

ONE FROM THE HEART

The Gift of Intimacy

God is always active, but He seems to be stirring a sense of anticipation. The challenge is in the focus.

Finding God's Lenses for This Moment

If God is calling us to set sail, are we able to discern the wind? Are we able to respond? Do we even have what we need to respond?

Do we have a unique role to play? Or are we here to make up the numbers?

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Paul paints this beautiful picture in 1 Corinthians 12 about the people of God like a body: each of the multitude of parts contributing its specific and significant purpose, and the body doesn't function as it is meant to when we don't.

Connecting the Dots

How do we work out who we are and what we have to give? And how do we give it? How do I get along with all these other people that want to do that too?

In fact, the thing that connects all these things is not a thing – it's a 'who'... The Holy Spirit!

Today, I want to bring us back around to not only the beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit to each and every one of us, but to the gift of intimacy with God that we have.

“Knowing”

Greek and Hebrew words for ‘knowing’

- + Mark 12:12
- + Genesis 4:1

We can all do stuff well, because we’re a church of good people who are really capable, but if we’re going to do God’s plan in God’s way, then we need to move beyond knowing God, to ‘knowing’ God...

Uncomfortable!

This is the difference between knowing and ‘knowing’.

“Lovers get more work done than workers do...” (Mike Bickle, iHOP)

The relationship between Jesus and us, His church (see Ephesians 5:32)

The Holy Spirit has a lot of things He’s doing:

Comforter (Matthew 5:4), Counsellor (Matthew 10:19), Helper (John 14:17), Intercessor (1 John 2:1-2), Revealer/Interpreter/Spokesperson (John 16:13-15), Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), Teacher (John 14:26), Fortifier/Champion, Legal Witness (John 15:26), Judge (John 16:8-11).

He’s real, and we need to know and embrace His reality.

We will always be overwhelmed by the work at hand if we have to do it in our own strength.

The Anointing

Not a term we use today, but one that historically was quite well known. Kings and rulers were anointed with oil.

Hebrew and Greek words for 'anointing'.

Exodus 29 talks about this for the priests, 1 Samuel 16 for Samuel anointing David as king.

- + Psalm 133:1-2
- + 1 John 2:20
- + 1 John 2:26-27
- + 2 Corinthians 1:20-22
- + Luke 5:17

And it's powerful – it was for Jesus, and if we're to follow His instructions to us, any of them, then we need His power, His anointing, working in our lives.

- + Isaiah 10:27

Pursue Intimacy and Receive Anointing

We can all do these things:

- + Put God first. On a list of one. And only one. He'll look after the rest. Seek first His kingdom...
- + Repent and stay clean with the Lord. Repentance resets the standing with God – you aren't going to be perfect, just stay up to date.

- + Want intimacy with Him? Allow His love and peace to overcome your fear and hesitancy. Maybe you need to repent for fearing Him. Or fleeing from Him.
- + Ask for it!
- + Give Him the time and space to work

Maybe it's the journey of surrender, overcoming fear, trusting, facing uncertainty, turning from disobedience, turn from running away from God.

"Come Holy Spirit"

Discussion Questions

1. What are the God-sized dreams that He has given you?
2. How much can you achieve in your own strength?
3. What does intimacy with God look like for you?
4. How have you experienced the anointing of God working in your life?
5. What are the things that only God can do that are going on in your life and in the lives of those around you?
6. Spend some time praying and working through the list above, and spend some time in surrender before the Lord. Ask Him if there's anything that you need to repent from and anything you need to embrace.
7. If you're in a Life Group, spend some time praying the ancient prayer *"Come, Holy Spirit"*, and praying for group members to receive God's powerful anointing for His work in our community, nation and world.