

Transformed by Word and Spirit (part 2)



Worship

Today we will be thinking about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so we will be focussing on Him as we worship together. Write out the following names of the Holy Spirit on separate pieces of paper, each with its accompanying reference. Pass them around the group and take it in turns to read out one of the names followed by the passage(s). After each one allow a minute for everyone to think quietly about what that particular name tells us about the character and work of the Holy Spirit, and then allow time for one or two to offer short prayers of praise before going on to the next.

Breath of the Almighty	Job 33:4	Comforter / Counsellor	John 14:16; 26
Spirit of Christ	Romans 8:9 1Peter 1:10-11	Spirit of the Father	Matthew 10:20
Spirit of grace	Zechariah 12:10 Hebrews 10:29	Spirit of truth	John 15:26
Spirit of adoption / sonship	Romans 8:15	Spirit of wisdom	Ephesians 1:17
Spirit of holiness	Romans 1:4	Spirit of understanding	Isaiah 11:2



Bible Study

If we are going to be transformed by God's Spirit, both individually and corporately, we need to learn to hear His voice. Today we are going to look at some of what Jesus had to say on this subject – please read John 10:1-6 and John 16:12-15

- List all the things that the first passage tells us about the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep.
- What does Jesus tell us about what needs to happen if we are going to hear His voice?
- What do you understand by Jesus saying that the Holy Spirit will “take from what is mine and make it known to you”?
- Encourage the group to share a bit about their own experiences of hearing God's voice.
- What factors make it easier to hear Him?
- What factors make it more difficult?



Reflection

“Prayer cannot be truly called communication if the only voice heard is the voice of the one praying.”
So said Josephine Butler the 19th century social reformer (well, I paraphrased her a little).

- Do you agree?
- How could you introduce more listening into your group prayer times?



Prayer

Let's take some time to pray for each other in groups of three or four. Allow each person to share any prayer needs if they wish (or none if they prefer), but then rather than launching straight into verbal prayer take time to allow God to speak. Be ready for Him to prompt you to pray in a specific way, or to read a relevant passage of scripture, or perhaps to bring a prophetic word or picture. If you have never prayed this way before it may feel a little stilted at first but please give it a try. If you do think God may be saying something, take a step of faith and share it. If its all quiet don't worry – what matters is that we give God the space to speak to us.

If you have the space it may help to allow groups to spread into different rooms.