

Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit Part 5

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Review

Encountering Father, Son, Spirit. No mere head knowledge, personal experience! Encountering the Holy Spirit — He — not it — Person, power, priority, purpose. He is our Advantage!

- **John 16:7**
Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
- **Non-negotiable** — commanded to wait, priority of early church to make much of the Holy Spirit

Last Sunday — Hearing the Spirit's Voice, 9:00 am preached; 11:11 demonstrated hearing His voice and *obeying* what He's saying, *challenging, change of direction*.

Obeying the Voice of the Spirit — super practical, demystify hearing/obeying

- **Acts 13:1-12**
Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant. Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.
- **Quench** — extinguish, wet blanket on the fire, *not* to co-operate with Him.
 - Do not quench the Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:19** *You miss out on supernatural encounters!*
- **Grieve** — cause grief, make sad and sorrowful. By doing what He says NOT to do.
 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. **Ephesians 4:30** *You work against His will.*

**Quenching is Not doing what He says to do —
Grieving is doing what He says Not to.**

- **Obey** — Spirit spoke to separate and send, they heard and obeyed, there was a work for them to do. No different than Pastor Ian hearing and obeying to bus kids in from Fairview for Wednesday night youth ministry; no different than us hearing and obeying to send Pastor Ian to Fairview!

Three Things to Expect when You Obey the Spirit's Voice

1. Devilish Opposition — know it, settle it, don't be surprised by it, or fear it. *It has many faces!*

- **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**
We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed
 - **2 Corinthians 12:7** — messenger of Satan sent to beat him up
- **Bar-Jesus withstood** — opposed Paul and tried to turn Proconsul Sergius Paulus from hearing the gospel.
- **Jesus** — faced opposition of all kinds — religious leaders, own family, the devil
 - **Luke 4:13**
Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.
 - Opposition through temptation to disqualify Jesus' mission
- **Us**
 - **1 Timothy 4:1**
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

Listen — The Spirit explicitly says seducing spirits will be speaking demonic doctrines to turn people away from the faith. Hyper-Grace, Universalism, Pro-LGBTQ+ community, etc.

Friends — *you have to make your mind up BEFORE the opposition comes — that you are going to hear and obey no matter what!*

- **1 John 4:4**
You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- **Philippians 4:13**
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- **2 Corinthians 2:14**
Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

**When I hear and obey the Spirit's voice,
I know opposition comes,
not surprised, scared, not backing down,
I've got the victory in Christ Jesus!**

2. God's Confirmation — listening for still small voice of confirmation and approval. I'm looking for His power and favor, signs and wonders to confirm I'm on the right track!

- God confirmed Paul's hearing and obeying with spiritual power and success in ministry. The opposition was judged and blinded, Paul was blessed and used by God.

- Pastor Steve says, “I can’t tell you how important God’s confirmation has been over last 30 years.”
- **Jesus**
 - **Acts 2:22**
Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
- **Us**
 - **Mark 16:20**
And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

**When you hear and obey the Spirit,
opposition rages —
look for God’s confirmation that you are on the right track —
it’s there.**

3. Kingdom Expansion — when you hear and obey, God’s kingdom will be expanded *in* you and *through* you — absolutely no question about it!

- Proconsul Sergius Paulis believes the gospel. Pagan Roman political leader says yes to Jesus Christ.
- they heard and obeyed to send Paul and Barnabas,
they endured the opposition,
God confirmed their work,
God’s kingdom was expanded.

Close

Have you thought about us sitting on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, who have heard and obeyed, who overcame opposition, who encountered God’s confirmation, and **now we are the expanded Kingdom they labored for!**

Now it’s our turn to hear and obey, to overcome opposition, to encounter God’s confirmation and labor for an expanded Kingdom. We have people to reach. They are worth it, they are loved by God, there is a message of hope to share, there is a kingdom that needs expanding.

**Seeing that Kingdom expanded
is worth any temporary price I have to pay for their eternal salvation.
Let’s hear and obey, not quench or grieve, not quit and give up
Let’s watch God reach people through us, by His Spirit, for His glory!**

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between *quenching* and *grieving* the Holy Spirit?
2. Are you aware of a time that you have done either?
3. What devilish opposition have you faced when you have obeyed the Spirit’s voice?
4. How did the Holy Spirit help you overcome in that situation?
5. How can God confirm that you have heard His voice, and that you are on the right track?
6. Share a time when God’s kingdom has been expanded through you.

NOTES