

SUMMATIVE REFLECTION

BY

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From the beginning to the end of our Christian life, the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in our experiencing God's presence. He helps us live the secret life where we learn to nurture life with Christ and crowd out the darkness.

I was exposed to the teaching and manifestation of the Holy Spirit from a young age through the Church of God of Prophecy, which taught me that the evidence of the Holy Spirit was the manifestation of speaking in tongues. In my mid-twenties, I became a member of a charismatic Brethren church which taught that with the coming of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 1:8, every Christian has spiritual power. This power allows one to bring into evidence the manifestation of the Holy Spirit inside them by being witnesses of Christ, having the ability to hear from God, prophecy, heal ... and ever since was comfortable being in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I anticipated the move of the Holy Spirit and in preparation for the event, fasted once per week for three weeks, practiced silence and listening. I desired intimacy and holiness and wanted to be sensitive to the voice of God. I read books on the Holy Spirit and meditated on the Scriptures to create greater awareness.

I scheduled my trip to arrive in New York a day before the conference so that I could rest and spend time alone with God. I think my preparation was beneficial for the experience garnered as my heart became filled with the Father's love and compassion for His people, and it was from that heart of love that I allowed God to minister His love, strength, encouragement, and comfort through me.

After the conference, I went to Kenya and continued to experience God's overwhelming presence and love for my Kenyan brothers and sisters. The Holy Spirit exist in most faith

communities but many marginalize His presence for various reasons. Therefore, we must teach about the Holy Spirit and create environments for persons to experience the Holy Spirit that will make experiencing the Spirit a living reality as God had intended.

Since then, I have been thinking, praying and planning my next steps to replicate this experience not as a one-time event but as a life-long commitment to helping others experience and encounter the Holy Spirit, walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and in turn mentor other leaders to reproduce this with others.

My three takeaways from the Holy Spirit weekend are setting the emotional tone, creating a synergistic team, and planning the ministry activities.

A. Setting the Emotional Tone

My first takeaway from having a successful Holy Spirit Weekend Conference is setting the emotional tone to prepare the people's hearts to experience the Holy Trinity and create an atmosphere of celebration and joy. To achieve the emotional tone, the worship team should be energetic, familiar, and comfortable with God's presence, knows how to create an atmosphere for God's presence to be palpable, and knows how to lead its audience in the presence of God, for their hearts to be primed to experience the Holy Spirit. This is far more important than selecting songs that support the conference's theme.

The emotional tone of the conference could have been more charged with the presence of God if the people knew the majority of the hymns and songs. However, the atmosphere was celebratory when the congregation knew the songs and joined in worship.

B. Creating a Synergistic Team

My second takeaway from the conference is another critical ingredient to the success of a Holy Spirit Weekend Conference—the positive synergy of the speakers. The combination of Martin, Rob, and Ron proved that the output sum of a synergistic team is more innovative and effective than the individual effort.

The personalities, gifting, and stories shared by the team influenced how their audience desired and anticipated an experience with the Holy Spirit. The team made it fun amid of faith being built to enable the Lord to do what He needed to do in our souls.

I left the conference thinking about the persons with whom our personalities and gifts could bring such positive synergy, even if it required developing those persons to achieve the required outcome.

C. Planning the Ministry Activities

My third takeaway from the Holy Spirit Weekend is the ministry activities. In some churches, it is the view that prophecy is a special gift of the “anointing” few, and many shy away from receiving and sharing the word of God with others. The teaching on prophecy and the listening exercise was an excellent empowerment tool that supported Acts 2:17-18. The exercise provided a safe space for persons to listen and humbly test what they sensed or heard from God regarding someone they did not know. This exercise showed that hearing from God is not for the selected few but should be an everyday experience for every Christian in the kingdom of God.

Ministry was more effortless than ever because the Holy Spirit was present to heal, strengthen, encourage, and comfort. I upgraded my view of the Holy Trinity, and the Holy Spirit expanded the capacity of my heart to serve with love.