
TALK IT OVER

Word and Spirit

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If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

Acts 3:1-10, Hebrews 13:8, Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6, Exodus 33:19, John 3:8, Ephesians 4:30-31, John 1:32, 2 Corinthians 3:17

Questions

1. Psalm 102:27 and Malachi 3:6 remind us that God never changes. How does knowing that God never changes help you when life feels uncertain? Please share a time when you knew you had missed the mark and stumbled but realized that God is consistent, and you could trust him.
2. Today's message stated that the word of God and the spirit of God must go hand in hand. Why do some churches emphasize one over the other? Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. Since he never changes, why is it that we seem to change or alter what his word says to adjust our lives?
3. In Exodus 33:19, God reminds us that He is in control and works according to his perfect plan. John 3:8 compares the Holy Spirit to the wind that moves where it wants. In Acts 3, we read about Peter and John being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and able to respond to what God was doing. In obedience, they prayed for a man and he was healed. When have you been sensitive to God's prompting to see him work through you to minister to others? Is there anything you need to let go of so you can hear God more clearly?
4. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Peter and John were willing to stop and respond when God gave them an unexpected opportunity

to help someone. Do you feel that you have the freedom to follow God's prompting, or do you feel the need to do what is expected of you?

5. The people who saw the healing in Acts 3:1–10 were amazed by what God had done. The sermon reminded us that we should never be surprised by God's power because He is still at work today. What is one way you have seen God do something you did not expect? How can we stay open to what God wants to do in our lives?
6. What is one way you can point someone to Jesus this week through your words or your actions? How can our group encourage each other to keep Jesus at the center of everything we do?
7. The Holy Spirit is sensitive, and the Bible tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. As a believer in Christ, what helps you be more connected to the Spirit? What disconnects you and how can you keep your connection active?
8. What are some indications that you can look for when trying to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.