

## **Introduction.**

- A. The subject of the Spirit can bring about some difference of opinion. **The Holy Spirit is:**
- **Confusing** (e.g., growing up and attending a church that had “tongue time”).
  - **Scary** (e.g., attending revival services where people were falling down or had what I now understand as demonic oppression).
  - **Intimidating** (e.g., there’s no way I can replicate what I see happening on the stage in some churches).
- B. While the Holy Spirit may seem confusing, scary, or intimidating to you... while these things may be true, **I can think of few things more important for us as followers of Jesus.**

## **New Sermon Series – CORE: Vineyard Values.**

- A. **Values matter because they help keep us on track.** They are what we lean into. Values keep us focused on what matters most to us.
- B. It’s very common for churches (and individuals) to need a refresher or reminder about what matters most (what Ed Stetzer calls a “re-missioning”).
- C. For the past two months we’ve been talking about getting healthy and healing and wholeness and as I’ve prayed, I’ve clearly discerned the Lord wanting us to revisit our values a bit.
- D. What makes the Vineyard, the Vineyard? What is unique about us? What is distinctive and sets us apart from, for example, Roman Catholics or Baptists or classic Pentecostals? Our values are helpful in understanding WHY we do what we do as well as WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING.
- E. So this month we’re going to look at the **Vineyard CORE values:**
- **Partnering w/ the Holy Spirit.**
  - **Experiencing and Worshipping God.**
  - **Reconciling people with God & all creation.**
  - **Engaging in compassionate ministry.**
  - **Pursuing culturally relevant mission in the world.**
- F. As is our tradition, let’s read a passage of Scripture and then jump into this week’s CORE value (read **John 5:16-23**).

## Partnering with the Holy Spirit.

- A. (Share story of walking downtown in Eau Claire and my friend having a sense that he was supposed to go into a bar and offer to pray for some random guy's uncle [who had recently been diagnosed with cancer]... as well as heal the guy who was on crutches).
- B. CORE to the Vineyard is our commitment to **partnering with the Holy Spirit**. In the Vineyard, this is a unique approach:
- **Classic Pentecostals tend to try and EARN the Spirit's activity** (if we do THIS, then God will do this; cf youth conference at **YWAM** — exhausting spirituality and full of disappointments).
  - **Many conservative evangelicals** take the OTHER extreme and won't do something until it's already been by God (e.g., John Gill).
- C. We base our practice on what we read in John 5, **the "keys" to partnering w/ the Spirit**:
- **God is always at work around us.**
  - **Jesus demonstrated that we should keep our eyes and ears open around us to see what God is doing and then bless it and join in.**

## 3 Ways to Better Partner with the Holy Spirit.

1. **Keep your eyes and ears open.**
  - Cf. **John 3:8**.
  - What is the Spirit doing right now in this room? In the midst of divorces, parenting challenges, work situations... how is the Spirit working?
2. **Keep it simple, authentic, and be yourself.**
  - Sometimes you just need to dial it down.
  - God can work through your *willingness* to take a risk and through you just the way you are (Jesus demonstrated this).
3. **Keep on asking for more of the Spirit's presence, power, activity.**

- Cf. **Luke 11:9-13**.
- Cf. Rebekka, a young lady who was set free when she came to understand the importance of **Ephesians 5:18**.