

How do I cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

The process of sanctification is determined to the extent of your effort of cooperating with the Holy Spirit!

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:1-2, NIV)

1. What personal responsibility do you observe here? Circle key words to help your observations!

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Heb 5:11-14, NIV)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2 Tim 4:1-5, NIV)

2. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24, NIV)

3. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Eph 6:18, NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6-7, NIV)

4. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:1-2, NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:24-25, NIV)

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Teacher Notes

The process of sanctification is determined to the extent of your effort of cooperating with the Holy Spirit!

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Remind the student that the apostle Paul's statement to the church of Rome is based on God's New Covenant:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.** (Ezek 36:26-27, NIV)

When Paul says, "do not conform to the pattern of this world," he is saying that you are actively participating in the renewal of your mind.

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Ask the student: what do you observe about Bible study? How well should you know God's word?

Bible study is a **personal** responsibility to deepen one's relationship with God, know His word well enough to recognize incorrect doctrine, and discern good from evil.

2. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24, NIV)

Ask the student: what do you observe about worship? What are your observations of "worship in the Spirit and in truth?"

Worship is a **personal** responsibility to give praise and adoration to God in recognition of the truth of His existence and reality of salvation.

3. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Eph 6:18, NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6-7, NIV)

Ask the student: what do you observe about prayer here? Share all of your observations!

Prayer is a **personal** responsibility, not just for asking for personal help, but to express thanksgiving and to pray for the concerns of other people.

4. What personal responsibility do you observe here?

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:1-2, NIV)

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Ask the student: what do you observe about Christian fellowship here? What is the law of Christ?

During the Last Supper, Jesus made a new command to His disciples, which is the law of Christ:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35, NIV)

Christian fellowship is a **personal** responsibility to care for other Believers, as they have a responsibility towards you, in the spiritual pursuit of growing closer and serving God together.

To live as a Christian to become more like Jesus Christ is challenging. When you do live life with other abiding Believers, you reduce your vulnerabilities to sinful desires, express more of the fruit of the Spirit, and experience more joy and peace.