

HOLY SPIRIT



HOLY SPIRIT, OUR HELPER

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Introduction: Knowing the Holy Spirit

Of all the relationships available to the believer, few are as transformative — and as misunderstood — as the relationship with the Holy Spirit. He is not a force, an influence, or an abstract theological concept. He is a Person: the third member of the Godhead, fully God, eternal, omniscient, and omnipresent. He speaks, He leads, He comforts, and He empowers. And He desires to be known.

Jesus Himself is our greatest example of what a life yielded to the Holy Spirit looks like. From His birth through the Spirit, to His baptism, His wilderness testing, and the launch of His public ministry, every significant moment in Jesus' earthly life was marked by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 4, Jesus stood up in the synagogue and declared, *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me..."* — a proclamation that was not simply about identity, but about mission. It is the same Spirit who now dwells in every believer, and who longs to anoint us for the same purposes: to proclaim, to heal, to set free.

This eBook is a practical and biblical guide to understanding the Holy Spirit — who He is, how He works, and how we can cooperate with Him in everyday life. We will explore the fruit of the Spirit and how it is cultivated in the soil of a surrendered heart. We will examine the gifts of the Spirit — residential, non-residential, and office gifts — and discover that these are not reserved for a select few, but are available to every willing believer. And we will look at how the gifts of revelation, power, and inspiration operate in the life of the church and in the marketplace.

Whether you are new to the things of the Spirit or have walked with Him for many years, it is our prayer that these pages will deepen your understanding, stir your hunger, and equip you to move in the Spirit with greater confidence and fruitfulness. The Holy Spirit is your Helper, your Advocate, and your Guide. He has been sent by the Father, in the name of Jesus, to be with you — not just alongside you, but within you.

The adventure of life in the Spirit begins here.

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Jesus, our example

Jesus is not only our Redeemer, Saviour and Christus Victor – He is also our Christus Exemplar, our example of how to live a godly life. In the matter of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is our finest example.

Jesus is born of the Spirit

Matthew 1: 18-25; " 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1: 30-35; 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

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Jesus is baptized in water, and in the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus is full of the Spirit and LED by the Spirit

Luke 4:1,2 Jesus, *full* of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was *led* by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Jesus returns in the POWER of the Holy Spirit. He reveals His call and His ministry is launched

Luke 4:14 – 19 14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

What does Jesus say regarding the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16, 17

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

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From this scripture we see that the Holy Spirit is:

1. Sent from the Father
2. A helper to us
3. with us always.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- He is the third person of the God-head, a person, not "it"
- He is fully God
- He is eternal (forever), omniscient (knows all things), omnipresent (everywhere)
- He is alive and He speaks
- His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me." John 15: 26

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The Works of the Holy Spirit

He gives us access to God - Ephesians 2:18

He anoints us for Service - Luke 4:18

He assures us of our salvation - Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6

He authors Scripture - 2 Peter 1:20-21

He baptizes us - John 1:23-34; 1 Corinthians 12:13-14

Believers are Born of the Spirit - John 3:3-6

He calls and commissions believers - Acts 13:24; 20:28

He cleanses us - 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:2

He creates - Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4

He convicts us of sin - John 16:9,14

He empowers us - 1 Thessalonians 1:5

He fills us - Acts 2:4; Acts 4: 29 - 31; Acts 5: 18 - 20

He gives gifts - 1 Corinthians 12: 8 - 11

He glorifies Christ - John 16:14

He guides us in truth - John 16:13

He helps us in our weakness - Romans 8:26

He indwells believers - Romans 8: 9 - 14; Galatians 4: 6

He inspires prayer - Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20

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He intercedes for us -Romans 8: 26

He interprets Scripture for us -1 Corinthians 2:1, 14; Ephesians 1:17

He leads us - Romans 8:14

He liberates us -Romans 8:2

He moulds our Character - Galatians 5: 22 - 23

He produces fruit in us -Galatians 5: 22 - 23

He empowers Believers - Luke 24:49

By His power we raise from the dead -Romans 8:11

He regenerates us - Titus 3:5

He sanctifies us - Romans 15:16

He seals us - Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30

He strengthens us - Ephesians 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 1 Corinthians 2:4

He is our teacher - John 14:26

He testifies of Jesus - John 15:26

He gives us victory over our flesh - Romans 8:2-4; Galatians 4:6

He is our worship helper - Philippians 3:3

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What are the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Galatians 5:22, 23:

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

How do we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit?

The cultivation of a garden is the perfect analogy for the preparation work that needs to be done in our hearts, in order to be good, fertile soil for Holy Spirit to seed, and for the best conditions for that seed to grow, and produce good fruit.

1. Cultivate the soil of our hearts:

Be ready to receive and hold on to all that God gives us. Be teachable, open to receive correction, not taking offense, being ready to receive trials and hardships in a Scriptural way.

2. Nourishment:

Be nourished by our relationship with God, feed on the Word of God, spend time in praise and prayer

3. Pruning:

Jesus wrote, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2). Sometimes this pruning can be quite drastic.

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4. Protection:

Developing the fruit of the spirit may involve protection from assaults of the enemy. This can

include the following:

- Pulling down strongholds of various kinds that the enemy uses for shelter and to block progress
- Taking thoughts captive to obey Jesus Christ
- Praying for protection, by yourself and by others
- Taking a stand against the enemy
- Making sure not to give the devil a foothold (Ephesians 4:27).

Specific actions we can take include:

1. **Decide.** Galatians 5:16 calls on us to make a decision to live by the Spirit.

2. **Pray.** James 1:5-8 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who

gives to all generously without finding fault, and it will be given him."

3. **Keep short accounts with God and others.**

Jesus has told us, if "your brother has something against you... go and be

reconciled to your brother" (Matthew 5:23-24).

4. **Make the most of every opportunity.**

Ephesians 5:15 says, "Be very careful, then,

how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every

opportunity, because the days are evil."

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5. Become mature.

Fruit should increase as we become mature, as we "in all things grow up into him who is the head" (Ephesians 4:15). All the training and experience that we have received in growing into Christian maturity will help us to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

6. Do battle with the enemy.

There is a war going on inside us between the Holy Spirit and the flesh; the enemy wants the flesh to win. God has given us weapons that have divine power to tear down the enemy's strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4-5), but we must use them. The Holy Spirit wants to have complete control and we need to surrender ourselves to him completely.

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7. Sow into the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7-8 gives an important key. "Do not be deceived.

God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

8. Have a right relationship with God.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The fruit of the Spirit is the result of, and the evidence of, a right relationship with God.

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THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Scripture reference: 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11

THE KEY TO A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE, IS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Without the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit there is always doubt in the human mind.

Luke 7:18 – 23: Jesus and John the Baptist

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, **19** calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" **20** And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" **21** In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. **22** And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers[e] are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. **23** And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

John 10:24, 25

24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

The Person, the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit comes as a package. It can be likened to a gift, wrapped in paper, tied with a bow – you get one, you get the others.

The gifts of the Spirit can be categorized in the following three ways:

1. Residential gifts
2. Non-residential gifts
3. Office gifts

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Residential Gifts

These gifts are always with us, it is who and what we are. The following scripture speaks to it some more:

Romans 12: 4 – 8 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (ESV)

Non-Residential Gifts

These gifts are not always with us, it manifests when it is needed. It is a result of the Holy Spirit manifesting His presence. We do not own these gifts, and every believer can operate in these gifts.

1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (ESV)

Office Gifts

These gifts are in the person, not in the function and is often referred to as the five-fold ministry gifts. People carrying a five-fold mantle are a gift to the body, for their encouragement and for equipping the body for good works ((Ephesians 4: 11 – 16).

Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ff

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The non-residential gifts can be divided into three distinct gifts:

1. Revelation gifts: Words of Knowledge, Words of Wisdom and the Discerning of Spirits
2. Power gifts: Faith, Healing and the Gift of Miracles
3. Inspiration gifts: The gifts of Prophecy, Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

FOUR KEYS TO MOVING IN THE SPIRIT:

1. You must be eager – 1 Corinthians 12: 7 and 31
2. You must be committed to edify other – 1 Corinthians 12: 7 The purpose of all service is to glorify God and edify each other
3. Be prepared to step out in faith, take risks for God – Galatians 3: 1 - 5
4. Be diligent in practicing the gifts – 1 Corinthians 14:12

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14: 26

Here is an interesting fact: the first person to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit is recorded in Exodus 31, verses 1 to 5

God spoke to Moses: "See what I've done; I've personally chosen Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs and work in gold, silver, and bronze; to cut and set gemstones; to carve wood—he's an all-around craftsman.

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Let's take a closer look at the non-residential gifts:

GIFTS OF REVELATION

Words of Wisdom (Logos Sophia)

Definition: Wisdom supernaturally given by God to meet a need in a particular, or specific situation

- It's supernatural, precise solutions to problems as they arise
- A fragment of God's perfect, infallible wisdom is revealed to us
- This gift is not just for, or in the church, but also for the marketplace
- It comes as impressions, thoughts, or scripture quickened by the Holy Spirit, in relation to the problem

Scriptural examples can be found in Matthew 22 where Jesus solves a problem regarding how taxes should be paid, and in 1 Kings 3 where king Solomon has to rule regarding the baby disputed by two mothers.

Proverbs 8:14 *Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.*

Words of Knowledge (Logos gnosis)

This gift reveals supernatural revelation of information that is impossible to know and must be applied with the Word of Wisdom.

Scriptural examples are found in Acts 9:11, 12, John 4 which tells us about Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well, and Acts 5:1 – 11

- Words of wisdom may come as words, thoughts, pictures, and impressions in our minds
- They brings encouragement, convictions, builds faith, gives direction (Acts 10:20) and imparts vision
- When you receive a Word of Knowledge, ask for wisdom regarding what to do, especially if it is corrective or directional
- Remain open to correction

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Discerning of Spirits

The Discerning of Spirits is a God-given, supernatural gift to enable you to discern the spirit operating, whether it's angelic, demonic, human (flesh), or Holy Spirit

The purpose is to protect and guard the flock, but it is not an excuse to be critical. This is one of the most abused gifts, as unhealed people often use this as an excuse to judge and criticize.

Scriptural reference: Matthew 16, Acts 16

THE GIFTS OF POWER

The gifts of power are the small expressions of the omnipotence of God – the Gift of Faith, the Gift of Healing and Signs and Wonders, or Working of Miracles, as it's sometimes referred to.

Gift of Faith

Definition: The God-given ability to believe with certainty for the impossible in a particular situation. It is a sudden, supernatural infusion of faith in a seemingly impossible situation.

Faith can be categorized in seven different ways:

- Natural faith (for example believing a chair won't break when you sit in it)
- Historical faith – faith rooted in tradition, from experience
- Temporary faith (for example Matthew 20:13, the seed that fell in a rocky place)
- Saving faith – believing in Jesus as our Saviour, according to

Romans 10:9

- Faith in God – believing for miracles, healing etc.
- Fruit faith – the manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Gift of Faith – supernaturally received, a mountain-moving faith (Mark 11:22)

The Gift of Faith is activated by impressions, visions, dreams, or sometimes even an audible voice. It often works with the gifts of Prophecy and Words of Knowledge. Some scriptures to explore are Acts 3:1, and Matthew 8: 1 -

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Gifts of Healing

Definition: The God-given ability to impart healing at specific times. It often operates with the Gifts of Knowledge, Faith and Working of Miracles. (Matthew 10:1) The gift is initiated by the Holy Spirit, manifests through a willing vessel and is driven by supernatural compassion. It is often preceded by anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands.

Working of Miracles

Definition: The God-given ability to co-operate with God, to perform an act that is supernatural and against the laws of nature. These are acts that transcend reason and natural laws.

Scriptural references: Hebrews 2:3,4; 1 Corinthians 2:4; Acts 19:11; John 2:11; Matthew 14: 19; Joshua 10:12 – 14; Mark 9:23

All these gifts have to be activated by God and everyone who is willing can be activated to operate in the gifts of the Spirit.

THE GIFTS OF INSPIRATION

The Gifts of Inspiration allows us to speak in supernatural languages and include the Gift of Prophecy and the Gifts of Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues.

The Gift of Prophecy

This gift is the God-given ability to speak under the direct, supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit, becoming God's mouthpiece to verbalize His will. The Greek word is "phropetein" which means "speaking forth the mind and counsel of God" or "the voice of God".

Preaching is not prophecy, but may contain some prophetic elements. It is good to note that not all that prophecy is a prophet and that there is a clear and definite distinction between being able to prophecy and being a five-fold prophet. The office of the prophet is a God-appointed office and is confirmed by recognition by the church.

The gift of prophecy must be submitted to the Word of God. Holy Spirit is God, and God can never speak against Himself. Any prophetic word that speaks against the scriptures must be discarded.

Scriptural reference: 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 14: 3, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 20, Romans 8:14

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Five uses for the Gift of Prophecy:

1. Edification – to build up, and strengthen the body of Christ
2. Exhortation – to encourage
3. Comfort – to console
4. Conviction
5. Instruction

All prophecy needs to be tested and prophets should always operate in teams. *1 Thessalonians 5:19 – 21 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.*

More scriptural reference: 1 Corinthians 14:31, Acts 11:27, 1 Corinthians 14:29

When we struggle to receive a prophetic word, or it does not "feel" right the problem could be:

1. The content - the word is out of season and therefor there is no witness in our spirit
2. The conduct or approach of the person bringing the word – basic manners and etiquette should never be discarded
3. The channel through which it comes - the person bringing the word might defiled, or have some mixture in their life
4. The source of the word – it may not have originated from Holy Spirit, but from the person's soul, or another source

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How do I test the prophetic word? Here are some questions to ask yourself:

1. Is it in line with the Word of God?
2. Is there a witness in my spirit?
3. Does it bring edification?
4. Is the word consistent with the character of God?
5. If there is a predictive element – did it come to pass?

Some things you should not be doing when bringing a prophetic word:

1. Do not scold, lecture or push your point
2. Do not correct leadership through prophecy
3. Do not project personal problems or feelings into prophecy
4. Do not speak until the message is clear to you
5. Do not let your emotions take over
6. Do not go on and on – make your point and then stop talking
7. Do not stray from the flow of the meeting, wait for a more opportune time to release the word
8. Check with the leadership before releasing directional or corrective words

Corinthians 14 is an excellent chapter to study. Regarding the gift of prophesy Paul writes, in verses 31 to 33: "For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

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THE GIFTS OF TONGUES AND THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The Gift of Tongues

This is the God-given ability to communicate in a language one does not know and to interpret so that all may understand and be edified.

Praying in Tongues is our personal prayer language given to us by the Holy Spirit so that we may communicate with God in the spirit. *The Gift of Tongues* is God speaking to us, through a person, in a corporate setting.

It operates with the Gift of Interpretation, so that all present can understand the message of God. A definition for the *Gift of Interpretation* is the God-given ability to interpret a message in tongues into language understood by the people present.

We should note the difference between translation, and interpretation. To interpret is to bring out the gist; the essence of the message and differs from translation, where a message is relayed word for word.

Here are some guidelines regarding this spiritual gift:

If a word is released,

1. It must be interpreted by someone in the meeting. If no interpretation

comes, the one who released the word should ask the Lord for the interpretation also

2. Only two or three messages from the same person – no-one should dominate or take over the meeting

3. The operating of the gift should be submitted to the order of the service

The effects of the Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues are similar than that of Prophecy, in that it brings edification. (1 Corinthians 14)

Tongues is a sign for the unbeliever, prophecy is a sign for believers. The Gift of Tongues is not the lesser of all the gifts. 1 Corinthians is a letter of correction to the church where there was an overemphasis of Tongues and not enough on the Gift of Prophecy, so Paul de-emphasize the Gift of Tongues and emphasizes the Gift of Prophecy to restore the balance to the church in Corinth.

What is the best gift then, you might ask. The best gift is the gift that is needed in a specific circumstance. Someone needing healing will benefit more from the Gift of Healing, than from a prophetic word.

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Impartation of the Gifts

Scriptural reference: Romans 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:6

The Greek word used is "metadinomi" which means "to give a share of; to share an association with someone".

Impartation happens in close association from one with another. For an impartation to take place, there are two sources, the Holy Spirit and an anointed person, working together. The Holy Spirit deposits a gift in a person and they are trained in operating in the gift, by associating with someone already operating in the same gift.

In some circles there is a tradition, or belief, that we can simply lay hands on a person, and impart what we carry. This may be true in some cases, but it is more often a question of "catching" what someone carries, by being disciplined and mentored, and being in regular, close proximity with each other.

