



holy spirit encounter
groups edition

Holy Spirit Encounter

Session Two - Expectancy

ex-pect-an-cy
/ik'spektənsē/

the state of thinking or hoping that something, especially something pleasant, will happen or be the case

Begin your time together by sharing with the group your experience around going deeper with Ephesians 3:16-29 this week.

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank God for what He has done and what He has promised to do.

Watch the video, **Session Two – Expectancy**.

**“...to know this love that surpasses knowledge —
that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of
God.” - Ephesians 3:19b (NIV)**

Consider the size of the “the measure of all the fullness of God.” It defies our human imagination. We can only begin to grasp how “high and wide and deep” it is (Eph. 3:18). The most we have ever experienced is merely a drop in the bucket of His greatness.

1. Do you think expectancy for what God might do could be the missing ingredient in your life? In your church?
2. What does expectancy look like in your life?
3. If you were to draw a line from expectancy to hesitancy, where would you place yourself on the spectrum? Where would you like to be?
4. Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.” (John 10:27) If the Shepherd whispered to you, would you hear it and would you know it was Him?

**“Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
And with that he breathed on them and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit..” - John 20:21- 22 (NIV)**

**“For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God,
for God gives the Spirit without limit.”- John 3:34 (NIV)**

Consider – the fact that Jesus was sent by God and given the Spirit without limit. We are sent in the same way Jesus was sent. We are also given the Spirit without measure—no limits. Whatever your experience has been with the Holy Spirit has been to date, there is more! An inheritance has already been purchased for you by Jesus Christ.

If you want a deeper relationship with Jesus, your future experience and knowledge of Him has to be different than your past knowledge and experience. This is not a shame statement—it's an invitation to more! The pathway to experiencing more is not through striving to get there on your own merit. The pathway is through humility, surrender, and receiving.

5. When was the last time the Lord surprised you by doing something outside your box?
6. Are you open to God surprising you?
7. In the video Doug describes pursuing manifestations of the Spirit or trying to control our experience of God as idolatry. Which way are you more likely to lean?

In this session Doug tells a story about listening to a speaker and finding himself filled with bitterness, anger, and resentment. He cannot figure out why he's experiencing this intense reaction. His wife, Teri, finally says, "Why don't you ask Jesus?" Perhaps you find yourself unsettled by some of the content of this session. Ask Jesus to show you why you are unsettled. Ask Him to help you hear His voice better. Ask Him to disciple you.

The enemy of your soul does *not* want you to experience the **"measure of all the fullness of God."** His purpose **"is to steal, kill, and destroy,"** but Jesus wants to give us **"life to the full."** (John 10:10) One of the ways the enemy robs us of encounter with God is through inviting us to believe lies. If we agree with a lie from the enemy, we attach ourselves to it and give it grounds in our life.

Activate this session by breaking agreement with lies that may be limiting your expectancy. The following template and prompts provide a guide for breaking agreements. Praying and speaking these words out loud in the presence of your group members is a powerful act of spiritual warfare and a strong declaration that you want all that Jesus has for you. Be sure to pause at the end and notice what Jesus has for you.

"In the name of Jesus, I break agreement with _____.
I repent of joining with this and I ask you, Jesus, to take this far away from me.
Please show me what you have for me instead."

Some things you may want to break agreement with:

- Apathy
- Unbelief
- Idolatry of manifestations
- Quenching the Holy Spirit
- The lie that God's love for me is limited
- The lie that I'm not good enough
- The lie that the Spirit cannot be trusted

Going Deeper

Use the *breaking agreement tool* any time you recognize thoughts or beliefs out of line with what Jesus has promised.

For a **deeper dive** on this subject, check out ***The Empowerment Pivot, Chapter One: "What if Jesus Meant What He Said?"***