



Week Three

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being here with us. Help us to hear what you have for us today. Amen.

Talk it Over

This week we closed our series, Within, which centers on growing in our understanding of the Holy Spirit.

- Tell us about a time you were asked to do something you knew you couldn't do without support.
- Have you ever received a gift that changed your life? Tell us about that.

Read Our Series Theme Verse **Galatians 5:25 (NLT)**

Living through the Spirit in many ways means carrying out the work of Jesus in our world. As followers of Christ, each of us is invited to partner with the Holy Spirit. One of the ways the Holy Spirit works through us is by giving us gifts that empower us to do the work we've been called to do. All these gifts are given for the sake of serving God, others, and the world.

- Tell us about someone you know who has gifts that have helped you or others.
- One way to think of walking in the Spirit is to think of living in a posture of continual surrender. In your own words, how would you define surrender?

Read **1 Corinthians 12:1 (MSG)**

Part of being led by the Holy Spirit involves utilizing our spiritual gifts from God. A quick overview of how the Holy Spirit works through us with gifts might look like this: Each follower of Christ has a unique blend of natural talents and spiritual gifts. First, there are the talents and abilities we were born with that we've honed in on through years of practice, experience, and so forth. Then, when we became a Christian, we were given a spiritual gift or gifts to help us do the work of God.

- Share 1-2 of your natural talents or abilities.
- How familiar are you with this idea of spiritual gifts?

Let's spend a few minutes reading through some of the scriptures that highlight spiritual gifts.

Read Romans 12:6-8 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV), and Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

- Most people who study the Bible believe these lists are not complete or exhaustive. There is likely not an infinite number of gifts God's Spirit give us. What are some other gifts you can think of or know God's Spirit gives that we didn't hear about in these verses? Feel free to reference spiritual gifts you have seen in yourself or others.

While it's important we are aware of spiritual gifts, the goal is that we are to truly awaken our spiritual gifts. Let's look at three ways we can be awake to our spiritual gifts:

1. Become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

(Content continued on the next page.)

Richard Rohr says, "We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness."

- This week when were you aware of the Holy Spirit?
- Look forward to the week ahead, what is one thing you can do to become more aware of God's presence?

2. Accept your assignment on the mission of God.

Every Christian is gifted by God to do His work of helping others find and follow Jesus. We have all been given gifts to serve the common good.

- How hard or easy is it for you to believe you have been gifted for a purpose?
- How have you seen your gifts serve others?

3. Start playing your part.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27

- Explain a time or way you have seen various Christians working together as one body.

Let's look at two ways we can learn to better cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

1. Desire His gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31 (NIV)

When it comes to gifts, it's important we remain focused on the gifts God has given us, not the gifts we think we want or the gifts we wish we had. This week we heard the idea that the most important gift is the one that is needed most at the moment. Desiring to be led by God in the area of our gifts will help lead us to our true self.

- Have you ever struggled with wanting a different set of giftings than the ones you had?
- How can we become more intentional about ensuring we are following God's desires more than our own?

2. Develop and use His gifts.

Read 1 Timothy 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6

- If you have grown in developing and using your gifts, tell us how that journey has gone.
- What keeps you from using your gifts most often?
- What is one step you can take this week or season to grow in developing and using your gifts?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31 again, but keep reading this time through the end of 1 Corinthians 13:

When it comes to the conversation about gifts, we never want to lose sight of loving being our highest pursuit.

- What would it look like to use our gifts and not care about being loving?
- Have you ever experienced someone using their gifts in unloving ways? Without sharing names, oversharing, or gossiping, tell us about that experience.
- In your own words, share how you see spiritual gifts and love working hand in hand.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The

guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.