



Celebration Luncheon at the ETXGMC Annual Conference

Theme Scripture – Luke 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because He has anointed me to preach
the gospel to the poor. He has sent me
to heal the brokenhearted, to preach
deliverance to the captives and recovery
of sight to the blind, to set at liberty
those who are oppressed, to preach the
acceptable year of the Lord.

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CELEBRATION

Who is the Holy Spirit?



Judy Graham
President,
Celebration Women's
Ministry, Inc.

He is the third person of the Trinity. The unseen reality of the living God. In Hebrew the word Spirit is “ruach” and in Greek, it is “pneuma”...the wind, breath; the unseen reality of the living God.

Jesus told His disciples that He had to leave but His Father would send the Helper, the Spirit of truth who would dwell with them and be in them. They were to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. (Don't we all need the power and presence of God in our lives today as never before?).

We first see the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the testimony of John the Baptist, in John 1:29-33, “...John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ...And then John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but God who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”

Later in Acts 2, we read about the second appearance of the Holy Spirit. This time, He came with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and what appeared to be tongues of fire upon the heads of the 120 in the room. I have often thought about the Spirit descending on Jesus and appearing like a dove. Jesus was God in the flesh. He already had the power of God because He was God. We, as the disciples, need this same manifestation filling us with the power of the Holy Spirit to do the ministry we are called to do.

Here is who the Holy Spirit is for us: The “Parakletos”– Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners and Standby.

- Comforter – One who soothes in time of grief or fear, consoles; to make less severe or more bearable, help assist, relieve.
- Counselor – One who gives advice or guidance.
- Helper – One who gives aid, to further the progress of, and to give relief, assists.
- Intercessor – Entreaty in favor of another, a mediator.
- Advocate – lawyer, pleads in court on another's behalf.
- Strengtheners – to help us become spiritually strong, a protective or supportive power, to give power to sustain or resist attack. (He gives the strength to endure the hostility of the world's system).
- Standby -- One that can always be depended upon to be ready to help.

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

Judy

33 Things the Holy Spirit Does

Vital role and divine actions of the Holy Spirit for us. Here are 33 of the countless things the Spirit of God continues to do today.

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| 1. He helps us - Romans 8:26 | 17. He helps us to obey - 1 Peter 1:22 |
| 2. He guides us - John 16:13 | 18. He calls for Jesus' return - Rev. 22:17 |
| 3. He teaches us - John 14:26 | 19. He transforms us - 2 Cor. 3:18 |
| 4. He speaks to us - Rev. 2:7 | 20. He lives in us - 1 Cor. 3:16 |
| 5. He reveals - 1 Cor. 2:10 | 21. He frees us - Rom. 8:2 |
| 6. He instructs - Acts 8:29 | 22. He renews us - Titus 3:5 |
| 7. He testifies of Jesus - John 15:26 | 23. He produces fruit in us - Gal. 5:22,23 |
| 8. He comforts us - Acts 9:31 | 24. He gives gifts - 1 Cor. 12:8-10 |
| 9. He calls us - Acts 13:2 | 25. He leads us - Rom. 8:14 |
| 10. He fills us - Acts 4:31 | 26. He convicts - John 8:14 |
| 11. He strengthens us - Eph. 3:16 | 27. He sanctifies us - 2 Thess. 2:13 |
| 12. He prays for us - Rom. 8:26 | 28. He empowers us - Acts 1:8 |
| 13. He prophesies through us - 2 Peter 1:21 | 29. He unites us - Eph. 4:3-4 |
| 14. He bears witness to the truth - Rom 9:1 | 30. He seals us - Eph. 1:13 |
| 15. He brings joy - 1 Thess. 1:6 | 31. He gives us access to the Father - Eph. 2:18 |
| 16. He brings freedom - 2 Cor. 3:17 | 32. He enables us to wait - Gal. 5:5 |
| | 33. He casts out demons - Matt. 12:28 |



SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 5-7, 2024

SAME GREAT LOCATION:
HYATT REGENCY HOUSTON WEST
13210 KATY FWY
HOUSTON, TX 77079



CELEBRATION LUNCHEON AT EAST TEXAS

On July 21, 2023 many women who were in attendance at the ETXGMC Annual Conference gathered to Celebrate Jesus! during the Celebration Luncheon. Celebration women of long standing came to extend gracious hospitality to attendees, connecting friends with new friends in the name of Jesus.

Judy Graham led the reading of our scripture vision, Luke 4: 18-19 and the love of the Lord was evident in the room. She explained the foundation of Celebration as prayer, as many nodded in agreement with the importance of prayer in our lives.

The multi-use space allowed Clergy women from across the tri-state area to join in fellowship and worship.

Worship through Dawn Stoker invited Holy Spirit into the room and women experienced healing touches, calls to ministry and empowerment for ongoing ministry.



GLOBAL METHODIST ANNUAL CONFERENCE



A powerful and convicting Word through Judy Graham based on 1 Cor. 9:24-27 and Hebrews 12:1 encouraged and edified women to 'stay in their lane' as applied to expanding territories and birthing new ministries. "Look at the areas you have been trained, God will continue to use the things you know and the gifts you've developed to expand His kingdom."

Judy initiated a time of prayer and laying on of hands on the clergy women in the room. God, as always faithful, moved throughout the room to bring resolution and healing work in women's lives.

Yes Lord, we run. | **Susan Monroe**, Registrar for the Celebration National Board



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

JUDGMENT VS. DISCERNMENT



JoNell Gerland

VP of Leadership
Development
Celebration Women's
Ministry, Inc.

As a leader we must be discerning, but not critical. Below are some delineations that I have found helpful through the years. We judge situations, not hearts. Only God can see and maintains this right. God calls us to walk in truth and mercy...in balance. One without the other will bring devastation. Mercy out of balance produces weakness. Truth ministered apart from the wisdom and timing of God (or without mercy) will bring devastation no matter how true it is. It is a two edged sword, never a dagger. The Psalmist says, let truth and mercy kiss...Psalm 85:10.

It's not our place to go into situations looking for what is wrong...if it is there it will make itself known. We ask the Lord for the ability to see the good, look for fruit... see beyond to the root. And, worth mentioning... will it matter in ten thousand years or next year? Always go in with a heart to evaluate, not critique. How can we improve, rather than what we didn't like.

Judgment is rooted in the flesh and out of pride will see the person/situation and think "I would never do that." It will give a verdict with no intention of personal involvement, usually will include others in its assessment so they will see we are right, drawing attention to self. It has no intention of being part of the restorative process.

Discernment is rooted in the Spirit and out of humility realizes that in our humanity we are not above anything and at any given time could do the same or worse. Seeing the situation it will pray first, keep its mouth shut and wait for God's instruction/direction. It wants to see restoration and is willing to take an active part towards it if called to.

If God calls you to speak into the situation (and this is pretty rare), we never go in with a word of correction until the Lord has given us the word of restoration. He never leaves His people wounded, but always with hope.

Judgment ~

- Believes the worst
- Sees the surface issue only
- Draws its own conclusion
- Gives no solution
- Sees sin/wounds sinner
- No hope
- Exposes sin/person
- Not under authority
- Brings no life to a situation

Discernment ~

- Believes the best
- Sees the root issue
- Draws God's conclusion
- Values sinner/sees sin,
- Has all hope
- Exposes sin to restore
- Under authority
- Brings life/hope and future

It is always worth remembering, as we will walk in situations in this journey called leadership, it could be any of us at anytime. We make room for one another, we work together toward the good of the whole. We ask the Lord to give us the keys to unlock hearts that the treasure He has deposited will come forth.

JoNell

CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHT

Welcome New Celebration National Board Members!



VP of Praise & Worship

We are excited to announce that Amber Camp has joined the Celebration National Board as our VP of Praise & Worship! Amber played Bass and sang with the worship team at our 2023 National Conference. Amber is a worship artist with a band named Kingdom Come. She grew up in Buffalo, New York where she was an orchestra teacher and worship leader. She got married, moved to Texas, and then started an organization called Kingdom Come Foundation which provides a symphonic orchestra and ensemble opportunities for students who lack those opportunities.

A published author, Amber wrote a Christian Children's book titled "God Wants Me Well" that came out in 2021. Amber is passionate about Jesus and worship and currently leads at Houston Faith Church in Houston, TX. Amber is a multi-instrumentalist and plays Guitar, Bass, Violin, Keys, and more! She is excited to be on the Celebration team!

VP of Special Events

We are also excited to announce that **Catherine Hillsten** has stepped into the role of VP of Special Events! Catherine has been involved with the Nederland Celebration chapter since 2007 and has led in many capacities including most recently as an Equipping Session speaker at our 2023 National Conference.

She is married to her high school sweetheart and together they have two amazing sons and she is "Mimi" to her adorable grandchildren. Catherine recently retired after being a science teacher for 13 years and then a counselor for 17 years. She was raised in the Methodist Church and is currently serving as the Lay Leader at First Methodist Church, Nederland.



HONORING WOMEN

Would you like to honor someone in our next issue?

Your donation to honor these women will pass along the opportunity to make a difference in other women's lives through Celebration. Donate \$25 to honor each woman who has made an impact on you!

Visit our website and click **DONATE**





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CELEBRATION CALENDAR

September

12 Trinity, TX Chapter Meeting

6:00-8:00 PM | Trinity FMC
Contact: Yvonne Hastings - yvllaw@hotmail.com

23 Omro, WI Chapter Meeting

9:00-11:00 AM | Rushford Town Hall
Theme: Hold My Head High: My Journey into
God's Empowering
Speaker: Emma Lurvey
Contact: Karen Neuman - neupine@gmail.com

October

7 Nederland, TX Chapter Meeting

9:30-11:30 AM | Wesley Methodist Church
Speaker: Lauren Hagner
Contact: Lynn Huckaby - dlynnhuck@aol.com

November

4 Appomattox, VA Chapter Meeting

9:30 AM - Noon | Memorial Methodist Church
Speaker: Julie Cheatham
Theme: Celebrating 10 years of Celebration!
Contact: cwappomattox@gmail.com

If you want your Celebration meeting or event advertised, please send the information to news@celebrationministries.org

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