

F A Q 'S

Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that this series of informational brochures about the Almont Vineyard Church enriches your knowledge about us and deepens your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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It's not what you've done in the past, but what you're going to do in the future.

F A Q 'S

How can I experience the
Holy Spirit?

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The bible says a lot about the Holy Spirit. We see the first mention of the Spirit in the book of Genesis, "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2)

In the New Testament Jesus always referred to the Spirit as "He" and not as "It." (John 14:15-17) This tells us that the Spirit is a person and not some kind of intangible force like electricity or gravity—He is *someone* we can have a relationship with.

The bible refers to the Spirit as the breath of God, wind, fire, a dove, counselor, helper, bringer of truth, giver of gifts, source of power. The Spirit is said to "fill" people, "come on" people, "speak through" people, even "move" people. It can all become very confusing. So... how should we relate to God the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit is the felt presence of the invisible God, meant to be experienced. A relationship with God, thru the Holy Spirit, involves action.

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions..." (Joel 2:28-32)
This Old Testament prophesy was fulfilled in the New Testament in the book of Acts, Chapter 2. (See also: John 7:37-39; Romans 8: 11,13-16)

In active ministry to us, The Holy Spirit is our guide to the truth, our Counselor.

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

The following are a few practical suggestions to help you begin to experience the Spirit of God in your life:

... ask

God for an experience of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was about to leave his disciples, he told them that he would send them (and us) the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7) Begin praying that you will experience the Holy Spirit in your life. The Apostle Peter told the people in a sermon to repent and believe in Jesus "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38b)

... participate

actively in worship. Psalm 22:3 tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. The Holy Spirit is especially present during times of worship at church. You can begin to experience His presence by actively focusing your heart and mind on God when you worship-with others or by yourself.

...receive

prayer ministry. There is a pattern in the New Testament of the Holy Spirit "coming on" people when the apostles laid their hands on them. (Acts 8:17; 2 Tim 1:6) At our service each weekend, as well as in our small groups, we pray for each other by "laying on of hands." Often, through this type of prayer, the Holy Spirit can be felt and experienced. (Acts 9:17,13:3,19:6; 1 Tim 4:14; 5:22)

...devote

time to God. The bible tells us that we will find God when we seek Him with our whole heart. (Jeremiah 29:13) Taking time to be alone with God every day thru prayer and bible reading is an indispensable part of the life of a Christian.

It is also one of the primary ways God, through His Spirit, interacts with us enabling us to sense His presence. "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10b)

"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 1:20)

...seek

God's presence in your life. The bible encourages us as Christians to both seek and expect an experience of God's presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-21 says...

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives *with you* and will be *in you*. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and *I am in you*. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

If you are a Christian and are longing for an experience of God's presence through His Spirit in your life, try the suggestions mentioned above. If you are not sure you are a Christian, you may want to pick up our brochure entitled:

"How do I have a relationship with God?"

Please contact the Almont Vineyard if you have any other questions or concerns about how to experience the Holy Spirit.

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