

June 9, 2019
ENCOUNTER Holy Spirit
Jesus Blesses us by
Filling us with the Holy Spirit

June 2 RECAP

Read and reflect on John 14:16-17: *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I’m going away, but don’t worry. I’m giving you One just like me.”*

In some translations, the word “Advocate” is used. This word appears again in verse 26 and many other times in the New Testament. Last week, Gerry talked about how the Holy Spirit is God and a person. The Holy Spirit helps us, He blesses us, He is not weird or an impersonal force and He advocates on our behalf. Without the Holy Spirit, what we know of as a personal relationship with God would not exist. Are you still feeling “weirded out” by this truth? What hesitations, fears or thoughts are still present for you?

Before continuing on in this study, open with a word of prayer addressing the Holy Spirit directly: “Dear Holy Spirit...”

Sermon Extension

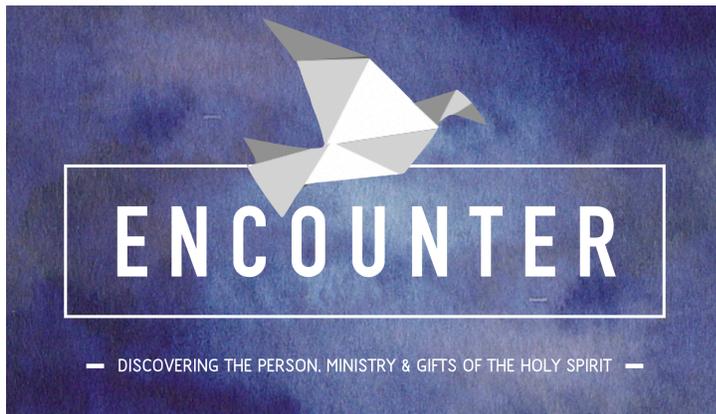
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1. HE COMMUNICATES WITH ME

Read John 16: 7-11 and reflect on the following points:

- He convicts me (v. 7-8)
- He speaks to me. John 16: 12-13.
- He teaches me. John 25:37
- He guides me. John 16:13
- He reveals to me. 1 Corinthians 2:10
- He assures me. Romans 8:16

Effective and successful communication is a two-way street. What areas of communication with the Spirit do you lack? What areas of communication are you thriving in? Share a time when and/or how you have demonstrated effective / ineffective communication with the Spirit (for



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example, if He convicted your heart about a situation and you acted, or did not act, upon that conviction).

2. HE TRANSFORMS ME

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27: *“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.”*

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18: *“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”*

Read Galatians 5:22-23: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

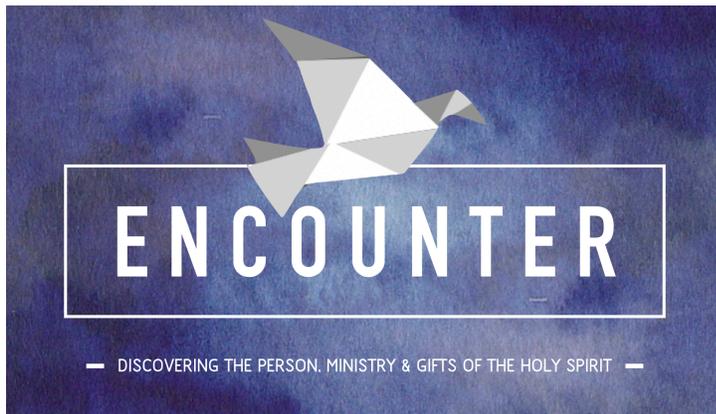
Galatians 5 verses 22-23 use the word “fruit” to describe the product of the Holy Spirit, that is produced by the Holy Spirit and not the Christian themselves. Just like a physical fruit, the fruits of the Spirit need time to grow and must be intentionally worked on. We have to be consistently ridding our lives of sin, purging out our temptations and sinful actions to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, and He helps us do this. As we open up and give the Spirit more depth to convict, speak, teach, guide, reveal and assure us, He begins His work to shape us, transform us and grow us into His image (2 Corinthian 3:17-18).

In what ways has the Holy Spirit transformed you into His image? In what ways have you struggled with this transformation? What fruit do you most recognize in yourself from Galatians 5:22-23? Which fruit do you have most trouble submitting to the will of the Holy Spirit?

3. HE RESOURCES ME

Reflect on the following points / resources of the Holy Spirit:

- He gives life to me. Titus 3:6-7
- He gives us spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12
- He empowers me. 1 Corinthians 12:11, Acts 1:8



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- He helps me to pray. Romans 8:26-27
- He gives me hope. Romans 15:13

If you want to walk in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit, you need to know, understand, accept and embrace all of the resources He has given to us! We are to draw upon His inexhaustible resources: given life, spiritual gifts, He empowers, ways to pray, and given hope. Apart from the list above, what other resources has the Spirit bestowed upon you? How have you used these resources to serve God, the Church, your family, your work or peers, and/or those in the community? We are called to be good stewards of the resources He has given to us: how can we do this with the resources He has given from the list above?

Pray & Reflect

Jesus Blesses us by Filling us with the Holy Spirit. However, we can't be 'filled' if our souls are already full (of other / worldly things). When you look at and examine the three discussion points above (He communicates with me, He transforms me, He resources me), pray and ask that the Holy Spirit reveal one thing He is trying to say to you through these. Are there areas in your life that you need to 'empty' in order for the Holy Spirit to fill and manifest His presence in you?