



03 Partner with the Holy Spirit

WEEK 3

OVERVIEW

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses.” (Acts 1:8)

Many Christians feel intimidated by the idea of witness because they assume it is their responsibility to convince people about Jesus.

But Scripture paints a different picture.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit Himself would bear witness about Him (John 15:26). This means that God is already at work in the lives of the people around us. Our role is not to force spiritual conversations, but to learn how to recognize where the Spirit is moving and partner with Him.

In Acts 8, Philip’s encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch gives us a beautiful picture of Spirit-led witness. Philip listens to God’s direction, notices where God is working, asks thoughtful questions, and takes courageous risks.

This week, we practice slowing down, paying attention, and becoming more available to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 3

TEACHING

If you missed the sermon, please watch it on Youtube or our mobile app. The title is "Can I Get A Witness ? - Partnering with the Holy Spirit" from May 10, 2026.

Summary of teaching

- Our practice of witness is often built on a false assumption that we need to bring God to people.
- When we realize God is already at work in all people, our job becomes slowing down and seeing where the Father is already at work, so we can join in.
- From the story of Philip witnessing to Ethiopian eunuch, we see four movements:
 - **Listen:** Spending time listening for God's voice and direction.
 - **Look:** Paying attention and inviting God to give us his eyes for others.
 - **Ask:** Asking a question to start or move the conversation deeper.
 - **Risk:** Taking a step of faith to participate in what God is doing in another's life.
- As we depend on the person of the Holy Spirit, our witness may take the form of words, or even signs and wonders.
- The starting place of us learning to partner with God's Spirit is to ask: God, what are you doing? And how do I join in?

WEEK 3

Group Discussion Questions

- 01 Which of the four movements (Listen, Look, Ask, Risk) feels most natural to you? Which feels hardest?

- 02 What does it mean practically to “slow down to catch up to the Spirit”?

- 03 Have you ever experienced a moment where you sensed God was already working in someone’s life?

- 04 What has your experience been like in learning to discern and pay attention to the Holy Spirit’s promptings? What are you learning through that process?

- 05 What kinds of “risks” might God be inviting you to take in this season?

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EXERCISE

Active Listening

This week, get together with someone who is not a follower of Jesus, and practice listening to them as deeply as you can.

This can be a coffee or a lunch break or a conversation on the porch; it can be scheduled or impromptu, but find at least one time this week to listen.

As you listen to them, also listen for where God is already at work in their life. As they talk, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what he is up to. But the main goal is just for them to feel loved.

As the Mennonite educator David Augsburger put it, "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable."

Ask to pray for someone who is not a Christian

Find a place quiet and hidden away for 3 minutes each day to prepare your heart for witness through this reflective prayer meditation. To begin, posture yourself how you like for prayer and take a few slow, deep breaths, becoming aware of God's loving presence in and around you. Then pray that God would help you see the people who will be around you today and give you an opportunity.

Then practice being aware of God throughout the day.. When you see someone who is sick, or has a need, just gently ask if you could pray for them. Then pause, go slowly, and pray what God puts on your heart

WEEK 3

REFLECTION

If you want to get the most out of this Practice, you need to do it and then reflect on it.

01 How did it feel to pray for someone you met this week?

02 Where did you feel resistance or hesitation?

03 Where did you experience joy or connection?