



holy spirit encounter
groups edition

Holy Spirit Encounter

Session Four - Spirit-Anointed Jesus

Begin your time together by sharing testimony of how last week's session impacted your life.

Pray a prayer of yearning, expressing your desire for God to move in your life in deeper ways.

Watch the video, **Session Four - The Spirit-Anointed Jesus**.

Jesus lived and served, not out of his divinity, but out of his Spirit-anointed humanity.

**“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)**

Consider - Our roots go back to the early church which was characterized by the proclamation of the gospel and accompanied by signs and wonders. There is a gap between our current experience and what we see in the life of Jesus and the book of Acts. If we want to be part of the mission and movement of God's Spirit on earth today, we must address this gap.

We are commissioned as Jesus was commissioned and given the same Spirit he was given. The church must be clear on who Jesus is and how He was empowered. Then we will understand the mission we have been given and what the church should look like and be about. If we do not understand the empowerment we have in Christ, everything else collapses and the best we can hope for is human effort and incremental results.

Review the following passages about Jesus being anointed by the Spirit:

- “...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:36-38, NIV).
 - **If Jesus was fully divine, why would He need to be anointed by the Holy Spirit?**
- “...he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness...” (Philippians 2:6-8, NIV).
 - “Nothing” is the Greek word *kenosis* which means “to empty.” Jesus emptied Himself of divine attributes and privilege when He walked on earth.
- “...the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing...” (John 5:19, NIV)
- “By myself I can do nothing...” (John 5:30, NIV)
- “...many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.” (2 John 7, NIV)

And these ones about our commission:

- “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)
- “When Jesus had called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick...So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.” (Luke 9:1-2, 6, NIV)
- “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two-by-two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go...” (Luke 10:1, NIV)
- “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:18-19, NIV)
- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8, NIV)

Jesus had the advantage of not battling a sinful nature, yet He experienced real temptation. He did not suffer under the baggage of His own sin, but He did suffer due to the sin of others. Jesus knew His followers would struggle with sin and temptation, yet He commissioned them to do what He had done through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. What works was Jesus doing? How would you describe the gap between what Jesus did and what you do in His name? **There’s no condemnation in this—there’s an invitation to experience more Spirit-anointed and empowered living!**
2. Does closing that gap seem like a realistic possibility to you or even something you desire?
3. Dr. Sandy Isfeld is quoted as saying, “We need to get over...our softened, non-offensive, non-jolting Canadian theology in the evangelical church where we expect nothing, say nothing, anticipate nothing, and get nothing!” What insight does this quote lend to your experience and desire or lack thereof?

Jesus did not give us an impossible assignment. He modelled the way for us. He practiced spiritual disciplines of scripture reading, prayer, fasting, community, worship, solitude, and silence. In fact, when His disciples came up against a demon they could not deal with, Jesus encouraged them to increase their spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting (Mark 9:28-29, NIV). These disciplines are not magic formulas, but ways we engage with God’s presence. A.B. Simpson said, “Jesus derived His daily strength from communion with God, from a life of faith and prayer, from constantly receiving the Holy Spirit and the gracious help of His father just as we must.”

4. Consider your own spiritual disciplines and your approach to them. Where do you find yourself on the spectrum of dutiful obligation to engagement with God's presence? Have you noticed a correlation between Spirit empowerment and those disciplines in yourself or others?

After Jesus's baptism, He is described as "full of the Spirit...led by the Spirit...in the power of the Spirit...anointed" (Luke 4:1, 14; 4:18; 3:21-22, NIV). He experienced the love and affirmation of the Father at His baptism and THEN the kingdom started breaking in. His ministry came out of secure heart and soul. Signs and wonders flow freely from a heart that is not seeking validation or significance. Greater empowerment comes through receiving the love and affection of your heavenly Father. It is something we receive from a place of intimacy, from fixing our eyes on Jesus—not trying or striving but receiving.

5. Three things happened when Jesus was baptized. Which of these do you need to take to the next level?
 - Dedication of yourself to the Father and His mission.
 - Receiving the anointing power of the Holy Spirit
 - Experiencing the love of the Father.

"If our Lord did not venture to begin his public ministry until he had been baptized with power from on high, and if he attributed all his work to the power and anointing of the Holy Ghost, what folly and presumption it must be for us to try to serve God by our own strength, resources, gifts, and wisdom." - A.B. Simpson

We need the empowerment of God's Spirit more than we need another church growth or leadership strategy!

6. What is God saying to you?
7. Is there anything you need to renounce?
8. Is there anything you need to invite Him into?

Pray – *"I renounce the lie that Jesus did what He did through an empowerment that I cannot have. I embrace the truth that Jesus did as He did, not out of His divinity, but out of His Spirit-anointed humanity and He offers this to me. Jesus, I invite you to anoint me with your Holy Spirit and to reveal to me my true identity, the affection you have for me, and your affirmation of who I am. Amen."*

Going Deeper

Get curious about the times and situations in which you feel helpless or powerless—what would it look like to have a greater experience of Spirit-empowerment at those times? Pursue deeper intimacy with God. Be deliberate in prioritizing time and space for spiritual disciplines. Daily invite the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh.

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