



The New Normal [Acts 1:1-11]

exercise

The Holy Spirit is the least discussed member of the Godhead in parts of the western Church. In groups of three or four, take time to discuss the following:

- What experiences have you had that you attribute to the presence of the Holy Spirit? How did they encourage/discourage you?
- Are you aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your day to day experience? What does that look like?
- What questions come to mind as you reflect on the person and role of the Holy Spirit in your life? [In the course of this sermon series, the staff would like to receive questions about the Holy Spirit to address in the series and also to share with the rest of the learning community.]
- Would you be open to praying with others to collectively hear from the Holy Spirit for each other / engage in prayers for healing?

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text

Read John 14:15-27; 16:4-15 together. These are two of the more well known teachings on the Holy Spirit by Jesus.

In your reading of these texts, jot down:

- attributes of the Holy Spirit according to Jesus.
- what you think it means, then, to be people who are led by the Spirit.
- questions you have about the Holy Spirit (add them to the list you already have from above.)

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community

Pastor James spoke about the power of the Holy Spirit as being manifested in Mary's life and also in Jesus during his temptation in the wilderness. Both instances show a power that is personal and relational. Mary, after her encounter with the Spirit, says she feels seen by God. Jesus refuses a power and authority that is devoid of real relationship with humanity.

If someone asked if you'd like to receive the power of the Holy Spirit - what would be your response? What are your fears connected to such an invitation? What would be your expectations?