

#### LE4: Summative Reflection:

Jessica Flores

As I entered the sanctuary, I witnessed people engaging in conversations. This was a time of fellowship and building relationships prior to the commencement of service. I met many parishioners who regularly attend Bedford Community Church. As I engaged with people and observed what was going on around me, I found myself attentive to the Holy Spirit. I was seeking God's promptings and teachings to bring back to the people He has entrusted me with. I found as I received instructions from the Holy Spirit, I acted without thinking or hesitation. For instance, I met an Alliance student who was not in my cohort for the first time, and we had a superficial conversation, I knew nothing about her or her character. As she shared with me that she was driving back to New Jersey, because she did not plan to stay, I immediately invited her to stay with me at the hotel. Inviting a stranger to stay with me is out of character for me. This blind surrendering to the Holy Spirit's promptings is what I found myself doing throughout the weekend. Every time I obeyed God revealed Himself ever so strongly. When I missed the mark, I'd receive His gentle nudge of correction. The fellow student and now my friend shared with me that she had prayed, prior to the event, "Lord if you want me to stay overnight, prompt someone to invite me to stay." The time we shared in between services was restorative in nature, God divinely connected us.

During our time in service, I learned to be intentional about giving the Holy Spirit room to do what He wants to do with the people who show up. For instance, there was no set agenda so there was some flexibility should the Holy Spirit reveal a different topic to be covered. Although there was no agenda, that did not mean there was a lack of preparation. I learned various teachings well thought out and put together are to be available when planning a Holy Spirit service. Topics presented covered the prophetic, inner healing, mother and father wounds, deliverance, the secret life with Jesus, identity formation, and spiritual disciplines all for the purpose of fostering "the habitation of the Holy Spirit because He eradicates the darkness in the soul" (AB Simpson). The exercises after each teaching provided a space for people to practice what they learned, solidifying the lesson learned and allowing for the miraculous to take place. It was faith filling, to witness God revealing intimate details of our lives to total strangers for the purpose of healing and restoration. As a young lady prayed for me God revealed to

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her that I was a warrior in His kingdom, she saw me with the armor of God, not knowing that this is the ministry He has entrusted me with. During the exercise God gave me a prophetic word when I prayed over a woman, I did not know. I saw and heard the word “mother”, and from this I received that this mother’s sacrifice and obedience has opened the doors to the kingdom of heaven to many. I also knew that she had spiritual children. After the prayer I asked the mother if what was revealed to me meant anything to her. We must approach the prophetic humbly from a point of lowliness. Pride is the biggest mistake when moving in the prophetic. Pride does not allow for a teachable spirit, and you lose sight of God and his plan. Pride is rebellion and will open you up to a lying spirit. The woman then revealed that the revelation did mean something to her, in fact she was the mother of the lead pastor who leads many into the kingdom of God. In sitting through the service, I found the teachings packed with great information and lengthy. The length of the teaching could have been broken up with at least two exercises in each teaching. I say this because not everyone has a long attention span. The exercises keep the congregants engaged and connected.

As the weekend progressed, I learned the importance of setting the atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to show up. The worship that takes place during the Holy Spirit weekend establishes a tone, it shifts the atmosphere. The worship team is to be holy, practicing disciplines of the spirit. The lived-out word is what will give the team the anointing to worship and foster an atmosphere where people will encounter God. I found as the worship team played there were some songs that I felt the Holy Spirit and I knew He was ready to heal. Then there were other songs like the old hymns that I was not able to relate to nor feel God’s presence.

In creating the atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to move, prior to the event prayer warriors are to pray over the sanctuary and clear out unclean spirits and darkness. In relation to the space, we are to ensure we have all toiletries, tissues and supplies to support the people who show up to the service. Additionally, if you are inviting guests, you should have a designated space prepared for them. This church had a place for the doctoral students but instructed us to stay in the room and not to move about. Their reason for the restriction was they placed us in the children’s area, and they did not have background checks on us. The manner in

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which they delivered that message did not feel warm or welcoming and frankly it was uncomfortable.

Takeaway number one from this weekend is “the Holy Spirit is given to carry the burden of the people to carry the mission of God. He empowers Christians to move us from exclusivity to inclusivity.” We are to seek and ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit, if not we will live without more of God’s spirit.

Takeaway number two stop striving and surrender. This word was given to me by God through another cohort student. Again, this individual did not know things God has told me in the secret place and, here he was praying over me the very things God and I speak about. I was encouraged because although I did not come seeking for myself but what I could pass on, God still gave me more. God kept showing me what surrendering to the Holy Spirit means and what it looks like. Surrender is blindly following the Spirit’s promptings in the same manner I follow my car GPS. Not knowing where I am going but knowing I can trust the GPS to get me to my destination. I can fully trust the Holy Spirit to lead me where God wants me. I found in surrendering to the Holy Spirit there is also an abandonment where you rest in God’s love and renounce the self. I find at times I am fully at peace in surrendering and other times there is some unease in my soul. The unease is a reminder that I still have imperfections, weaknesses and resting because it is ok. God is doing a work in me. This is something I can share with others after they receive deliverance and move towards working on the human stuff through therapy and inner healing work.

The third takeaway is that I am a seer. One thing I could have done differently in preparation for this weekend is read “The Seer” prior to the Holy Spirit weekend. God had been revealing to me in weeks prior to the Holy Spirit Weekend, that He was gifting me with the ability to “see”. I usually hear in the prophetic, feel or sense what is in the atmosphere or what others are feeling. I also have prophetic dreams and recently I have been receiving visions. Had I read the seer I would have had a better understanding of this gift and how to use it in ministry. During prayer time when we prayed in the Holy Spirit, the first night I saw one dove land on my head. Then Dr. Walborn made mention of a dove as he spoke, in my mind this confirmed what God was showing me. The second time we

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prayed in the Holy Spirit I saw doves gently landing on everyone's head. The dove representing the Holy Spirit fell upon everyone in the sanctuary. As I prayed and ministered to people, I was able to pray this into them, letting them know that the Holy Spirit was upon them. Sharing what I saw encouraged those I prayed for and was utilized by the Holy Spirit to bring healing. Healing is what the Holy Spirit did, throughout the entire weekend. God entrusted us to pray healing and I specifically was assigned to pray for many mothers who found themselves struggling with children who had disabilities. I could relate to their pain, because of the experience I had with my son who had developmental delays. The Holy Spirit used my life experience and provided me with wisdom on how to pray healing and strength into these mothers. I remember hearing God prompting me to pray for a mother who was in line for prayer with Dr. Sanders. My first response was she does not want prayer from me Lord she looks intent to receive from the professors, she had been waiting a while. God immediately corrected my thinking and I surrendered and obeyed. I went to the mother and prayed, God used me to minister to her in a way that only I could, and it was exactly what she needed in that moment.

Looking back on this experience the most significant take away was God's love for creation. The intimacy, healing and transformation God wants for His people. The fact that God trusts His children with this assignment is mind blowing. God gives us access to Him and keys to His kingdom that fully equips us to do what He called us to do. Meaning we can open doors; He has given us access to and walk right in with boldness and utilize what has been given to us to serve and love others. This weekend I saw people healed and restored because we utilized what God entrusted to us. I learned not only from the designated talks but from the relationships formed. I saw my fellow cohort; do great things I did not know were possible. For instance, fellow students performed deliverance on children. Prior to that experience, I believed that we are to pray over children in their sleep if they needed deliverance. I formed relationships and bonds that have greatly impacted me and together we will greatly impact God's kingdom.