

A Word and Spirit Church

Discovery Church is a church of the Word and the Spirit. We believe that God has given us both His Word and His Spirit and that both are necessary in full measure to empower us to live fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

The vision of Discovery Church is to be a reflection of the church described in Acts 2:42-47. We believe that such a church is only possible when the Spirit of God and the Word of God are powerfully at work in the life of the church, as described in the larger story of Acts 1 and 2.

What we believe about The Spirit:

Jesus consistently communicated the importance of the Holy Spirit in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. In the Gospel of John, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide the disciples into all truth. Then in Acts 1, following His resurrection, Jesus told his disciples that they must wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit would the church be able to accomplish the mission that Christ had set before them. The church could not move forward without the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, equal to the Father and the Son. He works to make men and women aware of their need for Jesus and provides them with the necessary power to live in accordance with the will of God. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer from the moment of their salvation and equips every believer for the work of God through the giving of spiritual gifts. These gifts are to be pursued and exercised within the church in a way that builds the church. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, guides us into truth, empowers us to live in holiness, intercedes on our behalf, and equips us to fight the powers of darkness.

References: John 14:16-17, John 16:7-15, Acts 1:3-8, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 1:17, Ephesians 5:18, Ephesians 6:10-12

What we believe about The Word:

In Acts 2, we read that the disciples of Jesus received the promised Holy Spirit. When the crowd sought to understand what was happening, Peter began to teach them by quoting directly from the Word of God. The power of the Holy Spirit in partnership with the Word of God produced a great response, with 3,000 people being baptized that day.

The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the complete, divinely inspired, and inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the supreme authority and guide in all matters of faith and life.

At Discovery Church, we are Instructed by the Word. The Gospel of John makes it clear that Jesus is the eternal Word of God, and Jesus promised that His words will never pass away. The Word is the sword of the Spirit, through which we do battle. Jesus defeated the temptations of the enemy by knowing and embracing God's Word.

References: Acts 2:17-38, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Ephesians 6:17, Matthew 24:35, John 1:1-18

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Are there “multiple fillings” of the Holy Spirit?

A person receives the Holy Spirit in full at the moment of salvation, although His influence is experienced and enhanced as the believer yields control to Him. As we give Him greater access, we can experience the Holy Spirit's filling in greater ways.

References: Ephesians 5:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:19

2. Are all of the gifts of the Spirit available and in operation today?

We believe all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament are active and available today to God's people. These gifts are to be pursued and exercised within the church in a way that builds the church and brings glory to God. We do not believe that any one gift will be in operation in all disciples or that any one disciple possesses all of the gifts.

References: 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11

3. When you talk about “deliverance,” does this mean that people in general, and Christians in particular, can be possessed by a demon?

Deliverance is a term used to describe being set free from the influence of the enemy in a person's life. Our modern understanding of “possession” implies ownership of the person. The enemy does not own anything or anyone but does seek to wield influence in every person's life. This has been his method since the garden. Therefore, people are delivered from the enemy's influence, not from his ownership. Deliverance occurs when the enemy's influence is exposed, and the Holy Spirit provides power to destroy the stronghold of the enemy.

References: Ephesians 4:26-27, James 5:16, Luke 10:1-18, Peter 5:8-9

4. Are healings possible today?

The Holy Spirit is actively at work today, capable of bringing about healing of every kind (spiritual, emotional, mental, relational, and physical). Jesus healed the sick regularly and asked those who followed him to do so as well. God is all-powerful and can heal any sickness or disease. We are asked to pray in faith and according to the will of God.

References: Luke 10:9, 1 Corinthians 12:9,28,30, 1 John 5:14-15, James 5:14-16

5. What is the spiritual gift of prophecy, and what role does it play in the church today?

1 Corinthians 14:3 states: “The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging, and comfort.” Prophecy is described in the New Testament as having the purpose of edifying and building up the church. Through the spiritual gift of prophecy, the Holy Spirit provides knowledge and revelation from God that strengthens, encourages, instructs, and comforts the body of Christ. The gift of prophecy is to be “eagerly desired,” rooted in love, and always exercised in an orderly fashion.

References: 1 Corinthians 14