



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 19

Hearing from the Spirit

John 16:7 -15, Acts 1:4-7, Rom 5:5, Rev 2:29

The Holy Spirit has many aspects and activities, but perhaps the greatest thing the Spirit does is reveal that God loves us: the Holy Spirit is the one that pours the love of God into us and into our lives. If, like the disciples, we ask “when will the kingdom of God come”, we’ll be told that we “don’t get to know the time” but we will get the Holy Spirit, and we will be able to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit will convict us, convince us and help us to make right judgements when we need to. He will tell us whatever he hears from the Father and also what is to come.

God wants us to have close fellowship with, and to understand, the person of the Holy Spirit. God has a unique and personal message for each and every one of us. A message of life, possibility, calling, destiny, and empowerment, but it hinges on us having an open heart to receive it from the Holy Spirit. Visions, dreams, plans and strategies pertaining to God’s kingdom are alive and God’s Spirit has planted them within us. Surely we should have an ear to hear what the Spirit says.

On behalf of heaven, what does the Holy Spirit need to teach us, convict us or convince us of? What does he need to establish in our lives? When he does these things, and our ears are open to hear Him, it becomes profoundly personal, undeniable and eternal. Let’s have an ear to hear! Fine-tune our ears, unstop them and awaken them. Allow and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

- Q:** Describe a time when you heard from God through his Spirit. What did he say? How did he speak to you? What impact did it have on you?
- Q:** How can we learn to hear and identify the Spirit’s voice? How did you learn?
- Q:** How do you most commonly hear from the Spirit? Describe it for us.
- Q:** Is there a time or place or activity when you more typically hear from the Spirit? *(Leader’s Tip: This could be in personal bible study, prayer, corporate worship, preaching, etc). Why do you think it is like that for you?*
- Q:** What do you think is a realistic expectation for how often we can hear from the Spirit? Moment-by-moment? Every now and then? Or somewhere in between? Why do you think that?
- Q:** Do you want to hear from the Spirit more than you do? Why? What impact do you think it will have on your life? How can we make this happen?
- Q:** There are many “voices” in the world. How can we be certain we are hearing from the Spirit and not just making it up?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Men’s Conference is all about causing men to take a stand for righteousness & truth. Please speak with the men in your Connect Group and go to www.mensconference.com to register them today!
- Our Live Album recording is coming up on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th Oct at our City & Hills Campuses. Doors open at 5:15pm for a 6pm start. Why not go and sit together as a Connect Group! Get your tickets at myhillsong.com

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BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these scriptures and questions to develop a Biblical worldview.

Read Acts 9:1-19, 10:1-23, 13:1-3, 16:6-10

These passages each recount a time that people in the early church heard from God. We'll study them to find out any guiding themes and principles.

- Q:** Compare each of these accounts to see if you can identify the ways that God spoke to each person. What similarities and differences are there? What patterns can we see?
- Q:** What was the impact of the Spirit's speaking in each of these accounts? Are there any principles we might discern from that?
- Q:** From these accounts (and the rest of Acts), how often do you think these people in Acts heard from the Spirit in the ways these passages describe?
- Q:** What safeguards do we see the people in these passages employ to make sure they are accurately hearing from God? What safeguards should we employ?
- Q:** What principles and guidelines can we gain from these passages about hearing from God for ourselves?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** Tell us about the last time you heard from the Spirit in relation to your personal life?
- Q:** Tell us about the last time you heard from the Spirit in relation to your leadership?
- Q:** Are satisfied with how much you're hearing from God in your leadership? What can you do about it? How can we help each other?
- Q:** How would you help people you lead to learn to hear from God?
- **Leader:** You may want to use this study as an opportunity to pray and prophesy over each other.

Check Up

- Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:
- Helping people take their Next Step.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Men's Conference & Album Recording

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – Causes we are supporting through Nation Builders:

1. **Church Planting** – Supporting a new generation of dynamic leaders to plant & build churches that will serve communities, influence cities and ultimately impact nations. Including: Amsterdam, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Hillsong Germany.
2. **Gospel Missions** – Supporting missions locally & others that are furthering the Gospel all around the world. Including: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Hillsong TV and overseas workers in SE Asia.

Brendan & Camille White planted Hillsong Paris in 2004. France is one of the most secular nations on the planet. Recently Ps Brian spoke about the phenomenal growth we are seeing when he and Bobbie were in Paris as part of their visit to our Global Churches. Ps Brian reported that when he visited Paris in 2011 there were around 1,100 people in attendance. This year, he saw over 2,000 people in Church.

Please continue to pray for

- The Global Churches
- Hillsong Conference Europe - The Netherlands and Sweden beginning 3rd & 10th October

