his desire to have a personal relationship with us. Most of the presentation explains the seminar program.

WEEK 2

The second seminar focuses on the need of people to see how momentous a thing they are getting themselves into. Being a
committed Christian, being baptized in the Spirit, involves a reorientation of life that is significantly different from the way the ordinary modern man thinks—it is, in fact, a revolution in outlook on the world. The presentation explains the basic gospel message in a way that allows the people in the seminar to see how great the salvation is that is being offered to them and how great a difference there is between living under the rule of Christ and the rule of the world.

**WEEK 3**

The third seminar centers on the promise of new life. It helps the people taking the seminar realize the goodness of the gift being offered to them. This is the seminar in which the explanation is given about what it means to be baptized in the Spirit.

**WEEK 4**

The fourth seminar is the week of preparation for commitment to Christ and for being baptized in the Spirit. This is the week in which the steps to begin the Christian life (or to reestablish or deepen the Christian life) are explained. This is the week in which the needed reorientation of a person's life should be accomplished. The presentation explains how to turn to the Lord (repentance and faith) and what is involved in being baptized in the Spirit. In the personal contact with the discussion leader, the people in the
The seminar can work out any problems and receive personal help.

**WEEK 5**
The fifth seminar is the seminar in which people are led to a commitment to Christ and are prayed with to be baptized in the Spirit and to receive the gift of tongues. The whole seminar is set aside for making the commitment to Christ and for prayer for release of the Spirit.

**WEEK 6**
The sixth seminar is the first session dedicated to going on in the Christian life. In it people should begin to make the decision and changes of life necessary to preserve the new life they have begun to experience. The focus of the presentation this week is on personal prayer time and community.

**WEEK 7**
The seventh seminar is the final session. It is oriented toward helping people to go on with the life in the Spirit, especially toward helping them take the concrete steps they need to take to be part of a particular community or prayer group. The presentation centers on the work of the Holy Spirit changing us, the trials and difficulties which come up, and the way of entering into the life of the community or prayer group.
The first four weeks of the seminars center on the basic Christian message. They are an explanation of the four basic truths of Christianity that were presented in the explanation session and are designed to lead a person to make a deeper commitment to Christ. The last two weeks are an instruction in how to go on from that new commitment. They are "follow-up" instructions and are designed to make clear the need for more to happen in people's lives for the new beginning to be effective in a new life.