

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Personal Worship: Practicing the Presence June 14, 2026

Summary

Pastor Dale taught that loving God with all our heart, soul and mind begins not with trying harder but with recognizing the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. From the opening verses of Genesis, we see the Spirit of God hovering over the waters, preparing the way for life. This pattern continues throughout Scripture: The Spirit moves, God's Word is spoken and new life is formed.

Before anyone comes to faith, the Holy Spirit is already at work drawing them toward God. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's presence moved from dwelling in places like Eden, the Tabernacle and the Temple to dwelling within believers themselves.

Personal worship becomes passionate when we become aware of the Holy Spirit's presence, surrender every area of our lives to Him and allow Him to shape us into people who love God more deeply.

Scripture

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2 (NIV)

...he [Jesus] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NIV)

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." John 2:19 (NIV)

"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." John 3:6 (NIV)

And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:22 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)

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Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.... 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

Let's Start

What is something in your life that you appreciate more today than you did a few years ago?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

Let's Talk

1. What stood out to you most from this message, and why?
2. Pastor Dale described life before faith as often feeling like confusion, emptiness, darkness or disorder. Have you experienced a time when God was drawing you to Himself before you fully recognized it?
3. Why do you think many people assume that loving God is primarily about trying harder rather than responding to the Holy Spirit's work?
4. The pattern in Scripture is: Spirit moving → Word spoken → Life formed. Where have you seen this pattern at work in your own spiritual journey?
5. What does it mean to you that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit? How should that affect the way you live each day?
6. How does awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence help us **worship God fully** in our everyday lives? Are there any habits, attitudes or sins that might be hindering your awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence? What steps could you take to address them?
7. Pastor Dale ended the sermon with three questions:
 - Do you believe in and are you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?
 - Is there any sinful behavior or attitude that would grieve His presence and keep you from experiencing the Holy Spirit's work in your life?
 - Are you prepared to surrender every room in your life to the Holy Spirit today and ask Him to fill you with His presence?

Let's Act

What is one area of your life that you need to surrender more fully to the Holy Spirit this week, and how can the group pray for you?
