



ARNA PENTECOST PODCAST 2023

The Spirit's role in worship

Day 6 | The people of God, when gathered, are to be led by the Spirit of God, listening intently to the voice of the Spirit as we worship our Heavenly Father

Focus | Today is Saturday which for many is a day of rest. While there are chores and errands that need to be done, we choose to start the day with worship which honours our Heavenly Father. Tomorrow many of us will attend Church, gathering with the people of God for corporate worship. Our question for today, is what can we do today to prepare for our meeting together with the people of God? Are we listening to the voice of the Spirit, so we are equipped to encourage our fellow believers when we see them?

Let us quieten our body and still our mind, so we may more easily discern the presence of the Holy Spirit within our heart.

Pause

Scripture | 1 Corinthians 14:6

When the Apostle Paul described the home churches which he established, their meetings sound very different from most of our gatherings. Rather than being guided by a set liturgy, everyone participated, each bringing some thing to share from their private time with the Lord.

He writes,

“Well, my brothers and sisters, let’s summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.” (1 Corinthians 14:6)

Reflection |

In most Anglican church communities there is a roster which determines who will read from the Scriptures, who will lead the prayers and intercessions for our world, who will preach and who will lead the worship in song – if you are not on the roster, we can easily assume there is nothing for us to do as we gather for worship.

But, what if, even if your name is not on the roster, there is still a contribution you make to the gathered community?

Yes, your voice as you sing the corporate worship songs is important. Yes, your body sitting in the pew and agreement in the prayers being offered is also valid.

However, looking at what Paul wrote when he guided the church that met in Corinth, he was fully expecting everyone to come prepared to their gatherings with something unique to contribute from what they have learnt throughout the week in their communion with God.

When you chat, perhaps before the service or after at morning tea, are you ready to share ‘some special revelation God has given’ you?

If, throughout the week, you are intently listening to the voice of the Spirit of God, it is well within reason for the Spirit of God to share with you a word of encouragement or a word of wisdom or knowledge for someone else who you are likely to see on Sunday.

In Hebrews chapter 10, the writer urged us to, *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

One of the ways we ‘encourage one another’ is by sharing how the Spirit of God is moving in our lives. If someone is going through a dark or troubling season in their life, being ready to share how God sustained you when you passed through such a season, is a source of encouragement.

Moreover, in his first letter to the believers in Corinth, the Apostle Paul urged them to *“eagerly desire the spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”* Why is this gift so important? Because, Paul says, *“the one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them”* (1 Corinthians 14:3)

Are you asking the Spirit of God to share with you the gift of prophecy, so that you may encourage the members of your faith community? Remember, the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus (Revelation 19:10). So, whenever you remind someone of God’s presence in their life, and encourage them about God’s plans of hope and goodness, your words are flavoured by prophecy.

Today as you listen to the Spirit of God, rather than just listening for what the Spirit has to say to you personally, why not ask the following question:

Holy Spirit, is there a word of encouragement or prophecy that you would like me to share with someone that I will see tomorrow at church?

Pause

Prayer | Heavenly Father, you have called me to find security and comfort within a believing community, who are members of the body of Christ. You also poured out your Spirit and imparted wonderful gifts so that we may help each other. Awaken my heart so that my worship of you today is not only focussed on me. Rather, open my ears and my heart to listen intently to how you would like to me to build up the body of Christ, by sharing a word of encouragement and comfort with my fellow brothers and sisters. In the name of your Son Jesus who accepted me as a member of the family of God. **Amen.**