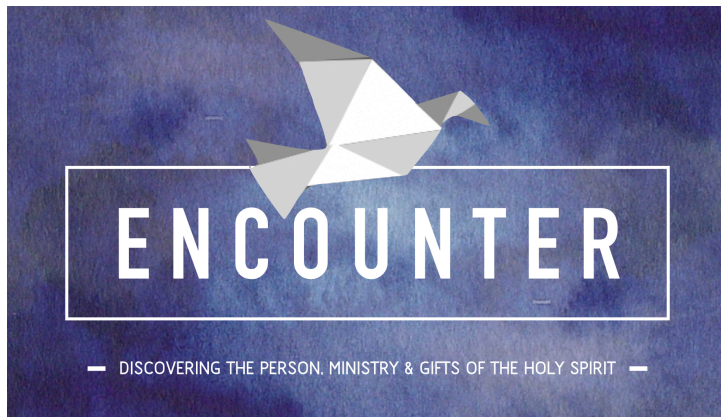


June 2, 2019
ENCOUNTER Holy Spirit
Sermon Series Kick Off



Sermon Extension

Before diving into this study, take a moment to pray that the Spirit of God would eliminate some of the natural resistance towards Him whether it be from past history or wrong teachings and that He would open an understanding to the truth, as well as lead each one into all truth.

In our new sermon series kick off called ENCOUNTER, focusing on discovering the Person, ministry and gifts of the Holy Spirit, Gerry posed the question, “Who is the Holy Spirit?” and identified three answers:

#1 - The Holy Spirit is God - The Holy Spirit is just as fully God as the Father or the Son, Jesus.

On Sunday, Gerry stated that most will admit “the Father is my God” and “the Son, Jesus is my God” but that some hesitate with the statement “the Holy Spirit is my God.” He explained that withstanding from this statement can be a result of improper biblical teaching or fear of becoming “weird” from past experiences. Before this past Sunday, what had you been taught about who the Holy Spirit is? What fears and/or reservations do you have about encountering the Holy Spirit on a deeper level?

Read **Matthew 28:19** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

In this verse Jesus chooses to describe all Godheads as a singular *name*. What does this say about who the Holy Spirit is?

#2 - The Holy Spirit is a Person — “If you do not see the Holy Spirit as a person, you will never develop a personal relationship with Him” Robert Morris, *The God I Never Knew*

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In the message, Gerry explained that the Holy Spirit is not an operational law of the universe, a force, gravity or electricity, but that the Holy Spirit is God and therefore is a person. Read the following verses below and reflect, how do these verses identify the Holy Spirit as a person?:

John 14:16-17 “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, 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.

John 15:26 “But the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me.

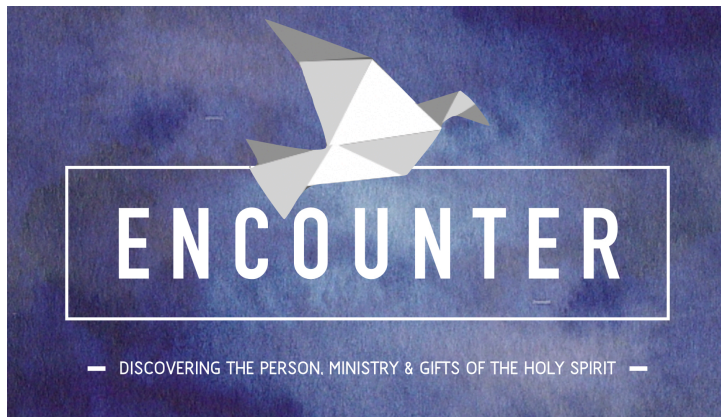
John 16:7-8, 12-13 “I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement:” , “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak...”

The Holy Spirit is a person because a person has personality and a soul. If we observe the three parts that make up a soul—mind, will, emotions—we can there is evidence that the Holy Spirit has each one: MIND (John says that He guides us in all truth: the Holy Spirit guides us in knowledge and helps us to think like God), WILL (we can know God’s will for our life generally through His word, but specifically by the Spirit’s voice as He speaks, for example, we can know how to pray from His word, but if we want to know what to pray for, it is the Holy Spirit that guides us, even when we are weak) & EMOTIONS (in Galatians 5 we see the fruit of the Spirit like love, joy, etc. and in Ephesians 4 we see that the Spirit grieves). Consider each of these examples, what evidence from your own life can you gather that displays or solidifies the existence of the Spirit’s person/soul traits?

#3 — The Holy Spirit is my Friend — The Holy Spirit is my friend and He is not weird!

We can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, which means He is our friend. He loves us (Romans 5:2, love is evidence of His presence), He is with us (He dwells in us, Jesus left Him to be with us always), He speaks for us (the Holy Spirit converses with us, He guides us), He prays for

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us (Romans, the Holy Spirit intercedes and speaks for us), He strengthens us (Ephesians, the Holy Spirit strengthens our inner person) and He is faithful to us. Just like the question above, consider each of these examples, what evidence from your own life can you gather that shows the Spirit is your friend? In what ways can we grow this friendship / relationship? How can we increase our interaction and strengthen our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

At the end of the message, Gerry prompted the congregation to ask the Holy Spirit “What are you saying to me through this message?” If you were there on Sunday, what was one impression, picture, word or thought that came to your mind concerning the message?

Action Points

- Take a moment to identify one (or more) practical ways you can become more open to the teaching and guiding of the Holy Spirit. Write it down, reflect on it, and share it with one another or someone you trust to keep you accountable as you go forward in this study.
- Consider attending ENCOUNTER Holy Spirit weekend on June 22 & 23, more info or to register here (child care provided): <https://event-20467-1.pushpayevents.com/booking/attendees/new>
- Invite someone new, who needs healing, or who doesn't know God to our special service on June 23 (10 AM @ Richmond Green Secondary School) and then to the BBQ following the service at our Church property (1750 Stouffville Rd).
- As we go on in this series, continue to pray and ask the Holy Spirit “What are you trying to say to me through these messages.” Feel free to share your thoughts, stories and/or pictures with us by emailing: stories@summitcommunity.ca