

(1) Let each person take a few minutes and describe their personal history or experience of the Holy Spirit. What were you taught growing up? Were you raised in a church where the power and gifts of the Spirit were emphasized or in one where they were largely denied? Or perhaps, if not denied, there was virtual silence about the Spirit. Compare your past experience in church with what you've discovered since being at Bridgeway.

(2) What is your opinion of the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues? Are you afraid of it or offended by it? If so, why? Do you have a desire for this spiritual gift? If so, take some time in your group to lay hands on one another and pray that the Spirit would be pleased to impart this gift. What is the purpose of speaking in tongues? How might it help you in your Christian growth and ministry?

(3) In Acts we read of numerous occasions where people already indwelt by the Holy Spirit are "filled" in order that they might speak boldly or fulfill some ministry task that lay ahead. Have you experienced this in your life? Do you regularly pray that you might be "filled" in order to have power to face some spiritual emergency? Give examples of your experience.

(4) Let each person share examples from their own experience of having been guided by the Spirit. Explain what happened. Did you hear the Spirit's voice on those occasions, or was his method of guidance more subtle and less conspicuous?

(5) Are you afraid of the Holy Spirit and his gifts? If so, why? Is it because you've seen abuses and extreme fanaticism? How might you overcome and move past your fears to earnestly pray for and pursue more of the Spirit's power in your life? I suggest you take time even now to pause and pray individually over each person for more of the Spirit's power and the impartation of spiritual gifts.