



**holy spirit encounter**  
*groups edition*

# Holy Spirit Encounter

## Session Ten - The Ascended Life

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**Begin** this session by sharing with each other changes in perspective as one seated in heavenly places with Christ.

**Pray** a prayer of invitation. Open your hearts and minds to the more Jesus has in store for you in this session.

**Watch** the video, **Session Ten - The Ascended Life**

**Consider** - John 14:12

**“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”**  
- John 14:12 (NIV)

1. What is your reaction to this passage? Describe the gap between your experience and these words.
  - Doug tells a story of a woman wanting to leave behind fear and walk into peace. What did that story stir up in you? Fear? Curiosity? Hunger? Doubt? Unworthiness?
  - What do you want to leave behind and what do you want to embrace?

**Read - Ephesians 1:18-23 and 2:6-7**

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened:

- in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you,
  - the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people,
  - and His incomparably great power for us who believe.
2. To what measure is your life characterized by ever-increasing knowledge of the hope that you have in Jesus?
    - Do you know you have an inheritance? How would you describe it?
    - What is your sense of the power that is available to you?
    - We cannot work up will or intelligence for this—there is a spiritual dynamic of being enlightened to understand. Would you like to have the eyes of your heart enlightened? You can pray, out loud and with your own voice, the prayer Doug spoke on the video:

*“Jesus, come and illuminate the eyes of my heart that I would understand the great hope I have in you, that I would have a greater knowledge of the glorious inheritance that is mine in Christ*

*and that I would know this great power that is already available for me. Jesus, I believe you are going to enlighten the eyes of my heart right now. I invite you and I give you permission. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."*

**"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." – Ephesians 2:6 (NIV)**

**"...he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything..." - Ephesians 1:20-22 (NIV)**

We are made of body, soul, and spirit. When we believe in Christ, we are given a new spirit. This part of us is currently seated in heavenly places with Christ, though we live in the physical reality of our bodies. Our physical bodies live on earth while simultaneously we are living and moving and having our being in the presence of God.

Scripture gives multiple examples of this dual orientation of physical and spiritual. The physical actions of Jesus were lived out according to the directions of his Father (John 5:19, NIV). The angel Gabriel was both standing in the presence of God and speaking on earth (Luke 1:19, NIV). We can boldly approach the throne of God with freedom and confidence even though we are living in a physical reality (Hebrews 4:14-16, NIV).

**Signs of living from below** — unaware of the hope, inheritance, and power available to those who believe; fear and a sense of scarcity; a sense of powerlessness and hopelessness; focused on problems and difficulties; prayers that beg God to do something rather than praying in an authoritative way.

**Signs of living from above** — aware of the hope, inheritance, and power available: peace and authority; sense of abundance and contentment even in suffering; focused on person and presence of Jesus.

3. Where would you place yourself on a spectrum of living from above or below? **There is no condemnation, just an invitation to live from the authority you have been given!**

**"Spiritual authority is the God-given right of rulership, rooted in a relationship with Him through Christ, whereby we superimpose the rules, order and impact of His world (the Kingdom of God) over our world."  
- Chuck Davis, 'The Bold Christian'**

Authority is given, lost, regained, and delegated throughout Scripture:

- God created humans and commissioned them to be fruitful, subdue the earth, rule over and name creatures (Genesis 1:27-30, NIV)
- Humanity gave away their authority to the evil one. Now the world is under the control of the evil one. (Genesis 3; 1 John 5:19; Matthew 4:1-11, NIV)
- Authority is redeemed through Jesus who came to destroy the works of the evil one. (Colossians 2:15; 1John 3:8, NIV)

- Authority is given back to those who live in Christ. They are seated in heavenly places with Christ. He gave power and authority to drive out demons and cure all diseases. His authority is to be demonstrated through the church. (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:19-22; 2:6; 3:10, NIV)

Spiritual authority is not the same thing as being filled with the Spirit. Your authority is connected to your location in heavenly places with Christ. Being filled with the Spirit—which is ongoing and variable—heightens ability to function in authority.

**“Authority is not a special endowment, calling, or gift to a select few in the Christian family, but the rightful inheritance of every believer.” - Chuck Davis**

**“Spiritual authority is rooted in identity, expanded in intimacy, and activated in faith.” - Rob Reimer**

Your identity is in Christ. “In Christ” or “in Him” is mentioned fourteen times in the first two chapters of Ephesians. You have been crucified with Him, raised in His resurrection, and given a life that is no longer under the penalty of sin. You have ascended with Him to heavenly places at God’s right hand.

Intimacy is increased through solitude, silence, and sacrifice. Spiritual disciplines provide structures that facilitate deepening intimacy with Christ. In the gospels we often see Jesus demonstrating authority after being in a solitary place of prayer (Luke 5:16-17; 6:12-19, NIV). He taught His disciples that their authority would be increased through prayer and fasting (Mark 9:8, NIV).

Authority is activated when we step out in faith. Benedictions in scripture are declarative statements that come from a place of authority. When you make these statements you are operating in authority.

**Consider** your position of authority. Will you step out in faith and make declarations over each other? This can be as simple as looking at each other and say, “Peace of God upon you now, in Jesus’s name!”

4. Quiet yourselves in the presence of God and ask Him how He’s inviting you to grow in intimacy with Him and in exercising the authority you have been given. Share with each other and pray for each other.

**Pray together out loud:**

*“I acknowledge you as King, my King. I do not have all the ‘why’s’ and ‘how’s’ of this authority thing figured out, but I trust you and your Word. I willingly accept the mantle you have re-given me in Jesus to join you in ruling and reigning, as I become an overcomer. By your Spirit, give me eyes to see when I am to be active in announcing your kingdom by actively taking spiritual authority. By your Spirit, help me to always use my authority within the principles of your design. And from this day forward, may all my prayers and acts of will be founded in the knowledge of my position of authority in Christ.” - Taken from *The Bold Christian* by Chuck Davis*

### Going Deeper

**Set a daily reminder—group text, phone reminder, etc.**—to draw your attention to the authority you have been given. In that moment consider where you are on the spectrum of living from above or below. Lean up! Step out in faith. Take risks. Give yourself permission to learn.

*For a deeper dive on this subject, check out **The Empowerment Pivot, Chapter Four**: “Pivot to an Ascended God”*