



Holy Comforter

The Bible As It Is Presents

Sunday, March 19, 2023 – The Final Question

How does the Holy Spirit speak to me?

Listening For the Holy Spirit

Over the past six weeks, we have gathered in Room 207 of Van Every to hold a series of conversations about the Holy Spirit. From those conversations, three essential points have emerged:

- As baptized Christians, the Holy Spirit is available to us.
- The Holy Spirit requires us to listen.
- The Holy Spirit requires us to be patient.

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, from approximately 9:10am to 9:55am, we will sit in a circle in Room 207 and in the tradition of the Quakers in a Friends Meeting, wait for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. During that time those present will be invited to mediate on any matter of concern. What to contemplate will not be identified or defined. This is not being done to test the Holy Spirit, but rather to test our patience to wait and listen for what the Holy Spirit may be trying to tell us. Therefore, those present:

- Will not be required to say anything during this time unless truly compelled to do so by the Holy Spirit.
- Those present may sing, recite Holy Scripture, or pray as The Spirit moves them.
- Are not required to openly share what they feel the Holy Spirit may be saying to them.
- Are not required to remain for the entire forty minutes and may depart at any time.

From Quaker.org

Quaker worship began without pastors or clergy leading. It was simple gathering where Friends would seek to hear what the Spirit of the Living God had to say in their midst. Out of the silence, a Friend would speak when they felt led by the Spirit to share what they heard in their hearts. This sitting in silence together, in the presence of Christ Jesus who “is come to teach the people himself” (an early statement from George Fox about the real presence of Christ in their worship gatherings), was for Friends their practice of communion. One does not need the bread and wine when Christ is present with you. Overtime, Friends’ practice has shifted. There are still Friends who meet in this expectant waiting silence (they are sometimes referred to as “unprogrammed” Friends) and there are now Friends who have pastors, sing, pray, share in teachings from the Bible, and practice silence (they are sometimes referred to as “programmed” Friends). Both groups generally understand listening to God’s Spirit, experiencing communion together as a meeting, and participating in the co-leading of worship to be central to their worship but they practice that in

different ways. Whereas for early Friends “unprogrammed” worship was the norm, today, there are far more “programmed” Friends around the world.

1 John 4:13-16 – How we know the Holy Spirit is in Us – NKJV

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.