



NEW
HOPE
WINDWARD

FIRE POWER

ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

4. Prayer for Healing

ICEBREAKER

If this is a new group or there are new people, please take a moment to **introduce yourselves.**



To start off your small group, briefly share your response to the following question:

What's one question you always asked when you were a kid but never got a good answer for?

Share with your group.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Let's get a big picture of what we'll be learning today...



As believers, we have a lot of questions for God. Some of them are trivial, some of them are exciting. Maybe you want to know what heaven will look like or if your dog or cat will be there with you. But one question almost every single Jesus follower asks is, "Why doesn't God answer every prayer?" This is especially true when we pray for healing. We know, from scripture, that the Holy Spirit can heal us. So why doesn't He? In this discussion, we will dig deeper into the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: START & FINISH ON TIME. Doing this will show your small group you value their time.

Tip: CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT. Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: "*What is said in small group, stays in small group.*" Nothing, nobody, never... "*Share nothing, to nobody, never*" outside of the group.

ONLINE Tip: ZOOM &/OR IN PERSON GATHERING. If you're meeting together on Zoom, familiarize yourself with the Zoom features on your electronic device. It is helpful for everyone to know where the mute button is located. Ask the attendees to self-mute to avoid environmental noise when someone else is talking & sharing. Doing this will help with the flow of your SG discussion time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.) It's easier to think in terms of extremes. All or nothing, yes or no. We like these because they give us definite answers.

When it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the two extremes are usually these two camps: Cessationist and Sensationalist. Cessationism is the idea that the gifts of the Holy Spirit (found, for instance, in 1 Corinthians 12) ceased to exist after the time of the first Apostles. It's not that the Holy Spirit can't do any of those things anymore. It's that He just doesn't.

On the other end of the spectrum are sensationalists. It's not just that the Holy Spirit does move in these ways today, it's that He only moves in these ways. In other words, healings can only be attributed to God if they are spontaneous!

Between these two extremes are where we usually live. It's obvious from both scripture and our own experiences that the Holy Spirit does heal today. But it's also plain to see that He does not heal the same way every single time. If every good thing comes from our Father in heaven (James 1:17), then healing by way of medicine or a doctor should also be credited to the Holy Spirit.

So, those who are cessationists tend to look at all the times that the Holy Spirit doesn't answer prayer the way we think He should, while sensationalists are only looking for God to move in a miraculous way outside of the ordinary.

Which side do you tend to naturally drift towards, cessationism or sensationalism? How do you maintain a balanced approach when it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (Please give people space to process their beliefs without advocating for the side you lean towards)

2.) Read the following passage together:

Jesus called the twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1 (GNT)

For just a moment, let's unpack this scripture. First of all, the twelve disciples were not the only ones who received this power. The word "disciple" means student. Any student and follower of Jesus is a disciple. On several other occasions, there were more than 12. And even today, anyone who believes in Jesus is considered a disciple.

Second, the power and authority came directly from Jesus. That means there was no intermediary between Him and His followers. While the Bible does tell us to pray together and ask church leaders to intercede, those doesn't mean we as individual believers don't have this same power and authority.

Finally, Jesus did not put an expiration date on this. He did not give them power and authority for a specific time or until a certain day. This is open-ended.

So, if these things are true, and if we can claim the promise in this verse today as Jesus' followers, just imagine what that means for us!

How would you live each day differently if you truly believed that you have the power and authority to drive out demons and cure diseases?

3.) Reading that and even believing that is one thing. But living it out is another. We can all think of a time when God did not answer our prayers the way we wanted. Even when we pray in the right attitude, humbly asking for someone else's healing. But still...we don't see the healing. Why is that?

That's a question that can't be answered in just one sitting. There is no way that a simple answer will do! But there are some things to consider.

First, consider God's compassion. His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), but His compassion is also greater than ours (Psalm 145:8-9). Any time He does not answer our prayers the way we want, we can rest assure that it is not because He does not love us.

Second, if the first statement is true, then we can be confident than any "no" now is for a greater "yes" later. For instance, maybe you've been praying for a specific job opening but in the end you don't get it. It's very likely that there is a better job, position, or title out there for you! When it comes to sicknesses that lead to death or more pain, this is a hard truth to take in. But we can all agree that in the New Heaven and New Earth, we will all experience eternal healing.

Third, while it may seem like certain people always seem to get an answer from God, that cannot be because they are somehow more spiritual than you are. In fact, the idea that answers to prayer are directly related to how we pray or how much faith we can muster up would mean that God is only out to serve us. He is no heavenly ATM, and the more we lean on His wisdom when we pray, the easier it is to receive His best.

When our prayers aren't answered right away, we are tempted to give up. But Jesus tells us to "keep on praying." What is something that helps you continue praying even when you don't get the answer you want? (Example: I choose to trust God anyway that He will work out everything in the end; He's a good God; I remember the words to the song - Waymaker and that helps me to keep believing, etc.)

4.) In Mark 9, we find a story that gives us a good indication of how we should look to the Holy Spirit for healing. It actually occurs from two different perspectives.

A man comes to Jesus and tells Him about his son who has been afflicted by a demon. He asked Jesus' disciples to heal the boy, but they weren't able to. Jesus turns to the man and says:

"Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:23-24 (NLT)

Later, the disciples asked Jesus, "Why couldn't we cast the demon out?" They were confused and wanted an answer. Jesus told them:

"This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

Mark 9:29 (NLT)

In other words, two different things were working together to make the miracle reality. First was faith. The father had to believe that Jesus was able. And he didn't argue the point with Jesus. He said, "I do believe. Please help me remove any unbelief that I don't see." Then, the answer could only come through prayer. So, the two work together.

Faith + Prayer. If you believe, but never pray, you won't see an answer. If you pray without faith, don't expect to receive.

Why do you think that faith and prayer work hand-in-hand in this way? Is there an area of your life you need to not only have faith in but also begin to pray about as well?

5.) Praying for others to be healed is just one way to serve in the church. There are so many other ways to put the Holy Spirit's gifts to use in your life. Take a look:

Online or Remotely:

Online Chat Host
Administration/Scheduling
Misc. Projects
Creative Media/Social Media
Prayer Team

In Person (REGAL CINEMAS)

Kid Zone
Attendance Counters
Ushers
Camera Operator
Sanitizing Team
Stage
Prayer Team

Talk about a time when you served others and it helped them? How did it make you feel?

Prayerfully consider volunteering for four (4) Sundays either through our Online/Remotely or In Person Services at Regal Cinemas. Here's how:

- Scan the QR code below



- You can text "New Helper" to 45777 or go to our website NHW.org to sign up



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

**Jesus tells us to keep on praying and never give up!
The Holy Spirit is available to heal and wants to help each of us.**

- Do you or someone you know need healing?
- How can we pray together this week for healing (emotional, mental, relational, physical and spiritual)?

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS:

Pray about volunteering for four (4) Sundays in an area of ministry that the Holy Spirit is nudging you to explore.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Take a few minutes to close your time together with prayer and to pray for each other's prayer requests. Below is a sample prayer to read if you choose to. You can also choose to write down each other's prayer requests to remember throughout the week.

Sample Prayer:

"Holy Spirit, we invite You to come and be our Healer. The Bible says that whoever is sick to ask for prayer. We know that You truly love and care for us. Help us see how much You want to bring healing into our lives. We know that You are able and desire to heal us. So, would You help our unbelief. Give us the faith to believe that miracles can still take place when we put our faith and trust in You to do the impossible. We ask You now to bring healing to (name of someone you are praying for). May they feel Your healing touch. Where there's physical, emotional, mental, relational need for healing, would You bring wholeness & restoration right now in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray, amen!"



Group Prayer Requests:

Name & Prayer request:

DAILY DEVOTIONS For the Week:

Day 1: If you are sick, ask the church leaders to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will get well. The Lord will heal them, and if they have sinned, He will forgive them.

James 5:14-15 (CEV)

Day 2: He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed.

1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)

Day 3: Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things He does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.

Psalm 103:2-4 (NLT)

Day 4: Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.

3 John 2 (NLT)

Day 5: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

DURING THE WEEK

Find Time To Read God's Word



The Power of Feeding on God's Word Daily

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

As we read God's word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing daily devotions re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Doing devotions is an excellent way to record, process, and share what God is speaking to you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget God's promises and some very important life lessons! While doing devotions is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to share some of your daily devotions with your family, friends, co-workers, or small group. Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insights, and even encourage others.

Sample Devotion

SCRIPTURE

"If you do not carry your own cross and follow Me, you cannot be My disciple."
(Luke 14:27)

OBSERVATION

Self-sacrifice is a prerequisite for discipleship. Self-centeredness has no place in the life of a Jesus follower.

APPLICATION

It can be hard to focus less on self and more on Jesus, but when we do we are living out the very commands of Jesus.

PRAYER

God, help me to live a selfless life by always focusing on what You want instead of what makes me happy, comfortable, and content. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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