<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Expectations</td>
<td>Isaiah 44:1-4 &amp; Joel 2:28-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Father's House</td>
<td>John 14:1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know the Father</td>
<td>John 14: 5-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask the Father</td>
<td>John 14:15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing Christ</td>
<td>John 14: 18-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful Hearts</td>
<td>John 14: 25-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowered Witnesses</td>
<td>15: 18—16:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Are Better Off</td>
<td>John 16:4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glorifying Jesus</td>
<td>John 16:12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped to Be Bold</td>
<td>Acts 4:1-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Poured Out</td>
<td>Acts 10:34-48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

christcentral.church/the-helper
Great Expectations – Isaiah 44:1-4 & Joel 2:28-29

As we start this study on The Helper, there are a few reactions. For some there is excitement, as spending time on the Holy Spirit is ‘where the party is’ for the Church. For others, this study is concerning and off-putting, worried about the weird and uncomfortable. For others, an eleven-week study makes no sense, because the topic of the Holy Spirit is surely not big enough to last that long. There are common caricatures of the Holy Spirit, as a magician at a kids’ party – amazing us with weird and wonderful things; or as a museum curator guiding us through, pointing out the beauty and wonder, but not really doing much Himself.

Q. What has been your view / understanding of the Holy Spirit? How has this been influenced?

Q. What is your reaction to an eleven-week study on the Holy Spirit?

A large part of ‘The Helper’ study is based in the Gospel of John, during the Upper Room discourse (chs. 14-16). As Jesus prepared for His crucifixion, He knew the important topics to share with His followers, and the subject He talked about most: The Holy Spirit. Not some entertaining magician, or quiet curator, but a powerful Helper – by whose power the day of Pentecost, global evangelism, the lasting Church, we see today. This is not a time for cynicism and unbelief. We need our expectation levels to abound because God has promised to rain his Spirit upon the barren lands. He has promised to glorify his Son among the nations!

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
What is this outpouring that Isaiah and Joel prophesied? Some would interpret this as the saving work of the Holy Spirit. It is only by the Holy Spirit that we can be saved. If this outpouring is about the saving work, what about those before? Is Old Testament salvation by being good, and New Testament by the Holy Spirit?

In John 3 we read about the interaction between Jesus and Nicodemus – a teacher of the law. Nicodemus doesn’t understand Jesus’ answer: “you must be born again by the Spirit”. Jesus’ response implies that this message isn’t new. A teacher of the law should know this: “Salvation never comes from works – faith always comes as a precious gift from God”. The idea of knowing God - and following Him – is by the Holy Spirit, is supported by Numbers 14:24, Numbers 27:18 and Psalm 51:11.

So, this does not suggest Isaiah and Joel are prophesying a new method of salvation through the Holy Spirit.

Q. Do you recognise the Holy Spirit at work in the Old Testament?

Isaiah’s Vision – the Life-Giving Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Read Isaiah 44:1-4
This is a parched barren land - a people who are desperately thirsty and not knowing where to turn for that thirst to be satisfied. Jeremiah 2:12-13 describes the nation of Israel – thirsty and needing God, but instead turning to man-made sources which cannot satisfy. There is a promise of something lavish, abundant, and yet the people do not turn to it? And the nations haven’t changed – they still lack something, and turn to feeble ‘muddy puddles’.
Q. Do you see our nation as a dry and barren? To what sources do people turn to ‘quench their thirst’?

Isaiah's picture is of a life-giving water. It is by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the nations will be changed. Romans 5:5 talks about a great love, the love of God, which has been poured out by the Holy Spirit. This is something far greater than being intellectually convinced. You can walk with God and intellectually know God loves you. The Holy Spirit brings an even more profound experience of love. Isaiah saw a time when God would come down and embrace His people in an unmistakable and delightful way.

Q. Have you had a profound experience of God’s love by the Holy Spirit? How did this affect you?

John the Baptist knew his baptism was only with water – yet the one to come after would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John 7:37-39 Jesus reminds His followers to come to Him when thirsty, and there would be such an overflow that streams of living water would pour out. These are the days, this is the time. Jesus invited us to ask, and described God: “how much more will your father in heaven send the Holy Spirit to those who ask”.

Q. How often do you ask for the Holy Spirit for yourself? …for ChristCentral? …for Portsmouth?

Joel’s Vision – Power for All
Read Joel 28-29 & Numbers 11:25-29

Compare the two accounts. In Numbers they started to prophesy and then it stopped. In Joel’s vision there is no stop. The is not an event we have to wait for. The Disciples waited, and then the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. God wants to speak to us – primarily through His Word, but not exclusively through His Word - and never in contradiction to His Word. If the last days commenced in Acts 2, day of Pentecost, don’t we have every right 2,000 years on to consider ourselves to be in the last days?

Q. How can our experiences affect our expectations of the Holy Spirit?

Q. What would a church - filled with the Holy Spirit like the Apostles at Pentecost – look like?
The Father’s House – John 14:1-4

If you want to know who the Holy Spirit is - and why Jesus was so eager to baptise His disciples with Him - then there is no better place in the Bible than these chapters in John. Some might say: “well I know the Holy Spirit, I know what He’s all about, I can tell you all kinds of stories of the things I’ve seen him do”. That's great, but how closely does the Holy Spirit you describe match the One Jesus describes here?

We aspire to be a Spirit-led church – what does that look like? This is the great discourse on the Holy Spirit – in Christ's own words He describes the person He's known for all eternity! If we want to know what The Helper is like – who the Holy Spirit is - then let's sit at the feet of the One who knows Him better than all others!

**Q. How can our experiences affect our understanding of the Holy Spirit? What are the dangers of this?**

**Read John 14:1-4**

**Troubled Hearts**
The atmosphere in the Upper Room would have been pretty sombre. Jesus is ready to be betrayed. He has just warned that even Peter would deny Him. Jesus Himself is moments away from experiencing the greatest agony and suffering of all time. Jesus’ attitude is not one of self-wallowing. Instead He is concerned for his friends. He discerns their thoughts and is mindful of their fears. He has told them He is about to die, and He tells them not to be troubled.

**Q. What things can lead our hearts to be troubled? What can attempt to take our attention from Jesus?**

‘Let not your hearts be troubled’ (verse 1a) – Jesus suggests that we have an element of control over our hearts. This would have been a difficult time in Jesus’ life, and the life of His disciples. Jesus had made a decision, and advised His followers to make the same decision. That same advice can be applied to our lives and the concerns that we face. We can choose to let our hearts be troubled or not.

**Q. What encouragement can we get from this verse, when faced with seemingly impossible tasks?**

‘Believe in God; believe also in me.’ (verse 1b) – This is not a suggestion, or request, but an order, that follows the request before. The implication is that troubled hearts are the consequence of unbelief. See Luke 8:50 and John 7:38. What you believe makes all the difference to how you live. If you believe the mountain spring is better than the muddy puddles, you will seek the mountain stream. Don’t be lured by the forbidden fruit. Instead believe in God, and believe also in Christ.

**Q. Why is there often a conflict between what we believe and how we live? How might we grow in our belief in Christ?**
A Place Prepared for You

‘In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?’ (verse 2)- Where do you feel at home? Can you think of ways that it can be improved? Mankind has been longing for a place where there is no pain, no suffering, no death and no sorrow. We once had this home in Eden, but this was lost and we have longed for it ever since. Jesus is preparing a place that would meet these desires – a return to the Garden of Eden (see Ezekiel 36:35).

This is not the first time Jesus has used the phrase, ‘My Father’s House’. Read Luke 2:46-49 and John 2:14-16. The temple represents the dwelling place of God and the focal point of Israel's worship. In the temple is the Holy of Holies, a tiny room separated by a thick curtain to prohibit people seeing and accessing God. The holy presence of God, His dwelling place, inaccessible and too holy for ordinary men and women like us to get near. Read Matt 27:50-51. Now the way has been opened – now the presence of God to be enjoyed by all!

Q. How does this ‘open door to God’ differ from the beliefs and understandings of others?

Jesus cried out with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit – and in that moment your place in the Father's House was prepared. Jesus is not preparing a room like a hotel maid, fluffing cushions. He agonised on the cross, and yielded His spirit in order to prepare a place for you. Now the place has been prepared and is available for us.

Q. How can we remind ourselves of the price paid for this gift? How does this affect our view of the gift?

Dwell with Christ

Verse 3 - Jesus now shows us how it is we come to enjoy our place in the Father's House. He will come again and will take us to Himself. Is He speaking here of His great return? Yes, there is an element of this, however there is something more imminent in mind. Jesus goes on to speak about The Helper - this passage is all about the Holy Spirit! The delightful truth is this: The Holy Spirit has been poured out into our hearts so that the dwelling place of God now is not in brick and mortar, but in the very hearts of men and women (see 2 Cor 6:16 and Eph 2:22). He has prepared your heart through his precious sacrifice to be the dwelling place of God. It is The Helper who comes to dwell in our hearts and who brings us to Jesus that we too may dwell with Him in the love of The Father!

Q. How can we respond to the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Q. What impact does a people, indwelt by God, have on the lives and communities around them?

Read Psalm 84
Know the Father – John 14:5-14

Read John 14:1-5
We continue this study, looking at the last words Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion. The last chapter looked at Jesus’ encouragement for the disciples, that He was going to prepare a place for them and they would follow Him. Thomas responds, on behalf of the others, “We do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” (John 14:5). The disciples had spent years walking with Jesus, seeing the miracles, signs and wonders, learning from Jesus’ teaching, listening to His parables – yet still they don’t appear to understand what Jesus is saying.

As we read on Jesus explains to His disciples who He is, and what this has all been leading to. The Holy Spirit has come to reveal God the Son that we might know God the Father. He is the Spirit who Reveals - and the Spirit who empowers - the way, the truth and the life.

Read John 14:6-14

The Way
The first thing Jesus highlights here is that He is the way to God. The disciples would have followed the Jewish traditions. They would have known the way to God through the temple. They would have understood the atoning work of sacrifices and the rituals of the priests that allows Israel to follow God. As we discussed last week, the Holy of Holies – the dwelling place of God – was separated from mankind by a thick curtain, which was torn in two. Goats for sacrifice and scapegoats took the punishment of sin so that Israel could come to God. Where Jesus says: “I am the way”, they would already think they know the way.

Q. What are the common ways your friends/family/colleagues pursue things only God can provide?

Q. Consider the two goats used in Jewish atonement – how is Jesus the fulfilment of these sacrifices?

Jesus is talking about a different way – the fulfilment of the promise in the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit comes to reveal that Jesus is the way, that nothing we can do could ever match the Holiness of God – but that Jesus has made the way for us. The Holy Spirit reveals our need for One without sin, to pay the price for our sin. Unlike the goat sacrificed in the temple, Jesus has defeated death and provides the way to the Father. Unlike the scapegoat who took our sins at one point, Jesus has removed our sin from us – once and for all. Jesus has dealt with the thing that has kept us apart from God – sin – so that through Him we can come to the Father.

Q. In what ways can we help people find the way to God through Jesus?

The Truth
The Spirit comes to make alive in us the truth of who God is, and of the truths that God has spoken over us. This is a difficult concept for many in today’s society. Many people today would argue that what is true for one group is not necessarily true for another group. Our understanding of God and our belief of what is true appears to be subjective. What you believe to be true will not change someone else’s hair colour, height or nationality. What we
believe about God will not change the truth of who He is. If we want to know the truth of who God is, we need to look at God, not our beliefs.

**Q. How do your friends/family/colleagues view God? What is this view based on?**

To know the truth of God we need to look at God Himself. God is the invisible God and we cannot see Him, but Jesus is “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15). To know God the Father, we look at God the Son. To know God the Son, we need God the Holy Spirit to reveal Him to us. “…the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.” (1 John 5:6). The Spirit will reveal the truth of all that God brings.

**Q. What challenges do we face when sharing truth, as revealed by the Holy Spirit?**

**Q. Our society rejects truth being imposed. How can we share the truth in an attractive way without compromising it?**

**Q. What truths has God revealed by the Holy Spirit and His Word that you need to hold onto?**

---

**The Life**

We have life as a gift given by God. Jesus doesn’t just have life, but is the life. Many people will try to give reasons for life, the meaning and purpose, but Jesus is the life and the meaning and purpose. In Him, our lives find their true meaning and purpose. If we pursue Jesus, lay down our lives for Him, we will lift our lives back up again.

**Q. What things do we rely on to give our lives meaning and purpose? How do they compare to Jesus?**

When the Spirit reveals in us to live for Christ, the Father is glorified. When we keep Jesus at the centre, as we follow Him in what He has called us to, we bring glory to the Father, empowered by the Spirit. If we give our lives – give our all – to anything else, it will fail. If we give our all to Christ, we will know the true meaning of life, and have eternal life with God. We are called to live lives empowered by God the Holy Spirit, to know God the Son, to glorify God the Father.

**Q. How would ChristCentral fulfilling its purpose – *enjoying God and glorifying Him* – affect the communities and lives around it?**

**Q. How does the Holy Spirit enable us to live this?**
Ask the Father – John 14:13-17

Read John 14:13-17

The Bible makes it clear God created us to know Him forever – eternally delighting in Him. The Holy Spirit begins a work in us from the moment we receive faith, to ever increasingly move in the direction of enjoying and glorifying God more in our lives. There will come a day when we will perfectly enjoy and glorify Him, free from all that would compete for our affection – an eternal state of unrivalled heavenly bliss. The Spirit’s work has begun, as we are prepared for our eternal state, making our lives today incredibly meaningful, knowing that in 200 years from now, none of today’s burdens will be troubling us.

Q. How often do you take time to think about eternity? What stops you/others from thinking about life beyond this present world?

This passage is full of promises as Jesus comforted his disciples, preparing them for the horrors they were about to witness. 4 promises to be fulfilled, firstly by Jesus (Vs 13-14 and 16): the disciples (Vs 15), and The Father– these are promises are true for you and I today, these words are alive for us today

**Promise 1. If You Ask Anything in My Name, I Will Do It (VS 13-14)**

Do you believe this is true? Do you believe, as a disciple of Jesus, that anything you ask for in his name, he will do? **It is impossible for God to lie** (Heb 6:18) We have all known times when we have prayed in His name and been left bitterly disappointed, when God didn’t do the thing we asked. But, these verses are not a formula to guarantee we get whatever we want/whenever we want. So what does it mean to ask ‘in my name’? Is it: because I have prayed in his name I have assumed His authority over my prayer request therefore it must happen?! No, you are bringing before the Father your request and submitting it under the authority of His Son, the appeal is to His authority, His blessing – it is to Jesus to ‘authorise’ the request. But then on what basis does the request get ‘approved’, is it a question of how earnestly we pray or how worthy the cause? Again, we know that can’t be true from personal experience. The big clue is found in **verse 13**. It isn’t simply that ‘justice may be done’ or that ‘suffering may go away’ or ‘life might get better’ but that ‘the father may be glorified’ – Jesus is guaranteeing His disciples that when they ask, he will do – that the Father may be glorified.

Q. How satisfactory do you find this reality, that it is God’s glory that matters to Him most?

Q. Do you recognise a tension in your spirit, knowing that God will always work for His glory even if that means not doing the particular ‘thing’ you have requested? Why do you think that tension exists?

Let’s be honest, wouldn’t prayer seem even more wonderful if you knew that every time you prayed God responded in precisely the way you requested? Wouldn’t that be amazing, if ultimately it was my will done on earth!

Q. Do you recognise in yourself a desire to ‘be God’ at times?
Don't forget the context – Jesus is hours from the cross, remember his prayer in the garden ‘if possible take this cup from me but not my will but yours be done’. Even Jesus understands the experience of not receiving the answer he wanted from God, for there was no other way but for The Son to suffer in our place.

**Q. Do you believe that God always gives us what we need even if he doesn’t always give us what we want? In what ways have you come to acknowledge this in your life?**

**Promise 2. – If you love me you will keep my commandments (Verse 15)**
The word for ‘keep’ can also mean ‘obey’ or ‘treasure’, love for Jesus is made evident by how we respond to his teaching. Those who don’t love him, simply won’t care about his words, but those who do, what we read in the Scripture matters massively! Look up John 13:34-35

**Q. Why do you think Jesus was so concerned by the love His disciples had for one another? How do we show our love for one another today?**

Our own self-centredness is overpowered by a greater affection, a more powerful love for Christ – such that his words/his instruction/his teaching are not only kept, but obeyed and not simply obeyed but treasured – the Word of God becomes our delight – we delight to do his will. Knowing this will affect how we pray.

**Promise 3. I will Ask The Father (Verse 16)**
Look up Romans 8:34 – Jesus is constantly interceding for us! Pursuing our best before the Father for His glory.

**Q. Do you ever think about the truth of Romans 8:34? How does knowing Jesus is praying for you make you feel about life?**

**Promise 4. He will give you another Helper (Verse 17)**
Another helper – Jesus is our helper too, but the HS comes to fill our hearts to dwell within us. He comes to burn onto our hearts the Word of God (Jeremiah 31:33). How do you pray like Jesus in the Garden? It's impossible without the Helper! Holy Spirit helps us to see that the Will of God is better than our own and leads to joy. He helps us to pray like Jesus ‘not my will be done by yours’, and with this comes the assurance that ‘whatever you ask in my name this I will do that the Father might be glorified through the Son’. We need to receive The Helper as we seek to enjoy God and glorify Him in all things.

**Q. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit by two names, ‘The Helper’ and ‘The Spirit of truth’ what do these names communicate to you?**
Seeing Christ – John 14:17-24

The Bible is both a book of magnificent revelation and profound mystery. In it we have all we need to know God, to understand our purpose as men and women on this earth – to discover how we can live full and abundant lives. These things have been fully revealed! We have many verses that tell us who God is: He is love, He is Holy, He is Just, He is True – He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit – He Saviour, He is Judge, He is merciful! And yet there is a sense in which we can never fully ‘know God’. In every page of Scripture there is revelation & mystery – isn’t this true also from our experience?

A Great Mystery
Why would God create a world that would reject Him? Why would God create men and women who would hate him, run from him, deny His existence? Why would an immaterial Spirit create a material world, and clothe himself with the very matter He created, to suffer more than any other? From all eternity past He existed in perfect happiness – and He designed and created this world, that would turn its back on Him. Not only did God agree to a plan that would lead to Golgotha – to the crucifixion on Christ. God designed this plan. Surely He would only write the cross into the story of Creation if there was something unimaginably, incomprehensibly wonderful achieved through it. In these verses, we catch a glimpse of the glory Christ has for us.

Q. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4) – How does this challenge the view of the Cross as a ‘back-up plan’?

To See God (verses 17-19)

Read John 14:17-19

Jesus speaks in parallel in these verses. Firstly of the Helper – the Holy Spirit. Then He speaks of Himself. The same thing applies to both the Holy Spirit and Himself: there are those who see, and those who don’t – those who know and those who don’t. There are many great gifts that come to us through the gospel – and this one comes repeatedly: “to see God”.

“Blessed [happy] are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5:8). This is not an instruction for perfection. Pure in heart are not those who have no faults, but the Old Testament uses this description for those who are free from idols, devoted to God. We can invert this verse to bring more understanding: “unhappy are the impure of heart for they cannot see God”. A heart compromised by idols, by the worship of anything other than God cannot see God. The purer the heart - the freer your affections are from the pollution of sin - the more enabled you are to see the beauty of God. We need to make room for something much bigger. Our hearts need to be dredged! The Holy Spirit will highlight these things in our hearts, convicting us of sin, idols, unforgiveness, for us to deal with. By confessing sin, removing idols and remembering the work of Christ, we can see God better.

Q. How can we be tempted to find happiness apart from God? How do these ‘idols’ try to replace Him?

Q. How can you realise the prompting of the Holy Spirit in revealing these ‘idols’ in our hearts?
Q. What can we do to respond to this conviction by the Holy Spirit, when our hearts need dredging?

Read Revelation 22:4, 1st John 3:2 and Psalm 27:4
There is a spiritual reality to seeing Christ, and a future physical reality to seeing Christ. Nothing can compare to the glory we can see in Christ. Seeing Him is so powerful that all who see Him become like Him in an instant. David’s one wish was to see the beauty of God – the more you have seen of God, the more you want of God. The world cannot see, and considers this folly. What we know as lavish worship, for the One who deserves so much more, the world considers senseless and foolish.

Q. How do your friends/family/colleagues react to your acts of worship and devotion?

Jesus has given us opportunity to ‘see Him’. But there is a great cost. Upon the cross, Jesus who had always known the presence of God, cried out “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”. Jesus promised not to leave us as orphans, but on the Cross He was orphaned – in order that we might become sons.

Q. How can we honour the sacrifice paid by Jesus - that we can become sons and know God?

To Know the Love of the Triune God (verses 20, 21 & 23)
Read John 14:20-24
Here again comes a great revelation and mystery – God went through with the plan, in order that we might know His love! For this is the true eternal reality – the love of God – the most ‘real’ thing there is. What was God ‘doing’ before He created - He was loving Father, Son and Spirit. The overflow of this love resulted in the creation – a creation that included the cross and resurrection - that the Church might enter into an everlasting embrace with God! The Spirit poured out into our hearts.

We have been welcomed in to the ‘Eternal Dance of Love’, incorporated into the beautiful movement between the Father, Son and Spirit. We catch a glimpse of it now, and will know it fully in glory.

Q. How does a church, knowing the eternal love displayed by God, affect the community it is in?
Peaceful Hearts – John 14:25-31

So far in this Study there have been many encouragements for us that Jesus said to His disciples. Jesus is preparing a place for us, opening a way to God the Father. Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit who inspires and empowers us to do great works, helps with our prayers, will be with us forever, help us obey God’s commandments, will live in us, so that we can know and spiritually see God – knowing the love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit as God lives in us. This chapter is full of encouragements, and this continues through these verses.

Read John 14:25-31

The Holy Spirit Reveals What is True (v26)

Q. Do you ever wonder what is true? How do your friends/family respond to Christian claims of truth?

Bible believing Christians hold onto the Bible as God’s Word. At ChristCentral, we hold on to the Bible as the God’s message to us – we treasure it and submit to it. How can we be sure the Bible is true? The Bible is not just true because it stands up to academic scrutiny (which it does). We know the Bible is true, because of the promise in this verse. The Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth - will teach us the truth, and He has inspired the Word of God.

When we read the Bible, how often do we pray for the Holy Spirit to teach us? When confronted with a difficult passage, there are a number of ‘good’ responses we can make. We can ask our leaders and friends for an explanation. We can search the internet to find other people’s opinions. We can read commentaries and learn from wise scholars. However, our first response should be to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to understand the truth.

Q. How do you allow and expect the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding when reading the Bible?

The Holy Spirit Brings Us Peace (v27)

Q. Do you ever suffer from anxiety? How do you respond when troubles are bigger than you can manage?

We live in a world full of trials and struggles. We need peace in our lives – as do those around us. Jesus, by His Holy Spirit, brings peace. When Jesus says He gives us His peace, this is a peace that is declared, and a peace that is felt and experienced.

The Bible speaks of enemies of God, and we were once enemies. However, there is a promise for all that believe in Jesus, that they are reconciled to God. There is peace announced for all those who believe that the war - the enmity between us and God – has gone. This peace isn't just announced by Jesus, but is given to us by the Holy Spirit – that we can know and experience this peace. The Holy Spirit takes what Jesus has achieved, and applies it to us – the peace Jesus achieved on the Cross, the Holy Spirit brings into our lives that we can feel at peace with God.

Jesus always knew the peace of knowing His loving Father. Jesus heart was not troubled by things of this world, because He knew that God - the Father in Heaven – was looking out for
Him. Through the work on the Cross, we can know this same loving Father in Heaven. We can rest assured that He will look out for us and care for us. Our hearts do not need to be troubled by things of this world – as we know God is in control.

Q. How does our relationship with God, and the peace that follows, set us apart from those around us?

The Holy Spirit Gives Us Reason to Rejoice (v28)

Q. Do you struggle with unhappiness? Where do you find happiness, and how do you cope when it goes?

Jesus has just told His disciples He is leaving them. The disciples must have been heartbroken hearing that Jesus - their closest friend, leader, Messiah – was leaving them. Jesus’ response was that the disciples should rejoice – for He is going to the Father who is greater. How is God the Father greater than God the Son (as both are God)? How does this affect our joy? There are two ways to understand this.

As Jesus is speaking these words, He is on the earth, accomplishing His mission. However, God the Father is seated in Heaven, surrounded by splendour. Paul echoed this sentiment, that he would prefer to be with Christ in glory. We can rejoice, because Jesus is getting to join His Father in glory.

Another way to look at this verse relates to the difference between the Father and Son. The Father does not have more power or authority (as Jesus has all power and authority). Yet the Father gives commands, while Jesus acts them out. The Father has laid out a plan that Jesus is following, and we can rejoice as Jesus returns to His Father, because we know the next step is that the Holy Spirit is poured out.

Q. How do these reasons to rejoice affect how we see the trials and suffering around us?

The Holy Spirit Grows Our Faith in God (vs29-31)

Q. Do you ever find trust difficult? What situations do you struggle to believe God is controlling?

When we go through tough times, it is easy to believe God has lost control. However, these verses make clear that God is still in control. God was in control throughout the whole ordeal of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion. While it can appear the ruler of this world has taken charge, the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is working something through our struggles and the Holy Spirit is growing our faith.

Q. How has the Holy Spirit used times of trial and difficulty to deepen your faith in God?
Empowered Witnesses – John 15:18 - 16:4

Jesus is now just a couple of hours away from His arrest and crucifixion. Soon He will suffer agony on the cross. Following Christ’s death, resurrection and ascension into Heaven, Jesus has chosen His disciples to reach the whole world with His Gospel. For them to be prepared, for them to achieve this task, Jesus is using this Upper Room Discourse to motivate and equip His disciples - so that they would be ready for their next mission.

Read John 15:18 - 16:4

Jesus began this discourse with ‘do not be afraid’. If they were feeling anxious, imagine their response to what he says here. ‘The world hates you/they will persecute you’ - not might, but will. ‘The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God’ – ‘whoever kills you’ not ‘people may try to kill you’. How would you feel upon hearing this? How would you feel as Jesus is dragged away by soldiers to suffer a gruesome death?

The disciples had a plan – a revolution that had been promised. Jesus would be the Messiah, the Christ, God’s chosen king. Like King David, the disciples expected to be mighty men of the new King Jesus – alongside Him in the spotlight. Jesus would restore Israel, and reign with His disciples beside Him. This plan appeared to be biblical, required faith and a miracle. Yet suddenly, instead of a great glorified king, they get a crucified leader. Instead of a revolution, they are promised persecution.

Q. What would go through your mind if you were in the disciples’ position? How would you respond?

Persecution Without Power = Denial

Read Mark 14:50, Matt 26:56 and Luke 22:54-62

The disciples ran. Fear of persecution drove them into hiding. This is a very stark example for us. You can walk closely with Jesus and yet be totally flummoxed to the point of even denying Him on the basis of what appears to be failure. A weak faith, which is what the disciples had at this point, will exist relatively well as long as life is working out - but it is unlikely to withstand during the day of trial and trouble.

Too many Christians today resemble the disciples in the immediate aftermath of the cross: afraid, defeated, hiding and mute – mortified by the thought that their Christianity might be uncovered. Many nominal Christians may be just about willing to admit they go to church but a million miles from confessing out and out devotion to Jesus Christ. Many ‘Christians’ in the church in the West aren't prepared to give their money let alone their lives – nominal Christianity will burn like straw when it encounters the fires of persecution. We have brothers and sisters around the world today, who are losing their lives on account of their unbreakable devotion to Christ. Without The Helper we're all powerless to be witnesses. Holy Spirit empowered faith will be like gold, refined in the furnace shown to be precious and real.

Q. What challenges do Christians face today? Where can we be tempted to hide or deny God’s word?

Q. How can fear and guilt weaken our witness and conviction of the gospel?

Persecution With Power = Witness

What a transformation. In the space of a few weeks, Peter goes from denying he even knew Jesus to preaching in front of thousands, standing up to the authorities. The baptism of the Holy Spirit performed a miracle – an undeniable change in the heart of Peter, and the other disciples.

Q. How do you imagine and understand the ‘power’ that the Holy Spirit brings to the disciples (Acts 1:8)?

What is this ‘power to witness’? Let's not suddenly lose everything Jesus has been teaching already in this discourse, and call the 'power' something other than what he's been emphasising: dwelling in His house, knowing his love, knowing his peace. This is the power to witness, because all of these things help us overcome 'fear of man' that is rooted in insecurity. The Spirit affirms our identity as 'sons of god' and our purpose to 'bear witness'. Too often in the charismatic tradition, we have linked power automatically to 'signs and wonders' and so we make witnessing about those things, and if we aren't doing those things then we can't properly be witnesses. That is wrong and in contradiction to what Jesus is teaching. Read Romans 5:3-5

Q. How is our faith and witness affected the more we are convinced in our heads and hearts of God's love for us?

I think it’s so important that we grasp hold of precisely what it is Jesus says His disciples will become upon receiving the Helper – He brings power, not to be his ‘healers’, ‘preachers’ or ‘miracle workers’ - but to be His ‘witnesses’. A witness who has seen and known the love and God and will tell others. The most effective witnesses, are not those ‘workers of wonders’ but men and women whose hearts are overflowing with the love of God and love for God.

Let us not pretend that we live in a society today that is warm to the gospel. Secularism is the religion of the West – and the Word of God is rejected and mocked. You may not be burned at the stake for preaching the gospel, but hatred of Jesus and His words remains just as hot today as ever it did. For Christians, there is no alternative. The disciples were called to be witnesses, this is no ‘private faith’. If you claim Christ as your Saviour, He claims you as His witness. To do that you need The Helper - we are hopeless without Him.

Q. How can we try to disqualify ourselves from witnessing? What stops us from sharing the gospel?

Q. How can we take a bold stand as witness of the gospel, like the Christian Reformation example 500 years ago?

Q. How do we show the love of God to our friends and family? How does God's love encourage us to be bold?
We Are Better Off – John 16:4 - 11

We are approaching the end of the study, looking at the person of, and the work of, the Holy Spirit. Looking at John's account, we have been reading as Jesus has talked about the Holy Spirit, giving us insight on what He shares is important for His disciples to know as Jesus is approaching the crucifixion. Jesus has covered what to expect and what to look forward to when the Helper comes. The Holy Spirit has come to reveal who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit comes so that we would know the love of the Father. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we know the peace of God.

Read John 16:4 - 11

Jesus is telling His disciples that He is leaving them. The disciples are grappling with this information: the one that they have followed - left everything for - is leaving them. He is going back to the Father, and leaving them behind. But Jesus doesn't leave it there. Jesus is going, but it is better, because the Holy Spirit will come (John 16:7). Jesus is sending Him, so that we can know the presence of God, the Holy Spirit in us.

Driven Out From His Presence

Read Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 3:2, and Genesis 3:24

From the beginning of the Bible, the beginning of creation, we see God in perfect unity. The three persons of the Trinity working together in perfect relationship. Through creation, God created man and woman in His image, in His likeness, to live in His presence. Adam and Eve talked with God and lived in His presence. But man and woman did the one thing God has said not to do, and immediately hid from Him. Sin comes in and man flees from God's presence. God drove man out from His presence, out from the Garden. Because of Sin, God's presence was no longer available.

Q. How can our friends and family attempt to fill the void left by our intended purpose in God's presence?

His Presence Dwelling With Us

Read Exodus 33:15-16

Man's sin in the Garden of Eden didn't take God by surprise. He was not caught of guard. Instead He had chosen a people. The story continues, and God is calling a people to live in His presence. In Exodus, we read of the Israelites who are living with the presence of God. The presence of God is so important that Moses refused to go anywhere, unless the presence of God moved with them.

Different groups have different things that identify them. Different traditions, different behaviours, different histories. How are we distinguished from anything else? For the Israelites, the thing that distinguished them was the presence of God. The presence of God is how they would know the Israelites, and so they would not do anything without the presence of God. As the Old Testament continues, we see a people setting up around the temple. A building where the presence of God dwells with His people. There are stories after stories of God meeting with His people, the Spirit enabling them to follow His purposes. The Israelites were a people who dwelt with God.
Q. How are we identified by our friends and family? How are we distinguished from the world around us?

Q. What impact does the presence of God have on people’s view of us? How does this affect what we share?

His Presence Dwelling In us

Read Joel 2:28

Moses had the right idea. The identity of the people of God would be the dwelling of God. However, they had not seen the fulfilment. The dwelling of God had been limited to the tabernacle, to the temple, and with one or two individuals. Joel speaks of a time when the Spirit will be poured out on all people. There is something more coming, where we won’t need to come to the temple, and wait outside. Jesus is encouraging His disciples, that there is a restoration. Where man had caused separation between us and God, Jesus was going to the Father, and sending the Spirit to dwell in us, that we become the temple. We become a people that take the presence of God in us - not just carrying it with us, not just having the temple to go to - a people identified by the Spirit of God in us.

Read 1 John 3:24

It’s easy to talk about the love of God. It’s easy to discuss the peace of God. However, the presence of God is a step further. It can be difficult to meet someone face to face, because there is no-where to hide. Yet we are called into God’s presence. We are exposed and He can see it all when we come into His presence – but we do not need to fear, because of all that Jesus has done. Through the work on the cross, our sins have been removed. We have exchanged our sin for the righteousness of Jesus through His death and resurrection. We do not need to worry about facing God, because of what Jesus has done. So, we can be in the presence of God, with the Holy Spirit, the presence of God, dwelling in us.

Q. How can we be tempted to hide from God? How can we remind ourselves to enter boldly into His presence?

When the Spirit comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement (John 16:8). A life lived in the presence of God looks like Isaiah’s encounter with God (Isa 6:1-7). We are not perfect, but our sin has been atoned for. The weight of punishment has been paid. His presence lives in us, because we know Jesus’ righteousness, and His rule is above the ruler of this world. Jesus has judged, and is seated high above the ruler of this world (John 16:11).

Q. How does our response to sin affect our behaviour? How does it change our response to others’ actions?

Q. How can the presence of God be seen through what we do? How are we identified by the Holy Spirit?

Read Psalm 84
Glorifying Jesus – John 16:12-15

One of the common mistakes often made in relation to the Holy Spirit is to make aspects of His ministry in our lives an end in and of themselves. We have established that the Holy Spirit pours out the love of God into our hearts and shares the peace of God with us. The Holy Spirit gives us power to be witnesses. We know that He has gifts to give us - He is the one who can bring healing to our bodies and minds, He is the one who can reveal to us the heart of God through prophecy and words of knowledge. However, these things are not the appointed end, or destination of His ministry. In fact, we can be at risk of making ‘god’ out of God’s gifts. All these things are wonderful and appointed by Him but they are given for a greater more wonderful end.

Read John 16:12-15

Remembering the sacrifice made by family members during war time, people look at medals. To place greater value on the metal and ribbon which makes these medals, than the story they are there to tell, would seem incredibly shallow. We can do this with God’s gifts. We can do this with the ministry of the Holy Spirit when we place more emphasis on the things He gives us then who He is. The chief end and goal of the Helper’s ministry among us isn’t that we should ‘feel loved’ or ‘heal the sick’ but that ‘Christ might be glorified’. The focus of this sermon, passage and the whole purpose of God in creation: The Helper comes into our hearts to guide us into truth that always results in the Christ being glorified.

Q. How can Christians and churches be at risk of promoting the gifts of God above what they point to?

The Holy Spirit Narrates The Gospel Story (vs 12-13)

Jesus starts this passage, fully aware that the disciples were unable to grasp the fullness of His teaching (v12). Jesus has been giving some rich teaching, and great guidance to His disciples. At this moment, Jesus wants to share so much more, but He knows they would not be able to handle it. However, the ‘many things’ that Jesus is keen to share don’t get lost or forgotten, but would be taught to them by the Holy Spirit (v13). The New Testament exists because the Holy Spirit has guided and taught the writers of scripture.

Q. How can our interpretation of events be affected by our situation and personal state of mind?

Q. What are the dangers of relying on our own understanding of events?

We need the Holy Spirit to fully understand all that Jesus has done and all that His death and resurrection means for us. There is a story that needs to be told, and the Holy Spirit is telling that story. Like military medals, God’s gifts have a story behind them – and the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards the deeper story.

The Helper declares to us the astonishing things which Christ has done - it’s not simply that your sins are forever forgiven, that God is for you, that you have everlasting life – those are the medals. He declares to you the heroism of our great Jesus. He takes us by the hand and leads us to see one marvel after the other: Jesus lived a perfect life for you, He was punished for you, He was judged in your place, all the anger the Holy One has towards evil -
all done to you and by you - He suffered that for you. The Holy Spirit declares these things to us. It is the Spirit of God that gives us the answers and reasons for our hope and peace (Luke 12:12). When we are asked the questions, 'Why are you a Christian?', 'Why do you believe Jesus is God?', 'Where does your peace come from?', 'Where does your joy come from?' - that's when, guided by the Spirit, you speak what you have heard from Him.

Q. How do you respond when confronted by these questions?

Q. How can we remind ourselves to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit Will Glorify Jesus (v14)

If no story is told, and the medals simply gather dust, something incredibly special and valuable is lost. How ridiculous would it be if someone else took credit for these medals and made no reference whatsoever to the person who won them. As you tell of the peace you have, the various gifts you have received by the Holy Spirit you are bringing attention and glory to Jesus. All of God's gifts come to us that Jesus might be glorified (v14).

The overwhelming preoccupation of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus. He authors scripture to glorify Jesus, He narrates the truth of God's word into our hearts to glorify Jesus. He gives gifts to His church to glorify Jesus. The greatest evidence of a church filled with the Spirit of God is that Jesus is glorified. What does a 'Spirit-Filled Church' look like? Where Jesus is being glorified, in conversation, in song, in word and in deed. Attention is driven to Jesus.

Q. How are we using the gifts God has given each of us to glorify Jesus?

If the Holy Spirit is active and at work in your life, in this church, then He will be drawing our attention to Jesus the whole time. This is another stunning passage that depicts to us the Trinitarian nature of God, that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit distinct persons, who have distinct roles. Fully God, fully equal and happy, a picture of what our relationships could become. Jesus secured the Father's Love for us which is pinned to our chest by the Helper (v15) – so that you and I might, with the Helper, glorify Jesus together.

Q. In what ways has the Holy Spirit glorified Jesus in your life?

Q. How do your stories of the work of the Holy Spirit draw attention to Jesus? How is He glorified?
Helped to Be Bold – Acts 4:1-22

This passage a wonderful piece of Biblical narrative. It’s easy to follow, but rich - for where Jesus teaching in John 14-16 was in a sense quite theoretical - no theology is of any value unless it is applied. Theology and understanding of God applied in our lives - affecting how we worship, affecting how we treat others, affecting how we work – is powerful. Here we have the application of the upper room discourse in the life of Peter and we see, worked out practically, all the things Jesus had promised them – and what He has promised us.

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray – as they always did – surrounded by fellow Jews. They are continuing their traditions and routines. They pass a lame beggar, who would have been ignored by thousands of people. Peter turned and looked him in the eye and spoke to him (Acts 3:9-10). What might have been an act of mechanical charity - throwing some coins - became a personal encounter. This man was humanised as Peter and John showed compassion – the compassion Jesus showed, caring for the marginalised.

They followed the example of Jesus as instructed in John 14:12. This was an ‘ordinary’ situation but became ‘extraordinary’ on account of faith.

Q. What opportunities do we have in our lives, where we can show compassion in an extraordinary way?

The Gospel is Offensive – Challenging the ‘Status Quo’ (vs 1-7)

The teachers of the temple are left bemused. The Sadducees were waiting for the people to arrive, and discover Peter and John teaching the people (v2). They were greatly disturbed, because this was their job. They determined what was right and what was wrong on behalf of the Jewish people. Here we have a fisherman teaching the crowds about Jesus, and His resurrection.

People heard the message and believed (v4). This account doesn't tell of thousands believing because they saw the miracle – but because they have heard this message. The miracle had gathered a crowd – it had brought people to a place to hear the message, but it needed the message to be shared. In our lives, there are many ‘miracles’ that bring people to a place ready to hear: a peaceful response to stressful situations; being happy with life; not getting drunk on nights out; choosing not to have sex before marriage. These things lead people to a place that they want to hear – wanting to know the reason behind your actions. Our lives should lead people to ask - to be ready to hear – why we live differently.

Q. How can we use our everyday actions to glorify Jesus? How can our lives lead people to Jesus?

Peter and John find themselves before the Jewish authorities (v7). The teachers of the law are anxious to establish Peter and John as frauds and heretics – to disempower their ministry. Peter and John are faced with a decision: to survive or to glorify Jesus? It's one thing to share your faith with a stranger who has little power or influence in your life, it’s quite another when it's someone in power and influence: a boss; a parent; the popular kid in the classroom.

Q. What challenges do we face when sharing the gospel – particularly with those in authority over us?
Filled with the Holy Spirit (vs 8-11)
Luke is meticulous with his detail. The fact that Luke describes Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit at this moment (v8) – is a description that suggests there are degrees of filling. The Holy Spirit is for all Christians. Peter who was present at Pentecost was filled with the Holy Spirit, and is once again described here as being filled – to enable and empower him for the task at hand. Being filled with the Holy Spirit leads to transformed communities. if you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit then know that His agenda isn't your comfort, but Christ's glory. He will lead you to repentance. He will lead you into holiness. He will work through you to see sick lives healed. He will send you to be a Witness - to bring hope and share truth. All so Jesus will be glorified through you.

Q. How often do you ask for the Holy Spirit to fill you? How can we be tempted to rely on previous encounters?

Q. How do you allow the Holy Spirit to transform your community? What do you need His help with now?

When asked for an explanation of the miracle, Peter's response is the Gospel (v10). He tells the story of Jesus, that it is through His death and resurrection this man was healed. The miracle, the signs and wonders, are there to lead to the gospel. He leads the Sadducees to the truth (v11) through their own scriptures (Psalm 118:22).

Q. How does your transformed life lead people to God? How can we ensure our friends/family hear the gospel?

Which is right? (vs 12-22)
By no other name can people be saved (v12). The idea behind this was prevalent in Roman society, and is prevalent today: ‘all religions, if practiced faithfully, can lead to God - no-one can claim exclusivity'. Yet Christianity says that it is only through Jesus. Peter is only repeating what Jesus Himself claimed.

Q. How can we ensure the gospel is shared, when society seeks to promote ‘tolerance’ of all?

They were amazed at their courage (v13) – these were ‘ordinary’ guys. Never limit your potential as a witness for Jesus on account of ‘education’ or ‘intellect’ – Jesus takes a fisherman and makes Him a theologian and preacher. They had been with Jesus and this was clear for the Sadducees.

Q. How can we disqualify ourselves from being Jesus’ witnesses? How can we be encouraged by Peter and John?

Who do you listen to on right and wrong? Where do you take your instruction from? For the disciples it was clear (v20). They had their orders from Christ, and they would not stop from preaching the message of Christ. When you've met the risen Jesus you've just got to tell the world about Him.

Q. How has your life been transformed by Jesus? How can you share this message with friends/family?
As we finish the study ‘The Helper’, we are looking at the moment the Holy Spirit was poured – launching the whole mission of God, enabling us to meet together and worship God. In Acts 10 we meet Cornelius, a devout and God-fearing man. Cornelius was a Roman Centurion, but despite being a Gentile - not of Jewish descent – he still followed Jewish practices. While praying at three in the afternoon (standard Jewish prayer time) he saw a vision: an angel of God who told him to send for Peter. As Cornelius’ servants were approaching, Peter also has a vision sent from God. I Peter’s vision, God instructs Peter to eat food – animals which Jewish law prohibited, and that Peter would never eat as it was declared ‘unclean’. A voice responds: “Do not call impure anything that God has made clean" (Acts 10:15).

Following this vision, Peter was instructed by the Holy Spirit to go with the men who were asking for him. In Jewish custom, there are strict rules on who you would associate with, and people to avoid. As a Roman Centurion, Cornelius was not only a Gentile who should not be associate with, but he also represented the oppressive Roman regime, which was holding the Jewish nation down. However, prompted by the Holy Spirit, Peter went with the men and not only associated with him, but went into his house. This is where Peter delivers this message – one that opens the mission of God beyond just the Jewish people, to all men and women.

Q. What rules and traditions can we be tempted to follow, which exclude others from our mission?

The Whole World Is Invited To Receive Peace With God, Without Distinction

Read Acts 10:34-43

Cornelius was a God-fearing man, but he was still an outsider. Cornelius was not a convert to Judaism – from an uncircumcised household. He was a good man – praying to God, giving generously to those in need – but this was not enough. He still needed to hear the message Peter had. No matter how devout Cornelius was, an angel still sent him to Peter to hear about Jesus.

This message has been given to us today. Believing in the work of Christ is all that can bring us to peace with God. There are no good works we can do that will achieve this. This message of grace is available for all. It is easy to feel like an outsider, where our past, our actions and our mistakes try to disqualify us from the message of grace. As Christians, we can disqualify others – without realising – believing them to be beyond God’s reach. The person who seems to have everything together. The person that is living a life so far from God. We put this distinction on people, but God doesn’t.

Q. How can we disqualify ourselves from the grace God has provided?

Q. Who do you consider an unlikely recipient of the Gospel? Who do we treat as ‘too far from God’s reach’?
The Holy Spirit Comes To All Who Believe The Word Of God, Without Exclusion

Read Acts 10:44-46
While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit was poured out. Peter hadn’t finished. He hadn’t told them all the things they needed to correct. There had been no teaching on ‘the prayer’. There had been no special altar call. Instead, all the Holy Spirit required was belief. When the household believed, the Holy Spirit poured out. This was the fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy (Joel 2:28-29). The Spirit had been poured out on all people, not just the Israelites – but on all people.

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on all believers. When you become a Christian, when you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. It is only by the Holy Spirit that we can accept Jesus. It is only by the Spirit that we declare Jesus is Lord. Evidence of the Holy Spirit is not in miracles and signs, in tongues or prophetic words - evidence of the Him is in the lives of all who believe. He is not a casual visitor, that appears occasionally in our church services, our devotions and an occasional encounter. He is our constant companion.

Q. What has been your experience of the Holy Spirit? How do you expect the Holy Spirit to appear?

Q. How can our experiences affect our belief in the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives?

The Transforming Power Of The Spirit, Exists To Further The Mission Of God, Without Containment

Read Acts 10:47-48
Like a hidden battery, the Holy Spirit is not necessarily visible. However, like a battery, you can check whether it is there, by seeing it complete its purpose. Only when a phone has a battery, will the phone accomplish its purpose. Only with the Holy Spirit can we achieve our mission. Unless we try to use the phone, we will not know if the battery is there or not. Simply looking at ourselves we may not see the Holy Spirit, but it is only by the Him that we can complete our purpose - to see lives and communities transformed.

When Peter saw the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of the Gentile household it worked to convince Peter of the work of God in this situation. The Spirit is given for a purpose: to glorify Christ – to bring glory to God. We often expect the Holy Spirit to prove Himself to us – to encourage us, to bring reason for us to attend church or even to calm our own doubts – almost using the Holy Spirit as a quick fix solution for our own lives. Rather than relying on the Holy Spirit to confirm our purpose, we should rely on the Holy Spirit to complete our purpose. It is by the Great Commandment and Great Commission that we – by the Holy Spirit – are able to glorify Christ. There are many different gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many ways that the Holy Spirit moves. However, His purpose is to complete the mission of the Church.

Q. How are we achieving the mission of the Church, the Great Commandment and Great Commission?

Q. How would a church, working together by the Holy Spirit, affect the lives in and around it?