



The Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Believer

An Experiencing God Devotional Experience

Introduction

These devotional guides were written to help you deepen your walk with God as we go through this season of *Experiencing God* together as a church. As part of your experience, you may want to read the scriptures referenced here in context to get a broader understanding of the concepts introduced. As you complete this experience, you may also want to record the things that God speaks to you in a journal and share them with your small group. There is no “right” or “wrong” way to complete this devotional. Feel free to respond as the Lord leads!

The Holy Spirit: Acts to the Present

When we move from the Gospels to the book of Acts, which records that God sent His Holy Spirit, and then to the present, we often change our whole mind-set. We live as if God quit speaking personally to His people. As a result, we fail to realize that an encounter with the Holy Spirit is an encounter with God. God has spoken to His people throughout church history, and He speaks to us today. From the time of Pentecost to the present, God has been speaking to His people by the Holy Spirit.

At conversion, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the life of every believer. “Don’t you know that you are God’s sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (1 Cor. 13:16). “Your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God” (1 Cor. 6:19). Because He is always present in every Christian, He can speak to you clearly at any time and in any way He chooses.

Jesus promised His disciples that the Spirit would help them in the same way Jesus had (see John 14:16). He said the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (see John 16:13); would convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (see John 16:7); prepare them for things to come (see John 16:13); glorify Christ; take what he heard from the heavenly Father and share it with them (see John 16:14-15); and bring to their remembrance what Jesus had said (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit will also help believers to pray (Romans 8:26). God intended for the Holy Spirit to be extremely active in believer’s lives, communicating His will and purposes to them. (Experiencing God, 147-148)

Engage

1. What methods or vehicles does the Holy Spirit most frequently use to communicate with you?
2. What specific role of the Holy Spirit or communication to you from the Holy Spirit feels fresh and current to you?
3. What ways do you interact with the Holy Spirit that feel unique and custom to the way God has made you?
4. What from this summary about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life a believer is getting your attention? Why?
5. Dedicate some time to purposefully interact with the Holy Spirit, perhaps through a prayer walk, time the word, journaling, or silence. Share your experience with your group.

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Questions, discussion prompts, and small group challenges have been influenced and derived from *Experiencing God* (Blackaby, 2021) and related materials. We encourage your use of all Blackaby resources for deeper study. – Blackaby.org

We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group! Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns. Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, communitylife@changeportalaska.com