



Gerry began the service acknowledging that many Christians have varied experiences when it comes to the Person of the Holy Spirit. What has been your personal experience with the Holy Spirit up to this point in your journey?

Have you encountered any situations in Church(es) that have made you rather just avoid the topic of the Holy Spirit altogether? Explain.

We were asked to honestly answer the following question: “Would I rather have Jesus beside me, or Holy Spirit within me?” What was/is your honest response? Did you wrestle with your answer? (and if so, why is that?)

Read John 16:7. How do you think the disciples would have responded to Jesus? How might you have responded if you were there with Jesus?

In what ways is it to our advantage to have the Holy Spirit within us?

The Holy Spirit is called the “paraclete” (lit.). It is translated by the various versions as “Helper, Advocate, Comforter or Counsellor”.

Gerry said that the Holy Spirit is the dynamic that makes our relationship with God real in our experience. He outlined three of the ways that the Spirit does this.

1. He enables me to *experience the love of God* (Ephesians 3:16-19)

- the Spirit works in us both to comprehend in our minds and to know in our experience, the love of Christ

Q: how have you experienced God’s love towards you?

2. He enables me to *learn from the mind of God* (1 Corinthians 2:11-12)

- we can’t understand God’s mind without the Spirit freely giving us insight

Q: can you think of one thing you have learned about God’s mind/thoughts?

3. He enables me to *hear the voice of God* (John 14:26; 16:13-14)

- the Spirit teaches us, helps us remember God's Word, guides us in truth, etc.

Q: can you share an example of when the Holy Spirit enabled you to hear God?

In the response section, Gerry taught us how we are to engage the Holy Spirit

a) by receiving Him b) by trusting Him c) by obeying Him

Q: Have you specifically sought to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit since you believed?

Q: Do you have any trust issues when it comes to the Holy Spirit? (suspicions, doubts, fears)?

- if so, why do they linger in your mind? how might you overcome these?

- Gerry encouraged us not to allow someone else's inappropriate/immature behaviour hinder our personal desire for, and engagement with, the Holy Spirit

Q: are you allowing others' "weirdness" to affect your engagement with Him?

Q: Are you quick to respond in obedience to the Spirit's direction, counsel, commands, etc.

PRAY for each other to be open to get over any hinderances, to seek, trust and obey the Spirit