

CALLED TO VISION

WEEK 9

HOLY SPIRIT

connect group notes



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : Called to Vision - The Holy Spirit

To find this sermon visit

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons

TIME TO PONDER:

Vision attracts people, it unites us, keeps us focused and energises people. Our vision is Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Today we are going to look at another focal point of our vision script - the Holy Spirit :

*We at Outlook have been **called to partner with the Holy Spirit.** This partnering with the Holy Spirit is in every area of our lives. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to bring glory to Jesus.*

John 14:15-17 NLT

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

John 14:21 NLT

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

Question 1: What stands out to you from these passages?

It should be every believer's goal to get to know everything about Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the one who will lead us in truth - to find Jesus and to know Jesus, the way, truth and life.

When we partner with the Holy Spirit, we will have an ever increasing revelation of Jesus. He will reveal Jesus to us.

TIME TO DISCUSS:

We are called to know Jesus and make him known. The Holy Spirit is critical in making Jesus known to us. We love God by obeying the commandments. We know what these are, by trusting the Holy Spirit, who will lead us into all truth.

Jesus said that when we seek Him wholeheartedly, we will find Him. Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us to know Him more.

What do we need to do to partner with the Holy Spirit?

Acts of the Apostles 2:36-38 NLT

*“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” **Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

The gift of the Holy Spirit is freely given. We don't need to work to receive Him. He is given to every believer who has repented of their sins and received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

John 7:37-39 NLT

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures

declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'

(When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory)

Just like a river produces life - the Holy Spirit will produce life in us enabling us to give life wherever we go if we receive Him, as the river of life in our lives.

Question 2: What does partnering well with the Holy Spirit look like to you?

What are the requirements for a true partnership with the Holy Spirit?

1.Repentance

Repentance is when we are convicted of our sins and come to the realisation that we need a Saviour. Salvation is believing in the finished work of Jesus on the cross and making Him not only Saviour but also Lord of our lives.

Repentance should become a lifestyle to us as we understand the Lordship of Jesus. Birds fly, fish swim and Christians repent.

Godly sorrow leads to repentance which leads to salvation. It is not saying sorry and never changing. True repentance is changing our ways and turning from our sins. Our hearts and lives are changed as the Holy Spirit convicts us.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 NIV

*Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.***

Worldly sorrow doesn't change our behaviour. Only Godly sorrow does. Ongoing repentance is needed as we partner with the Holy Spirit and acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our life. Repentance requires a 180 degree turn from sin. In order to partner with the Holy Spirit, ongoing repentance is needed because He is the **Holy** Spirit and cannot dwell in the unholy.

2. Baptism

When we repent of our sins, accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we are to be baptised in the name of Jesus. Our identity changes as we are raised to life to become a new person. Not an upgraded version of ourselves but we become a new person with a new life in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:2-4 NLT

*Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? **For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.***

It requires dying to the flesh and living for the Holy Spirit. Our identity needs to change so we can partner with Jesus. Baptism is an outward

representation of the dying to self and living cleansed for Jesus.

Question 3: Are there things in your life that you need to repent of in order to live a new life partnering with the Holy Spirit?

TIME TO REFLECT

How do we better partner with the Holy Spirit?

- **Partnership is through thirsting for a real relationship with the Holy Spirit**

John 7:37-39 NLT

*On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, **“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the***

Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"

We need to thirst so much for the Holy Spirit that the desire for that thirst to be quenched is all you think of. That when you drink, you can't seem to get enough but desire more.

Question 4: How thirsty are you for more of the Holy Spirit? How much time do you spend with the Holy Spirit?

- **Partnership with the Holy Spirit means believing in Jesus**

John 6:29 NLT

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

We are called to believe in Jesus. Our faith in Jesus releases the living water to flow. We don't need to perform or work. We just need to believe and we will receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus says come and drink. It's a free gift. We just need to come to Him.

- **Partnership with the Holy Spirit means the Holy Spirit is the senior partner.**

We must give the Holy Spirit control of our lives. We need to let go of the things that we are holding onto and allow the Holy Spirit to take the lead in our life.

ACTION STEP

We must partner with the Holy Spirit in every area of our lives. We must allow Him to work in and through us to bring glory to Jesus.

How do we do this?

- We must ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in our lives where we need to repent.
- Believe in Jesus.
- Thirst for more of the Holy Spirit.
- Surrender all control to the Holy Spirit.

Have you realised your deep need for the Holy Spirit? How well are you receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit?