

Encounter – Sunday 18 February

- We are doing a series about our spiritual growth track called the five E's.
- Spiral on screen
- As you can see there is 5 "bases" located within a spiral.
- The 5 bases are spiritual areas in your life that needs attention.
- Let's quickly define them before we move on:
- *Encounter*
- *Engage*
- *Equip*
- *Empower*
- *Export*
- The reason for the spiral is to show you that you don't go through the cycle once and graduate
- This an ongoing process, we continually encounter God and grow deeper with him in different stages of our lives with our spiritual connection
- We continually engage with the church because we grow in our relationships and God adds new ones to us
- Equip is where we grow up and grow deeper. The more you know the more you know how little you know
- We keep getting empowered as we serve and volunteer in church, and we keep empowering people around us to be who God made them to be
- And then export, when all the other four are in place we can take what we learned and apply it to our world outside church and be a difference there, and this will continually happen as God will put you where HE needs you.

With that in place we can turn to ENCOUNTER now

Encounter:

- When we use that word, we refer to your experiences or encounter with God when you get saved and when you serve Him throughout your days.

Examples of Encounters in the Old testament:

- Cain
 - Abraham
 - Jacob
 - Moses
 - Hagar
 - The prophets
-
- I want to touch on New Testament encounter

First: SALVATION

What is salvation?

John 3:1-7 - Amplified Bible

The New Birth

3 Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (member of the Sanhedrin) among the Jews, ² who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, “Rabbi (Teacher), we know [without any doubt] that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs [these wonders, these attesting miracles] that You do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see *and* experience the kingdom of God.”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh [the physical is merely physical], and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be surprised that I have told you, ‘You must be born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].’

What is the commandment after salvation? Baptism

[Matthew 3:16](#)

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Matthew 28:19 - Amplified Bible

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

[Acts 2:41](#)

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

[Acts 8:12](#)

12 But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

[Acts 22:16](#)

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

[Galatians 3:27](#)

27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- Some of us have "Encounter" salvation like disciples that saw Jesus & Paul
- explain

John 20:19-23 - Amplified Bible

19 So when it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, though the disciples were [meeting] behind barred doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "[a]Peace to you." **20** After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with great joy. **21** Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as My

representatives].” ²² And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief].”

READ SAUL TO PAUL ACTS 9

- Choosing Salvation in faith like the Eunuch – which is an encounter anyway

Acts 8:34-38 - Amplified Bible

³⁴ The eunuch replied to Philip, “Please *tell me*, about whom does the prophet say this? About himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip spoke and beginning with this Scripture he preached Jesus to him [explaining that He is the promised Messiah and the source of salvation]. ³⁶ As they continued along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch exclaimed, “Look! Water! What forbids me from being baptized?” ³⁷ ^[a] Philip said to him, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

John 20:28-29 - Amplified Bible

²⁸ Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favoured by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me].”

Second: Baptism with Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4-5

Amplified Bible

⁴ While being together *and* eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Of which,” *He said*, “you have heard Me speak. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized *and* empowered *and* united with the Holy Spirit, not long from now.”

Acts 2:1-4

Amplified Bible

The Day of Pentecost

² When the day of ^[a]Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place, ² and suddenly a sound came from heaven like a rushing violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ There appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were being distributed [among them], and they rested on each one of them [as each person received the Holy Spirit]. ⁴ And they were all filled [that is, diffused throughout their being] with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other ^[b]tongues (different languages), as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out [clearly and appropriately].

Acts 2:37-38

Amplified Bible

The Ingathering

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart [with remorse and anxiety], and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what are we to do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful ways, accept and follow Jesus as the Messiah] and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How?

SCARED THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN TO YOU?

Luke 11:13 Amplified Bible (AMP) If you, then, being evil [that is, sinful by nature], know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!"

Word + Spirit = revelation, discipleship,

Revelation is part of encounter – you will never “get” the Word if you do not read it with Holy Spirit

THIRDLY A LIFESTYLE OF ENCOUNTERS

Matthew 16:19 - Amplified Bible

¹⁹ I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth ^[a]will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth ^[b]will have [already] been loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:19 begins, "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." Those keys are revelation knowledge. Walking in revelation knowledge will strengthen your confidence in the promises of God; it will make your faith solid and cause you to walk by faith and not by sight. It will make you victorious over the devil. Praise God!

Revelation knowledge is **when you know the person of God instead of just knowing facts** about Him.

HOW?

Matthew 7:7-11 - Amplified Bible

⁷ ^[a]Ask *and* keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek *and* keep on seeking and you will find; knock *and* keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who keeps on asking receives, and he who keeps on seeking finds, and to him who keeps on

knocking, it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will [instead] give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will [instead] give him a snake? ¹¹ If you then, evil (sinful by nature) as you are, know how to give good *and* advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good *and* advantageous to those who keep on asking Him.

WAIT FOR HIM LIKE HE WAITS FOR YOU

Isaiah 30:18 - Amplified Bible

Therefore the Lord waits [expectantly] *and* longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.

[a]For the Lord is a God of justice;

Blessed (happy, fortunate) are all those who long for Him [since He will never fail them].

Psalms 27:14

Amplified Bible

Wait for *and* confidently expect the Lord;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for *and* confidently expect the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31

Amplified Bible

But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him]
Will gain new strength *and* renew their power;
They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun];
They will run and not become weary,
They will walk and not grow tired.

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Small Group Discussions 2024

– 18th of February

Discussion title: Encounter

Content

Exploring our relationship with God. Encounter starts with salvation, the reaction to salvation in obedience is baptism and then we get baptized with Holy Spirit to empower us to be witnesses and to experience revelation out of the Word.

Discussion points or questions (you can choose relevant points to discuss)

- 1. Are you born again, if yes why? If no, have you considered making this decision?*
- 2. Do you agree with baptism? Have you been baptized?*
- 3. Do you want to be baptized with Holy Spirit?*
- 4. What do you understand about revelation through Holy Spirit out of God's Word*
- 5. Are you intentionally seeking a deeper relationship with God? How?*
- 6. Have any of you had any kind of encounter with God?*

Conclusion

Salvation occurs when:

Romans 10:11 in Other Translations 11” for the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

Holy Spirit Baptism:

Ask for it, either on your own or pray with someone

Luke 11:13 Amplified Bible (AMP) If you, then, being evil [that is, sinful by nature], know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!"

Encounter Lifestyle:

Believe God wants to give you revelations out of the Bible, and signs in life. Ask Him for it and then wait on the Lord, without giving up.

Practical exercise:

- *Write a letter or pray to God alone or with people, and get born again. If you always knew about God but never stopped to make a commitment take that step now.*

- *Get baptized – Find out from Church when the next baptism will take place and go*

- *Get baptized with Holy Spirit – ask for prayer or pray alone, and then believe in faith God touched you*

- *Ask God to help you find encounters with Him as a lifestyle. This can be small signs that will minister to you or big encounters that can change your life*

Application

Take stock of your spiritual life with God in Jesus by the power of Holy Spirit.

Where are you at and what is your next? If you struggle to gauge yourself ask your leaders to talk it through with you. Investing in your relationship with God is eternal and it is the best thing you can do for you and the people around you.

Prayer and encouragement

Father I pray that you will speak to us about our relationship with You. Please help us to be brave and take the next step to encounter you even more. Please help us to live a life of encounters that will bring us closer to You!