

Learning Experience 3: Holy Spirit Weekend Curriculum Development

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DML 921: Following in the Steps of Spiritual Mentors:
Holy Spirit Weekend

Dr. Martin Sanders, Dr. Rob Reimer, and Dr. Ron Walborn

May 1, 2023

Ministry Name: Conference “Engaging the Holy Spirit in Our Lives.”

Days: Saturday all day (5 sessions), and Sunday (1 service).

Location: Queens Christian Alliance Church. 135-20 35th Ave, Flushing NY 11354.

Objective. To create a place and opportunity for people to learn about and experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This will be a time for people to come away with God where they can encounter Him personally and communally. At the end of this conference, people will know more about the Holy Spirit as a Person of the Holy Trinity and experience Him in transformative ways to hunger for more of Him. Those who are thirsty will be satisfied and eager for missional living.

Description. This conference will offer biblical and practical knowledge of the Holy Spirit. It will use curriculum that is simple to understand and convincing through the examples. Each teaching will offer the time for exercise, reflection and prayer ministry time. This conference is designed for those who want spiritual depth and growth in their biblical and practical understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and it's highly experiential. It is designed to lead people in purposeful and transformative ways.

Rationale and Abstract: For many people who attend church and call themselves Christian, once a week Sunday Worship Service might be the only time in their busy lives when they enter into God's manifest presence and spend time in God's word and prayers. This conference is meant as an additional and very needed ministry time to grow Christians in their relationship and walk with God. There are also some who hunger for more of God and change in their mundane lives and need help for breakthroughs. This conference is an attempt to hear and respond to Jesus' invitation and promise, “whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst again. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14). The call to see and taste of God and be satisfied with the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. This a day and a half spiritual event will create a space for people to be touched and transformed in God's presence. People will understand the meaning of this invitation and know how to respond to it - ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink’ (John 7:37).

Target Audience: It is meant for anyone who is thirsty who has either has or has not experienced the Holy Spirit and want more of Him in their lives because they feel dissatisfied and dry spiritually. Its meant for those who feel like a failure in their prayer life, who feel

frustrated at their level of holiness, who long for a closer relationship with God, and who are spiritually 'thirsty.' This conference is for men and women at Queens Christian Alliance Church (QCAC) who are spiritually thirsty and seeking life change and spiritual renewal. It is meant for all those who have a desire to see and experience more of God in their lives and see the Biblical truths become alive in their own lives and they are filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. It is for those who understand English because this retreat is limited to one language only. It's not for nonbelievers, sceptics, or critics who refuse to believe and surrender to God. Therefore, this is not the time for theological and religious debates or apologetics. This retreat is developed in conjunction with ongoing spiritual formation ministry of the church. While it is targeting mostly one church, it is not limited to its physical walls. People are welcome to invite their friends and family members to this retreat who share similar longing for God. The retreat will be held in the church main Sanctuary.

Scope/Schedule. Saturday all day and Sunday morning at Queens Christian Alliance Church. Our church is located at the heart of the most busy, hardworking urban center where majority of people work 12 hrs a day and come home late. People who attend our church are from a hard-working immigrant class who is struggling to support their immediate family here in USA and elderly parents or extended family overseas. To make it affordable for them, Saturday is the only day that can be maximized.

Length of program – 1,5 days.

Number of sessions – 6 sessions.

Duration of session – 90 minutes (teaching and ministry time with sensitivity to the Holy Spirit)

Measure the Effectiveness:

As I am planning this conference for this assignment I want to apply it in my church because I want to see people filled with the Holy Spirit for the kind of living Jesus promised us when we are satisfied with nothing and no one but God alone. I want the church to grow in loving relationship and deeper knowledge of Him. Deep changes do not take place over night so we won't be surveying people by paper. But as a continuation of this conference for renewal, I want to offer additional opportunities for people to engage the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives so that they keep leaning how to walk with God. The increased attendance in these ministries offered by the church will be the positive indicator of the effectiveness of this conference (Soul Care study, River Dweller Study, Inner Healing Meeting, Prayer Meeting, Deliverance, Evangelism, Serving in general). People's prayer life will shift and they will be

more open in seeking God publicly. When people experience God, are touched with His love at the center of their being, they will love God more and love His people.

Schedule:

Saturday

9:00am	Continental Breakfast
9:30am~11:00am	Opening Worship/Session 1: Identity. Reflection & Exercise (followed by break)
11:00am~12:30am	Session 2: Truth vs. Lie Reflection & Exercise
12:30pm~2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm~3:30pm	Session 3: Who Is the Holy Spirit Prayer & Reflection (followed by break)
3:30pm~5:00pm	Session 4: Roadblocks and Our Response Ministry time for healing and deliverance.
5:00pm~7:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm~9:00pm	Worship. Session 5: Intimacy & Surrender Prayer at the Altar.

Sunday

11:00am~12:30pm	Worship Service. Session 6: Faith (Prayer at the Altar)
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Curriculum

There are total of 6 sessions. For a day and a half there will be 6 dynamic topics that will teach about who we are; the lies we believe; the truth we need to hold on to; the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit; what blocks his presence in our lives; how to be set free, receive His healing, and walk in victory; and how to draw near to Him and walk in love relationship with him.

It is a time beholding the presence and power of God's Spirit. After each teaching, there will be ministry time with reflections and exercises.

Session 1: Identity.

John 8, Matthew 3:17, Genesis 3:1-5, Ephesians 1-3

Session 2: Truth vs. Lie.

John 8:15-16, 31-32, 12:2 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Session 3: The Holy Spirit.

John 16, 7:37-39, Joel 2:28-32, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Galatians 5

Session 4: Roadblocks.

1 John 1:5-10, Romans 8:12-15, Psalm 51, Galatians 5:17, 6:7-8, Isaiah 53, James 5

Session 5: Intimacy.

Matthew 6:5-8, Ephesians 5:18, Matthew 6:5-8, 11:28-30. John 15:4-5

Session 6: Faith.

Hebrews 11, Luke 11:9-13

Session 1: Identity.

John 8 and Matthew 3:17 - Jesus knew who he was

Genesis 3:1-5, Ephesians 1-3 we must know who we are

Resources Used: Soul Care by R.Reimer, Erickson at lumenlearning.com;

Through the Roof Ministry (TtR), Bible NIV.

What you believe about yourself is the foundation of your life; it is your identity, and if your identity is faulty, your foundation is cracked that will affect your life. When someone asks you "Who are you?" What thoughts go through your mind? What does it mean to be who you are? Identity relates to our basic values that dictate the choices we make. These choices reflect who we are and what we value and influence how we live. For example, we can assume that the investment banker values money, while the college professor values education and helping students. Instead, they simply internalize the values of their parents or the dominant cultures (e.g., the pursuit of materialism, power, and appearance). A well-developed identity is comprised of goals, values, and beliefs to which a person is committed. It is the awareness of consistency in self over time, the recognition of this consistency by others.

John 8 gives us an example of Jesus who knew His identity and was deeply rooted and loved from it. He didn't let anyone rob him of this true foundation. It was solid and secure. Identity development is both individual and social. For example, our relationships influence our identity shaping. The barriers to healthy identity formation are formed in interactions with others in social settings. They include - a lack of attachment to parent or primary caregiver, low self-esteem, absence or negative influence of an adult, lack of acceptance, and trauma. Failure to establish a well-developed sense of identity can result in identity confusion that affects us at the core. When people experience identity confusion, they do not have a clear sense of who they

are or their role in society. As a result, whatever they do, will not be enough to mend the cracks in their foundation. It is critical to discover your true identity and true identity is solid and well-balanced because its rooted above people's or self evaluations of us. It is objective, reliable, and unchanging. Sadly, many of us try to build our identity foundation on things that are temporal and changing (i.e. circumstances, roles, people's opinions, praise or criticism, etc.).

In the Biblical example, Genesis 3:1-5, we see the evidence that Satan knew the importance of identity and how it was the surest way to wreck the relationship between people and God. Satan himself refused to accept his God-given identity and instead sought to form a new identity apart from God. The demonic war on identity started when our first parents, Adam and Eve, encountered the serpent who was "more crafty" than anything else made by God (TtR). The serpent started by attacking the very identity of God and confusing Adam and Eve. He continuously does it now. Today, we live in a world with increased statistics of young people who struggle with identity confusion. As Christians, we must base our identity upon two unchanging things: (1) who God really is and (2) who God says we really are.

God proved to us on the cross that He doesn't love us because of who we are or what we do. He loves us because of who He is and what He has done, which makes God's love, and our foundation, unshakable. Based on this true identity, we are called to live an integrated life – a life where our identity shapes our destiny, where who we are permeates how we live" (Soul Care). We must hear and receive the message that settles out identity and belonging like Jesus did in Matthew 3:17, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Reflective Questions and Exercise:

- 1) How do you typically introduce yourself? What do you say about your identity? Fill in the blank. I am _____ . (examples: a teacher, a home stay mom, a businessman).
- 2) What are some memories that still haunt you today (esp. repeated experience) that shaped the way you view yourself?
- 3) What were or are the things you catch yourself saying to or about yourself?
- 4) How do those messages replace God's message about who you are?

Let's look at who God says you are.

Read through Ephesians 1-3 and find descriptions of who you are in Christ. For example, in Ephesians 1:11-14 God says we are - chosen, predestined, included, meant for the praise of His glory, marked in Him with a seal of the Holy Spirit, God's possession, have inheritance and redemption for His glory, etc. Notice how most of these descriptions do not depend upon what

we did or have. Write down "I statements" of who you are in Christ based on the Scripture.
Examples:

I am deeply loved! - John 15:9, Rom 8:35-39, Eph 2:4-6, 1 John 3:1a, 4:10
I am accepted! - John 15:15-16, Eph 1:3-6
I am worthy! - Rom 8:31-34, 1 Cor 6:19-20, 2 Cor 5:21
I belong to God and am His child! - 1 John 3:1

Session 2: Truth vs. Lie.

John 8:15-16, 31-32, 12:2 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Resources Used: Soul Care, Through the Roof Ministry (TtR), Nancy Leigh De Moss

It's impossible to know the true identity if we do not know the truth. Jesus teaches us that knowing God's word and holding on to it will lead us to the truth and the truth will set us free. "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). We are not meant to search the whole world and looking for something we do not really know. Jesus promised His disciples to send the Advocate, the Spirit of the truth to guide us to all truth and be with us forever. In fact, the Holy Spirit will testify to every believer the foundational truth of who they really are, who God is, and how we are to see others. We are called to live like God's beloved children, led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:15-16).

We have to choose a life build on truth and not on lie. Agreeing with lies will prevent us from living with freedom and victory that Jesus promised us. To way in the light and true identity we must transform our minds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says that we do not wage war as the world does, the weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world on the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds and we demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

It's not easy to take hold of the lie with the truth. And that's why we have God's word. If it's only our word against enemy's lie, it's not powerful enough to behold the victory. But with God's living and powerful word, we can combat any deception effectively. The four R's help us to identify the lies and take them captive towards the freedom God wants for us.

Reflective Questions and Exercise:

May the Holy Spirit reveal us the lies we've believed about God, ourselves, and others. Agreeing with those lies gives the enemy power over our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the lies you agreed with and where you've learned those lies.

How to deal with lies:

- 1st R - recognize the LIE.
- 2nd R – renounce and reject it.
- 3rd R – replace it with the truth.
- 4th R – rejoice in God.

What is on your mind? Who do you believe you are?

Write what is on your mind right now? What do you feel like you can't do and what worries you? What's occupying your mind right now? As I share my personal story of the lies I was captive to and the ways they influence me, keep adding thoughts that come to your mind maybe God will reveal certain things as you listen. Prayer: Lord, would you reveal the lies I've been believing and show me where have I learned those lies?

Circle the lies that sound familiar to you. Feel free to add other and share with your group of 2-3, then apply 4 R's and pray for each other (statements taken from *Nancy Leigh De Moss*):

God is not really good.
God doesn't love me.
God is cruel and overbearing.
God is not really enough.
God's word is not sufficient.
I need someone or something more than God.
God can't forgive what I've done.
God should fix my problems.
God has not come through for me.
I'm not worth anything.
I can't help the way I am.
Someone else is responsible for the way.
I am like my mom.
I was born this way.
My dad or my sister or my brother made me the way I am now.
My circumstances will never change.
My situation is hopeless.
I'm a victim and can't walk in victory over sin.
I can't do anything right again.
I must have a husband or wife to be happy.
My husband or wife is the reason I am unhappy.
It is my responsibility to change my husband or wife.
My circumstances will never change.
If I submit to my husband or wife I'll be miserable.
My marriage is hopeless.
I'd be happier if I were married to another man or woman.
Children are a burden.
I can do more for God if I didn't have children.

I'm responsible for how my children turn out.
All children go through teenage rebellion.

Session 3: The Holy Spirit.

John 16, 7:37-39, Joel 2:28-32, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Galatians 5

In John 16: 7ff The Holy Spirit is the Advocate who Jesus promised to send after His departure to counsel us into all the truth. The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin (because of people's unbelief), righteousness (because Christ was going to His Father) and judgment (because of the prince of this world stands condemned). He is the Spirit of Truth who guides us and speaks what God says to us. He is a guide to the way of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is like an agent of God who speaks to and resides in us. He makes us more like Jesus and empowers us to bear the fruits of righteousness, walk like Jesus, and wait patiently for his return.

The Holy Spirit is compared to the river that quenches thirst. John 7:37-39 "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

At the day of Pentecost, as the Disciples were praying together, the Holy Spirit came and filled them. This presence and empowerment by the Holy Spirit marked the birth of the Church and ushered 'greater miracles' (3,000 men believed in one day) and supplied the divine courage to the believers for missional living. God is faithful and fulfills his promise pouring the Holy Spirit on all who come thirsty – men and women, young and old, free or slave. Isaiah 44:3 "For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants." Joel 2: 28-32 "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. He speaks to us prophetically, he gifts us with His gifts and produces His fruits for the glory of God.

Reflective Questions and Exercise:

1. Look back at your conversion experience and other encounters with the Holy Spirit. Based on those experiences, describe your knowledge of the Holy Spirit.
2. Does your description echo the Biblical description of the Holy Spirit? And if not, how so?

3. What fruits of the Holy Spirit are being produced in your life that you have witnessed?
4. Are you aware of the Holy Spirit's gifts in you? What are they and how do you use them?
5. You may come to the front and pray with a team for the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Session 4: Roadblocks.

1 John 1:5-10, Romans 8:12-15, Psalm 51, Galatians 5:17, 6:7-8, Isaiah 53, James 5
Resources used: Soul Care and Deep Faith by Rob Reimer.

There are several roadblocks that hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit (Deepfaith, 75). Through the help of the Holy Spirit God desires for us to no longer live as slaves to sin and flesh. We are called by God to walk with Him. We put so much emphasis on salvation that we stop our efforts after conversion and think the difficult part is over while we fail to recognize that the difficult part of walking with God, after exodus is just as important! The Scriptures emphasize that the way to the Holy Spirit filled life is to walk with God who is calling us to live holy as He is holy, humbly, obediently, and faithfully. Romans 8:12-15 "Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again. The deeds of flesh are unconfessed sins, disobedience, self-indulgence, unforgiveness, bitterness, idolatry, dishonesty, etc. Galatians 5:17 says, "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." There is a sowing and reaping universal law established by God and we can't bypass it (Galatians 6:7-8).

The enemy is crafty and knows that unless we repent we cannot walk with God and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us not walk under the yoke of condemnation and hiding from God. Thanks to the biblical examples we can learn how to realign ourselves with God. God is not vindictive. He is patiently and lovingly waiting for us to turn to him. Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God... blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow... Hide your face from my sins blot out my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me... Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

"You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in

burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

God desires healing, freedom and victory for us and that's why Jesus suffered and took upon himself our pain, our suffering, transgressions, iniquities, our shame, our diseases and our punishment (Isaiah 53). Those who believe and come under the forgiving cleansing blood of Jesus will confess their sins to each other, pray for each other and be healed" (James 5). Jesus' blood is greater than all our sin. Godly sorrow always leads to repentance and not to denial or continuous condemnation. We are called to repent and leave the life of sin, because His love and forgiveness are greater than our failures and sins.

Reflective Questions and Exercise.

There is no entrance into the Kingdom without repentance; there is no advancement in the Kingdom without repentance. We cannot walk free if we do not repent from sin. Admit our sin and walk in the light with God and others. Pray Psalm 139 "Search me and ask me Lord and lead me in the way everlasting." 1 John 1:6-7 "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1. What blocks the Holy Spirit's presence in my life towards complete freedom and overflowing? Name your roadblock that you need to deal with.
2. Is there any unconfessed sin in my life. Listen, identify, repent.
3. Who do I need to forgive and release from debt?
4. Is there a secret you haven't told anyone that crushes your bones and dries your soul? The Holy Spirit can heal you and set you free. Step into the light and be honest.
5. Confess to one another and to God your sins without justifying, pointing fingers or self-condemning. Just own your part of sin fully (Matthew 5:23-24).
6. God develops our character through trials. How does he develop you in humility.

Session 5: Intimacy.

Matthew 6:5-8, Ephesians 5:18, Matthew 6:5-8, 11:28-30. John 15:4-5

*Resources used: Spiritual Formation by Ron Walborn,
Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (EHS) by Pete Scazzero.*

The first and the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all you heart, soul and mind, because God is the most important relationship we will ever have. The goal of intimacy with God is to enjoy Him and look at His face more than at His hands. God created us for

intimacy with Him and each other. So when we organize our Christian lives around to do list we no longer enjoy a loving relationship with God, we exercise a religion. In Ephesians 5 Paul exhorts us to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus continuously spend time in solitude with God the Father and ministered from that intimacy on earth. In fact, he taught us that prayers done away from public arena and “behind closed doors” are the ones that yield effectiveness (Matthew 6:5-8).

There is a God-shaped hole and meant to be filled with our Creator. When people feel thirsty for something more they try to fill this void with more money, more prestige, more power, more achievements, more possessions, more friends, more alcohol, more good deeds, and other, they get disappointed, dissatisfied, and hungry/thirsty all over again. The reason these things do not work is because this hole is a spiritual hunger and thirst for God that can be filled only by the Holy Spirit. When we respond to God’s invitation “Come away with me and remain in me” and discover true satisfaction and victorious living.

Jesus stated directly to us, that unless we remain in Him we can’t do anything (John 15:4-5). “What we fear the most we need the most” (Walborn). Our greatest fear is that God will disrobe us, expose us and allow the full measure of shame to slam us to the ground. We must answer to God when he calls for us like he did Adam and Eve, “Where are you?” We must pursuit Him in order to find everything we need and are looking for.

God desires willing heart and empty cup ready to be filled. Just like Jesus who came to this world and did not insist on His equality with God but humbled himself and later offered His body to be broken for us. Its when we are broken before God, we can be used by God. Where there is sin, there is no brokenness. How can we know His voice if we do not spend time with him and learn to hear from Him? We all must take the time to be silent and to listen to Him. It is in the silence of the heart that God speaks (EHS). God is the friend of silence— we need to listen to God because it’s not what we say but what He says to us and through us that matters. Prayer feeds the soul— as blood is to the body, prayer is to the soul— and it brings us closer to God. It also gives us a clean and pure heart. “A clean heart can see God, can speak to God, and can see the love of God in others” (Mother Teresa).

Reflective questions and exercise:

1. Spend alone time with God away from chatter and gadgets. Just you and God in silence. Focus your attention on God. Meditate on His invitation and His love for you.
2. Review. Share by drawing a map of your journey and relationship with Jesus. Which valleys and mountains have you visited with Him?

3. When and where do you feel closest to God? Are there particular practices that open you to God? (worship, scripture reading, prayer, fasting, gratitude, retreats, solitude, etc.)
4. Where are you now? Are you close to God and encounter daily His love? Do you live from His love for you? What are some longings you're currently experiencing?
5. Is your cup empty and waiting to be filled by God? How do you draw near to Him?
6. In what areas do you need uncluttering to make room for God? What action you will need to take?
7. What receives the most attention in your life currently? Job? Family? Friends? Hobbies? (These are not bad things, but when we love them more than God, they can compete for our hearts and become an idol.)

Stop, to listen, to wait, to be still, and to allow God's presence to envelop you.
Suggested Scripture for contemplation: Psalm 42:1-2 and Psalm 23.

Session 6: Faith

Hebrews 11, Luke 11:9-13

Resources used: *Deepfaith*, Rob Reimer.

Faith is not static; it is dynamic. It must be intentionally developed to see mountains move and heaven open. We can and must take an intentional path toward growing and developing our faith if we want to see the works of the Kingdom in greater measure, for the glory of the King, and for the sake of his mission in the world (p.8). Hebrews 11 talks about faith. We will focus on verses 1-3 and 5-6:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.²This is what the ancients were commended for.³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Enoch was mentioned here as someone who had such a great faith that he avoided death!

Genesis 5 describes “Enoch walked faithfully with God” – he was filled with faith.

“Great faith begins with keen understanding of the greatness of Jesus” (Reimer, 18)

“The opposite of faith is not doubt, its unbelief...Unbelief needs to be repented of; doubt needs to be dealt with by developing our faith (38). May we walk faithfully with God too.

As the Holy Spirit is developing our faith in us, He will make God's love known to us so that we stop praying out of fear, living in fear, acting in fear. We start trusting God's goodness and His motif for us (Deep Faith). Persistent Faith. Luke 11:9-13 talks about faith based prayer.

Reflection and Exercise (you can ask yourself these questions and process):

1. After reading biblical definition of faith in Hebrews 11, how is it different from yours?
2. How can you walk with God like Enoch?
3. Would Jesus be amazed at your level of faith like he was when seeing Centurion or Phoenician woman? In what areas you sense you need to develop your faith?
4. Do you believe God can do things in your life similarly to what He did in the Bible? 2 Chronicles 6:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.
5. Our lack of faith limits the activities of God in our lives. What would help you to move intentionally from hope to expectation and to certainty?
6. Until we wrestle with God our faith sees little improvement and growth. Our faith has to be tried and tested (60). In what areas do you wrestle with God?
7. What are you seeking, asking, and knocking for today?

*Altar is open to receive prayer ministry or pray on your own.

Invitation to the Conference:

Greetings in the name of Christ! I am excited to announce The Holy Spirit Conference hosted by QCAC, which will be held on **Saturday (12/4/23) – Sunday (12/5/23)**, at our location 135-20 35th Avenue Flushing NY. We are inviting all followers of Jesus, to consider attending because of the interest in so many who want God to stir up the gifting within them and to see and experience a spiritual renewal. This is, without doubt, the great need of the hour in which we live. We are believing God for a great time of blessing for Christian men and women who are hungry for more of the Holy Spirit.

The conference begins on Saturday, at 9:30am. (Check-in and breakfast will begin at 9:00am that morning). After four sessions on Saturday, the evening will be free. There will be one final session on Sunday at our normal 11am service which will be free too. See the conference schedule below.

The conference registration **fee is only \$50 (\$35 for student)**, and this includes continental breakfast on Saturday and refreshments on both days. Saturday lunch and dinner will be on your own and many restaurants in the vicinity of the church will be listed for you to choose from with a 2 hrs break. Childcare will be provided. Separate registration is required. Details will be given as you register.

We will have excellent speakers coming in to help instruct and encourage you, but our main focus is the Holy Spirit renewing our hearts, minds, and lives in the difficult days we face. If you know of other leaders and believers who may need encouragement or could otherwise benefit from this conference, please feel free to share this invitation with them.

We look forward to having you join us! As we are expecting spots to fill up fast, we hope you will register soon.

Come hungry and receive!

Annotated bibliography.

These are the book references with brief description to help participants in diving deeper into the teachings introduced in this retreat And continuously fan into flame their spirit life.

- 1. Vallotton, Kris and Bill Johnson. *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty: Discovering Your Rights and Privileges of Being a Son or Daughter of God.* Destiny Image, 2017.**

This book talks about “survival mentality” of people who do not live out of their identity in Christ and thus are self-reliant. According to the authors, “Royalty mentality” is knowing identity and belonging in Christ which has its implications on daily life and destiny. “Most people know the difference between right and wrong. But royal believers have a powerful sense of justice in the depth of their souls that drives them to act when they see something wrong” (p.154). Identity is a foundational key that directly connects to belonging an authority for believers. Once the princely identity is discovered it has direct implications on living a life in either two ways - feeling provoked within to act in justice or to run for cover (p. 157). This book encourages believers to understand who they are in Christ and that they are part of royalty and therefore have a heritage of something much bigger. This book will empower people to live in confidence and with authority to act in justice and for the great commission.

- 2. Grubb, Norman. *Continuous Revival: The Secret of Victorious Living.* CLC Publications, Revised American Edition, 1997.**

In this book, Grubb summarizes his transforming experience in Africa where he discovered the secrets to victorious living. He points to the true meaning of revival and

encourages us to live by the key principles to live in continuous fellowship with God and others. The revival is the “reviving of dead areas in our lives” which have been stained by unconfessed sins. The continuous revival will flow only when those dead places in our lives are washed by the cleansing blood of the Savior when we walk in the light of humble and vulnerable posture daily. The key to continuous revival is not simply praying more for revival, but intentionally bringing to the light into our hidden and dark areas and choosing to walk in the light with God and with fellow believers. The key principles of personal and communal revival are brokenness, cups running over, confession, conviction, cleansing, testimony, and exhortation. This kind of living enables us to live victoriously and effectively as it was in Rwandan ministry (in the 50s and 60s) of what author testifies from. This book is for those who want to learn how to walk in the fellowship with God and experience 1 John 1 in their Christian living. The need for horizontal and vertical authenticity and openness is foundational.

3. Rob Reimer. *Soul Care: 7 Transformational Principles for a Healthy Soul*. Carpenter’s Son Publishing, 2016.

This book is a foundational manual to a healthy soul. It takes a reader through seven principles to lasting transformation and keys for freedom. Many believers are discouraged when they feel stuck in their cycle of human brokenness, woundedness, and sinfulness without realizing that the condition of their soul needs God healing and touch through His kingdom tools such as: discovering true identity, repenting, breaking of family sin patterns, forgiveness, grieving, overcoming fears, and deliverance.

Through this book, the readers are challenged to engage in this spiritually formative and practical journey. This process calls for honest self-examination and deep surrendering. “There is no transformation without confession. Here is no victory in hiding. There is no breakthrough in secrecy” (p.27). This book assists one in the pursuit of a breakthrough towards a life change for better individually and in community.

4. Rob Reimer. *River Dwellers: Living in the Fulness of the Spirit*. Carpenter’s Son Publishing, 2015.

This book is for anyone who wonders and wishes for more to his/her Christian life. This book as its title talks about the abundant life and dwelling in the presence of the living God. The key to this kind of life promised to his disciples by Jesus is the presence and life of the Holy Spirit. A strong metaphor of the Holy Spirit as a river calls one to become a river dweller, in the River of Life. The readers are invited to become dwellers in the river and continuously live a life of Holy Spirit’s fullness. Answering one’s quest for “living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit,” this

book offers practical, pastoral and personal strategies. Some topics address how to stay in the stream of the Spirit; how to return back to the river when one is drifted away; how to face difficult turns downstream. A healthy and down to earth teaching on how to relate and experience to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

5. Ashbrook, Thomas R. *Mansions of the Heart: Exploring the Seven Stages of Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishing, 2009.

This book is a great companion to those who want to move from dead-end efforts to spiritual formation and try a different way of spiritual growth journey. It provides a roadmap and step-by-step guide to grow and mature spiritually with realistic expectations. The author wrote this book based on Teresa of Avila's writing of *Seven Mansions* and John of the Cross teaching of *The Dark Night of the Soul*. There are seven phases of spiritual formation that lead to a deepening love relationship with God. The book offers personal guide and helps leaders to take others on this process of spiritual growth.

6. Hession, Roy. *The Calvary Road: The Way of Personal Revival*. Rickfords Hill Publishing Ltd., 2010.

This short book is a practical call to a Spirit-filled life for personal revival. Hession says that "revival is just the life of the Lord Jesus poured into human hearts." However, He can't pour much into us unless we are empty and broken for him to fill us. The brokenness happens when one is fully surrendered to God and brings every darkened by sin cup into the light to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. We are called to full surrender by breaking our proud self – the self that wants to control, the self that is often hard, proud, irritable, envious, resentful, critical, worried, in conflict, envious, self-indulgent, easily hurt, unforgiving, busy, hurried, shy, self-conscious, reserved and etc. This self needs to be broken to experience personal continuous revival. Without this first and fundamental step, there is no personal revival. And crucifying self is both, God's work and ours. We always have a choice to resist God or humble ourselves and bow to Him with our yes. The book teaches us how to be dead to sin and alive to Christ both positionally and practically. The true revival is achieved only through the Calvary road for those who want to live in continuous filling with their cups overflowed and resulted in real holiness. May we be those who are willing to live a broken, transparent, confessional, obedient, and loving life with God and others.

7. Nouwen, Henri. *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*. Ave Maria Press, 1974, 2004.

Through contemplating on three meditations, Nouwen provides valuable insights on how to live authentic Christian life when deep longings of worth and value are met. Life on earth is a short time and thus must be lived intentionally with these three motivations: creativity, care, and expectation. It's simple but powerful teaching that echoes the Biblical truth. To live creatively is to live detached from the results of work and approval of others. Living with care is a life of ongoing attention and presence to self, others, and the world, instead of a compulsive reaction to jump into cure and change. And lastly, to live with expectation is to have a heavenward viewpoint that looks to God with hope for complete joy and empowers the present life of tension, sadness and joy kiss each other at every moment" (p.53).

The author calls us out to "discover absolute solitude and centering in God, in the full transcendence of our ego and our preoccupation with self" (p.11). Drawing from Jesus' example, this kind of life flows directly out of solitude with God where one is called to receive the profound message of love and acceptance as the foundation for Christian living. This builds God-assured self-esteem which enables one to live a life to the fullest and act from inner freedom which makes all the difference. It eliminates the effects of corroding fear, self-focus, and self-destruction. The author says that, only in solitude, being alone with God, one can truly live the most effective and fulfilling life, the way Jesus did.

In contrast, a life without this quiet center will inevitably be unproductive, full of unending frustration, restlessness, depression, and emptiness. When one is left to personal reasonings, patterns, habits, and ways of living, one will wind up with a life more fearful, self-preoccupied, and drawn to destruction. One's life is in danger when one centers it on everything but relationship with God (p.18). "In solitude we can slowly unmask the illusion of our possessiveness and discover in the center of our own self that we are not what we can conquer, but what is given to us" and "we become aware that our worth is not the same as our usefulness." These two quotes summarize the essence of this book.

8. Clark, Randy. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Apostolic Network of Great Awakening, 2006.

This book gives a great overview of historical and practical description of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The author describes various ways in which Holy Spirit expressed Himself to the early church. He looks at a variety of denominational backgrounds as well as biblical and historical. The book gives a great overview of what the Baptism in the Spirit means and practical instructions on appropriating the Baptism. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is reviewed from the Pentecostal and Traditional views, as well as the Protestant and the Catholic perspectives.

There are two definitions of baptism. The baptism in the Holy Spirit understood by Evangelical circles occurs at the conversion when a person is united with Christ and incorporated into the Body of Christ (p.7). A Pentecostal definition of baptism in the Holy Spirit is the experience which is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (p. 8).

The author gives his personal understanding and experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He affirms God's diversity and stands away from pigeon holing the Holy Spirit to either those two definitions. He allows a reader to look at the scriptural evidence and He states that tongues are not evidence of the baptism, and the baptism may occur simultaneously with or subsequent to conversion (p. 9). Clark also humbly admits his inadequacy in the area of ministry and relationship to the Holy Spirit. And he expresses the need of the Church today to be intimate with the Holy Spirit and embrace diversity instead of putting certain man-made expectations on God. At the end, this book lists various testimonies of people with different backgrounds who describe their experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit as a summary that God cannot be pigeonholed by any of us.