



The American Anglican Council's "Anglican Traditions" videos are free for anyone to use. These facilitator notes are meant to act as an aid to getting the most out of the "Fire in the Fireplace" videos and are designed for small group use. The series is divided in to a prologue and 17 lessons with each having its own study guide and facilitator notes. Many thanks to Dolly McLemore of Christ Church Montgomery, AL, whose work forms the basis for these study guides. Find other videos at www.AnglicanTraditions.com.

These facilitator notes are for Lesson 9: The Holy Spirit Enlivens the Word

Emphasize **bold** text.

Canon Ashey states, "The Word of God is used as the prime agency through which the Holy Spirit moves to extend the Good News of Jesus Christ."

Acts 6:7 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

⁷ **The word of God continued to spread**; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 8:14 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard **that Samaria had accepted the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them.

Acts 13:49 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

⁴⁹ Thus the **word of the Lord spread throughout the region**.

Acts 19:10 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, **heard the word of the Lord**.

Canon Ashey asks, "How did the Word of God spread?" He refers to Michael Green's book – "communication and confrontation."

2 Corinthians 4:2 & 4 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

² **We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word**; but by the open statement of the truth **we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God**.

⁴ In their case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God**.

Canon Ashey quotes from Michael Green's book, *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* about **communication and confrontation**. (Page 87) "Every effective preacher knows that **proclamation involves not mere communication, but confrontation**. 'For we are not contending against flesh and blood but against

principalities and powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness' (Eph. 6:12). "We don't get anywhere by what Paul calls '**preaching ourselves**': **gimmicks do not help**. It is by being **prepared to be people's servants** for Jesus' sake so that the light may shine through to them."

Canon Ashey stated, "the God of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers." He describes this blindness as a veil, resistance, obstinacy, warfare, a blank stare, or deadness.

Canon Ashey said his father taught him to pray before preaching:

*Come Holy Spirit come,
Come as the wind blows,
Come as the fire that refines,
Come as the dew that refreshes,
Convict, convert and consecrate us until we are wholly yours,
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.*

1. How is the veil of blindness to Christ lifted? **"Michael Green says it is the Word and power of the Holy Spirit." Refer to above: 2 Corinthians 4:2**
2. What do we need as we witness to others? **Lift the Veil? Canon Ashey says, "We need the power of the Holy Spirit to take the words that we offer and to impress them and to open the hearts of others."**
3. What is the role of servanthood in witnessing? **See Michael Green's quote above.**
4. Describe how you were led to believe in Christ.
5. Describe how you have led others to Christ.

Optional: *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Michael Green

Chapter 5 - The Spirit in Mission

The Spirit enlivens the Word – The power of the Word (Page 85) "If a man receives the Spirit it is because he has responded to the Word. It is no exaggeration to say that **the Word is the prime tool used by the Spirit of God in advancing the Christian mission.**"

Page 88 "The Spirit and the message and the messenger all combine to carry out this strange alchemy of new birth, but only the Spirit is indispensable."

The Spirit convicts and attracts-

Conviction (Page 89) "**At every point the Holy Spirit is involved in the process of someone becoming a Christian.**" "It is the Holy Spirit who acts as prosecuting counsel, and convicts a person of sin. No one can do that to anyone else."

Attraction (Page 90) “Not only is the Spirit the one who convicts a person of sin: it is he, and only he, who can make Jesus attractive. As we have already seen, it is the Spirit who bears witness to Jesus and glorifies him (John 15:26, 16:14).”