



holy spirit encounter
groups edition

Holy Spirit Encounter

Session Three - Expectancy without Agenda

ex-pect-an-cy

/ɪkˈspektənsē/

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

a-gen-da

/əˈjendə/

The underlying intentions or motives of a particular person or group.

Begin your time together with a few moments of reflection and curiosity.

- What expectations do you have of God? Of this Holy Spirit Encounter?
- Do you have an agenda or preconceived ideas of how you expect God to meet you?

Do not spend too long on this step or try to resolve any theological issues. It is okay to have some lack of resolution at this point—this step is simply about paying attention and becoming aware before going further. In fact, much of this session is more about reflection rather than right or wrong answers.

Pray a prayer of surrender. You can pray something like this, “Jesus, I want to receive all the inheritance you have for me, and I give you permission to take me along any pathway you want to take me.”

Watch the video, **Session Three - Expectancy without Agenda.**

“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.”- 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

**“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”
- Psalm 27:4 (NIV)**

Consider – Doug’s words, “God doesn’t simply want a slightly better version of who you are. He’s all about transformation. We are transformed in the presence of God, and we cannot manufacture or earn His presence.” What is the difference between a “slightly better version” and “transformation”?

No amount of striving or effort can bring about the transformation we need. Striving may bring about small improvements but can leave us feeling exhausted. Yet the idea that we cannot “get ‘er done” by effort can leave us feeling helpless. Transformation comes through seeking the face of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we are transformed as we contemplate the Lord’s glory with “unveiled” faces—nothing between us, no hiding, no shame, no reservations.

This Holy Spirit Encounter is designed to lead you into a fresh encounter with Jesus that will bring about transformation. Trust the process and simply engage with one step at a time. The following questions will help you further explore your journey.

1. Do you want more of God? Are you willing to give God more of you? What might that look like?
2. If you answered yes to the previous question, are you more afraid something particular *might happen* or that something in particular *won't happen*?
3. Have you ever had faith for other people and not yourself? Why do you think that might be the case?

God wants to expand your capacity for more of Him. This might mean emptying or stretching. It always involves confession and surrender. It involves dealing ruthlessly with sin—not as a way to earn God's love, but to make space for more of His love that is already being lavishly poured out on you. Jesus cleans and renews without measure. The message of the gospel is that there is more than enough grace to cover our sin.

**“Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.” - Psalm 139:23 (NIV)**

**“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,
but the one who confesses and renounces them finds
mercy.”- Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

Invite God to examine you. This is not self-examination. What do you need to bring to the cross? There is healing, forgiveness, and renewal at the Lord's Table.

Activate this session through celebrating **the Lord's Table**.

- Pass out the communion elements of “bread and wine” in whatever form you have prepared.
- Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 out loud to the group.
- Pause in prayer of confession—each person can confess as specifically or generally as they are comfortable at this point, but it is important to confess and renounce sin in order to find mercy.
- Partake of the elements.
- End with worship and thanksgiving, thanking God for His love and abundant grace.

Going Deeper

Take some time this week to write a letter to yourself or to Jesus about some of your responses to this session. What do you long for more of? What fears or uncertainties are you experiencing? What are you hoping Jesus will do through this Holy Spirit Encounter? Put the letter away in a safe place. In a later session, you will be reminded to open the letter and see what God has done in response to your longing.

*For a **deeper dive** on this subject, check out **The Empowerment Pivot, Chapter Two: "Pivot to an Infinite God"***