



**holy spirit encounter**  
*groups edition*

# Holy Spirit Encounter

## Session Nine - Ministry from Above

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**Begin** this session by sharing testimonies of ways you have heard from God this week. Did you try a treasure hunt? What happened?

**Pray** a prayer of surrender and invitation.

*“Father, teach me your ways. Expand my understanding of the inheritance you have given me through Jesus. I surrender my thoughts and will to you now. Lead me and guide me along your redeeming pathways. Fill me with your Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Amen.”*

**Watch** the video, **Session Nine - Ministry from Above.**

This session includes a clip from the movie *Holy Ghost Reborn*. If you were able to acquire this video, be prepared to watch it in this session.

**“...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 1:22-22 (NIV)**

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

Where is Christ? What is not under His authority? Where is your spirit positioned?

**Pause and consider what this means for you in your everyday life.** Consider the challenges you are currently facing. What do they look like from human perspective? What do they look like from your spirit perspective of being seated with Christ?

Your spirit is seated in heavenly places with Christ, in the very throne room of God which is filled with glorious abundance and provision. We do not face challenges or minister to others from a position of deficit where we beg God for things, but from a position of confidence, peace, and provision. We have been given the same authority Jesus has to accomplish the will of the Father.

**Watch** the clip from *Holy Ghost Reborn* at 26:33 to 38:33 if you are able. If you are not able to watch the video, take the time to read Acts chapter 3 and 4:8-10.

The scene in the video is a demonstration of the same authority that Peter exercises in Acts 3.

**“Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!”**

**“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed - and you know how crippled was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.” - Acts 3:6, 16 (NIV)**

In the Acts account and in the video, followers of Jesus released something they had authority given to them through faith in Jesus Christ. They ministered from a place of authority through declaration and pronouncement, not petition. The majority of prayers in the New Testament are spoken with this kind of authority.

We exercise this authority through the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We must be filled before we can give. You will practice ministering to each other from above, but first you must open yourself up to a fresh filling of the Spirit. This filling is a lifestyle of continually being filled, not just a one-time event.

### **Filing of the Spirit for an Empowered Life**

Perhaps you received a filling of the Spirit even as Doug was leading the group on the video, but it’s good practice to do this together in your group as well. This is training!

Here’s a review:

Ezekiel 47:1-5 describes a river flowing from the Temple of God. This is a metaphor of the river of the Spirit. You are invited in, deeper and deeper. There’s an invitation into the river and then to go deeper. Notice it is an invitation, not pressure or pushing. Do you want to dip your toe in the river? Go from knee-deep to waist-deep? Dive in over your head? **There is no pressure to perform in your response! Jesus is delighted to meet you where you are in this moment.**

Steps for receiving:

- Believe that you can be filled - Luke 3:16 (NIV); Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)
- Ask to be filled - Luke 11:11-13 (NIV)
- Wait for the Spirit - Acts 1:4 (NIV)
- Surrender whole life - Romans 12:1-2 (NIV); 8:5 (NIV)
- Obey; the Spirit is given to those who obey - Acts 5:32 (NIV)
- Desire the Spirit - John 7:37-39 (NIV)

**Take some time now to receive.** Posture yourself to receive. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Do not be afraid or strive. Release any agenda of what this might look like—it will look different for each one. It may seem more dramatic for some than others. You might experience significant release of emotions, the gift of tongues, or simply profound peace. We cannot measure or compare, simply receive. Fix your eyes on Jesus and worship Him.

- Allow some space to individually interact with the imagery of the river and the promise of God to pour out His Spirit on everyone who asks. If anyone is struggling to receive, there is an invitation for them to receive ministry from the rest of the group in the following exercise of ministry from above.

## Prayer Model for Ministry from Above:

### Remember:

- This is not a formula, but principles. Like jazz, it's a good idea to imitate before you improvise!
- Everyone who is a believer in Jesus Christ is a member of the body of Christ. God is going to use everyone in the group.
- We cannot guarantee an outcome beyond an encounter with the love of God. **If the desired outcome doesn't happen in this moment, there is no condemnation!** Pray a blessing of God on the individual. They are precious to God and He will continue His good work in their lives.

**Divide into groups of four to six and minister to each other.** The one receiving ministry can simply declare their need and those gathered around will follow these principles:

- **Focus on Jesus.** Jesus is the one at the center of attention—worship and adore Him. Ask the person you're praying for to be in a posture of receiving. No striving. Throughout this whole process you will continually turn your focus to Jesus.
  - Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to be released. Luke 11:13 (NIV) "...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"  
  
*Pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, release your power and presence." Pray with expectancy. God always desires to pour out His grace.*
  - Interview the person and listen to the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus interviews someone He was ministering to by asking: "How long has he been like this?" (Mark 9:21, NIV). How can we pray for you? What are you asking of Jesus? Have them to briefly describe their symptoms if they have any symptoms they would recognize leaving immediately.  
  
**Listen in two directions** — clues from the person and to what the Spirit is saying, such as is there anyone to forgive, or any lie this person is believing?
  - Follow the lead of the Spirit in prayer. Keep your eyes open when you're praying for people. There may be physical indicators that give you clues to what the Spirit is doing. Responses to words prayed, etc. Pray with authority and declarations, such as binding demonic spirits or releasing healing, love, etc.
  - Check in with the person. Even Jesus sometimes went after the healing more than once. (Mark 8:24, NIV). Ask recipient, "What are you sensing, seeing, feeling?" If there's immediate sharp pain in response to prayer or pain moves around the body, this is a clear indication of demonic torment. Check in to see if what people are experiencing is from God or from the enemy. Jesus brings peace, the enemy brings torment.
  - Persist until released. Minister until one of two things happen: You see the desired effects or there's a sense of peace that we have done what we are to do at this time.

### Going Deeper

Look for opportunities to pray for others this way. Train yourself to look at personal challenges “from above” and change your prayers from petitions to declarations of what God has already promised.

For example, rather than pray in a begging posture saying, “*Jesus, please help...*” Pray with authority and thanksgiving, “*Thank you, God, that you are at work in this situation. I declare peace over this situation/relationship. I bind the work of the destroyer. Thank you, God, that you have wisdom and strategies for everyone involved in this and that you desire to reconcile all things to yourself.*”

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