

The Friend
Pastor Dave Patterson
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions,
but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

~~Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.~~

Acts 2:38 (NLT)

*Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and **turn to God**, and **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**."*

Acts 8:14-17 (NLT)

*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, **they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John **laid their hands upon these believers**, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 19:1-2

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where **he found several believers**. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them.*

"No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Galatians 5:19-24 (TPT)

The cravings of the self-life are obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of

yourself, being in love with your own opinions, being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior.

Haven't I already warned you that those who use their "freedom" for these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God!

*But **the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit** within you is divine **love** in all its varied expressions:*

joy that overflows,

peace that subdues,

patience that endures,

kindness in action,

a life full of virtue,

faith that prevails,

gentleness of heart, and

strength of spirit.

John 16:5-7 (TPT)

*I'm about to leave you and go back to join the One who sent me, yet not one of you are asking me where I'm going. Instead your hearts are filled with sadness because I've told you these things. But here's the truth: **It's to your advantage that I go away**, for if I don't go away the Divine Encourager will not be released to you. But after I depart, **I will send him to you.***

Three Advantages of the Holy Spirit

1. He's a friend that never leaves and never fails.

- **John 14:16-17**

*¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and **be with you forever**—*

2. He's the guide to truth and the future. Simultaneously, He'll lead us around deception.

- **John 16:12-13 (NLT)**

*"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, **He will guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. **He will tell you about the future.***

3. He's the voice, within the Bible and my life.

- **1 Samuel 3:2-5 (NIV)**

One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. ⁴ Suddenly the LORD called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" ⁵ He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

3 Ways to Hear God's Voice

1. Stay near the Presence
2. Lay down and wait
3. Give God your "Yes" in advance

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Briefly describe the past teaching you've had on the person of the Holy Spirit. Is this a new area for you, somewhat new, or a topic you're very familiar with?
2. Read John 16:5-7 together. Discuss why it was to their advantage for Jesus to go away and the Holy Spirit to be given. What are some of the purposes (advantages) of the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Galatians 5:19-24. The best version of "you" is you filled with the Holy Spirit. How can we heighten our relationship with Holy Spirit so it stays fresh and alive? Why do we need to be "continually filled" with the Holy Spirit? How do we leak?
4. The Holy Spirit has a voice, He speaks, and one word can change your life. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit speaking to you? How do we better tune our ears to His voice? What things block His voice from our lives?
5. Review and discuss the three application points for hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit: Stay near the Presence; lay down and wait; and give God your "yes" in advance. Which these is easiest for you? Which one do you desire to grow in? Pray for one another regarding these steps.