



**holy spirit encounter**  
*groups edition*

# Holy Spirit Encounter

## Bonus Session – Healing (Part One)

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**Begin** this session by sharing changes you have experienced in your level of expectation and faith since starting the Holy Spirit Encounter series.

**Pray** a prayer of invitation. Invite the Spirit to awaken increased hunger for the Kingdom to be released through you. Surrender your own understanding or agenda and ask Him to reveal Himself to you in a fresh way.

**Watch** the Video, **Bonus Session - Healing (Part One)**

Jesus announced the restoration of the Kingdom of God on Earth (Mark 1:15, NIV). His ministry was characterized by the proclamation of good news, the restoration of all things broken, freedom for the captive, oppressed, and welcome to the abandoned. As the Father sent Jesus, He is sending us. In order to fulfill the Great Commission, we must lean in the gift of healing starting with a good theology of healing and a willingness to take risks in developing the gift.

**Healing is God's overall plan for creation.**

God created everything good. When sin and the curse entered creation there is a departure from the created order and we see sickness, illness, and death. Revelation 21 and 22 describe the complete restoration of all things when there will no longer be a curse on anything—there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain.

The Bible teaches that all sickness comes down to one of three things:

- **General curse over all creation** — our bodies were not born into a perfect world from ancestors in perfect health.
- **Demonic influence** — 40% of the sickness Jesus encountered in the Gospels had a demonic element.
- **Personal sin** — deliberate, unconfessed sin can open the door to illness (1 Corinthians 11:30, NIV).

Because of these factors, the ministry of healing is more spiritual warfare than pastoral care. At its root, healing is a ministry of rebuking any darkness that is out of God's created order and releasing life (John 10:10, NIV).

1. How does this thought land with you?
2. Does it stir up a sense of accusation or blame? If so, simply renounce the lie of accusation (which is the work of Satan) and announce the truth that we are all in need of full restoration—which includes salvation, healing, and deliverance.

### **Divine healing is the work of Jesus.**

Jesus' job description was the restoration of everything that came under the curse (Luke 4:18-21, NIV). He commissioned His followers to cast out demons and to lay their hands on the sick for healing (Mark 16:16-18, NIV). We see this commission being carried out all through the book of Acts.

Notice throughout the work of Jesus and the acts of the apostles, that healing was executed with authority through declaration and proclamation: In the name of Jesus, get up and walk! (Acts 3:6, NIV). The healing power is within us, but not of us. The power is in the life of Jesus within us. It's in us to give!

James 5:14 instructs those who are sick to call the elders to pray. This instruction is for the one who is sick, not a manual for how the elders are to pray. The 'how to' model is in the method of Jesus and affirmed in Acts.

3. Can you imagine yourself praying for the sick as Peter and John did in Acts 3?
4. What might have to 'die' in you for you to step out in greater boldness in this area?

### **We must discern the root cause of sickness.**

Sanctification is a matter of the whole person—body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NIV). Physical healing is often connected to a restoration of our whole being. Even when the presenting issue is physiological, there can be root causes in emotional disorder or spiritual attack. We must discern root causes with the help of the Holy Spirit.

5. Most of us have seen or even had an experience of this being done poorly. Is there anyone you might need to forgive related to this?
6. Talk about ways this can be done well.

### **Divine healing is a sign to both believers and unbelievers.**

For unbelievers healing is a sign that points to salvation. For believers healing is a sign that God is at work sanctifying our whole being. Every encounter where there is potential for physical healing, there is a guaranteed opportunity to minister the love of God which brings healing to the soul and spirit.

7. Are you aware of a sense inside yourself—philosophically or theologically—that God cares less about the body than about the soul and spirit?
8. Consider the compassion of Jesus toward those who were oppressed. Invite Him to stir you to the same compassion in you.

### **Divine healing requires development.**

Like any other gift or grace, exercising healing requires development. We take baby steps and keep persisting in exercising the gift. We grow in our ability and capacity to recognize the nudge of the Spirit and the ways He gives us knowledge of how He wants us to minister. We grow in

confidence that we will minister the love of God even when a healing miracle does not occur. We allow the Spirit of God to continue to stir our hearts to long for more of what He longs for.

9. In his book *Deep Faith*, Rob Reimer describes going from unbelief to hope to expectancy to certainty. Where do you find yourself on this spectrum? What would it take for you to go to the next level?
10. Faith is also a gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9, NIV). We can ask for more (Luke 11:9-13, NIV)! End your time together by praying for increased filling of the Spirit so you can carry out the great commission of partnering with God to restore all things.

### Going Deeper

Every day we encounter signs of the curse all around us. Get curious about how Jesus wants you to partner with him in bringing restoration. Pay attention to false responsibility and striving. Make intimacy with Jesus a priority. Step out in faith this week and declare restoration. Ask Jesus for a 'risk challenge' that will exercise your faith muscles.