

Core Value 2: Holy Spirit

Our second core value is focused on the Holy Spirit. We believe that God the Holy Spirit empowers and guides His church through the Bible and through His presence among us.

Core Value 2: Holy Spirit

Doctrine (truth) We believe that God the Holy Spirit empowers and guides His church through the Bible and through His presence among us.

Devotion (relationship) Fellowship with God. God speaks Requires Discernment Individually & in community.

Duty (action) Be filled Wait on the Spirit. Peace & order. work together. Greatest Power, Spirit, Deep Conviction.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33
Acts 1:8; 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

First of all, to highlight, as with our doctrine, is that we believe that the Holy Spirit is God just as much as God the Father is God. We believe about the Holy Spirit, that His work is to empower and guide the church. We see this in the Bible the ways in which Jesus said, "You will receive power." And so Acts 1:8 highlights that "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." And the New Testament describes ways in which (as well as the Old Testament) ways in which the Holy Spirit guides His people.

We believe the Holy Spirit empowers and guides through the Bible as well as through His presence. So in the core value on the Bible, we express the idea that God continues to speak as His Word is read. And we also believe that, through His presence, God also speaks. So this is a way in which we can be aware of God's voice, of His speaking, sometimes literally hearing a voice, but I think probably more often, a sense of what God is telling us, what He's guiding us in. So this clearly requires discernment. So we need to make sure that we're hearing the voice of God, and not something that we want to hear or hope to hear. And so we believe that He empowers and guides through the Bible, through His presence.

And we add "among us." God speaks both individually and in community. It's significant that we together listen to God and His message for us.

So this expression is that while we have structures that help make us orderly, our ultimate hope is in the work of the Holy Spirit. This passage from 1 Corinthians highlights that we worship a God of peace and order, and so we do have structures that help us be peaceful, that help us work together well. And that's an important thing to do. We want to have good ways to do that. And yet that's not our final hope our ultimate hope. Our greatest hope, our ultimate hope is God's work. The structures aren't the point. The point is the work of God. And we believe that the Spirit empowers.

This is where the 1 Thessalonians passage highlights that, in God speaking, it's not just words, but we anticipate that there is power, there is the Spirit, and there is deep conviction when the Holy Spirit is at work. That is our hope. That's our prayer, what we long for. So we believe in the work of the Holy Spirit. We depend upon the work of Holy Spirit as our deepest hope for the work of God among us.

So our duty is to be filled, this sense of the presence and work of God through the Spirit among us. We are to wait on the Spirit, looking to the Spirit to guide us and to depend upon that and hope for that.

In devotion we are called into, and empowered in, fellowship with God himself, which is an amazing gift of the Spirit, that God is with us through the Spirit, and we can have fellowship with God.

A key thing that the Spirit then helps us with is to submit to the will of God, to the truth of God. It is a power to submit. It is a power to obey, in our expression of our dependence upon the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

Reflection Questions

- What are examples of helpful structures in churches in general, or in our church? How might structures get in the way?
- What does it look like to make the work of the Spirit be our ultimate hope?