



Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, you're the one who makes the difference between a performance and an encounter, between a program and a transformation. Come and teach us not just to invite your presence, but to make room for you to move however you want to move. We surrender our agendas to yours. Amen.



All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 22:3 – "Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel."

John 4:23-24 – "...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth..."

Devotional Thought

Here's the truth that every ministry leader eventually learns: you can have perfect pitch, flawless transitions, stunning visuals, and a killer setlist, but if God's presence isn't welcome, you're just putting on a concert.

I've been in services where everything went wrong technically—microphones failed, keys were wrong, someone forgot their part—but the presence of God was so thick you could feel it. People left those services transformed. I've also been in flawlessly executed services where everything sounded brilliant but felt empty. People left those services entertained but unchanged. The difference isn't talent. It's not even preparation (though both matter). The difference is whether we're hosting God's presence or just hosting an event.

Welcoming the Holy Spirit requires three things: sensitivity, unity, and surrender.

Sensitivity means being more attuned to what the Spirit is doing than what the schedule says should happen next. It's having the courage to repeat a chorus when you sense people need to sit in that moment longer, or to pause for spontaneous prayer when you feel the Spirit's leading.

Unity means the team is so connected—to God and to each other—that we can navigate those unplanned moments together. It's the fruit of the relational work we talked about on Day 1.

Surrender means we hold our plans lightly. We prepare excellently, but we're willing to let God interrupt our agenda if he wants to do something different.

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, we invite you not just into our conference but into every moment of our preparation. You know our tendency to rely on talent instead of trust, on programs instead of your presence. Forgive us for the times we've been more concerned with impressing people than encountering you. This week, as we fast and pray, create in us a deeper hunger for your presence than for our own success. Teach us to be sensitive to your leading, unified in our hearts, and surrendered in our plans. When inHabit begins, may it be so obvious that you are moving among us that no one can doubt your reality. Come, Holy Spirit, and inhabit not just our worship but our lives. We make room for you. Amen

Reflection and Application

Personal Reflection Questions:

- What are the biggest distractions that keep you from hosting God's presence? Is it perfectionism? Fear of making mistakes? Concern about what others think? Lack of preparation? Too much preparation?
- How do you cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, both in your personal life and when leading worship? What practices help you stay spiritually alert?
- When was the last time you experienced or helped create a moment where God's presence was unmistakably real? What conditions made that possible?

This Week's Spiritual Disciplines: Sensitivity Training:

- Start each day asking the Holy Spirit to make you more aware of his presence throughout the day
- During worship (personal or corporate), practice pausing to listen before moving to the next song or activity
- Pay attention to what's happening in your spirit, not just your mind, when you're leading
-
- Unity Building:
- Spend time in prayer for each member of your team by name
- If leading a team, incorporate prayer into your rehearsals—not just opening prayer, but pausing to pray when you sense God's leading

Surrender Practice:

- Plan your setlist and arrangements well, then practice holding them lightly
- Ask God to show you one area where you might be too controlling in your leading
- Consider: what would it look like to leave more space for the Holy Spirit to lead?

Fasting Focus: If you're fasting this week, let your hunger remind you that you're hungry for God's presence above all else. Use meal times as prayer times, asking God to prepare your heart to host his presence.

Daily Playlist for Reflection:

- "Rest on Us" - Maverick City
- "Holy Forever" - Chris Tomlin
- "What a God" - SEU Worship
- "Goodness of God" - Bethel