JOHN 7 ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

"You don't understand— he speaks amazing things like no one else has ever spoken." (John 7:46)

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he Lord...takes the upright into his confidence (Proverbs 3:32). Consider a time in your life when you sensed God revealing something to you—when you felt that He "took you into His confidence." It may have occurred as you encountered Scripture, as you were praying, or as you listened to the sharing of another. Then complete the following sentence, either on your own or using one of the sample beginnings listed below.

I remember having a very personal encounter with God when He...

- drew me to Himself by...
- gave specific direction concerning...
- provided caution/warning about...
- revealed Himself as...
- confronted me concerning...
- affirmed/encouraged me concerning...
- reassured me during...

(For example: "I remember having a very personal encounter with God when He encouraged me concerning my worth to Him. I felt like a failure, but I sensed the Lord saying to me, 'I love you. Don't give up, trust Me.")

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

John 7 ENCOUNTER JESUS

"Believe in me, so that rivers of living water will burst out from within you; flowing from your innermost being." (John 7:38)

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	"Jesus was prophesying about the Holy Spirit that believers were being prepared to receive. But the Holy Spirit had not yet poured out upon them, because Jesus had not yet been unveiled in his full splendor." (John 7:39)			
	It's the Holy Spirit who provides discernment and direction as we pause to yield to His fullness.			
	Respond to His promise of the Spirit flowing through you. Welcome the Holy Spirit's prompting and empowerment. Thank the Lord Jesus for not leaving you as an orphan, but coming to you through His Spirit. You are never alone as He guides, directs and empowers.			

JOHN 7 EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

"If you want to test my teachings and discover where I received them, first be passionate to do God's will, and then you will be able to discern if my teachings are from the heart of God or from my own opinions." (John 7:17)

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ur commitment in faith to yield to God before we fully know is the secret to spiritual transformation. Like Jesus, we must say, "not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). Are you committed to yield in this way? Is it your very "spiritual food" to do the Father's will (John 4:34)? We invite you by faith to pray a prayer of yielding – to give expression to your heart's commitment to yield to whatever God asks of you, even when you do not really understand what He is asking or what He is doing.

Consider the circumstances of your life right now. Think about your important relationships. Reflect upon critical situations and unanswered questions. What are you struggling with right now?

Compose your own prayer of commitment to yield, and then offer it to God. Use the structure below to assist you as needed.

Father, before I even hear Your voice concerning...

- My calling as a husband/wife/parent or friend to...(For example: my calling as a parent to demonstrate the importance of personal purity regarding what I allow to come into my mind.)
- The decision regarding...(For example: the decision regarding how to best care for our aging parents.)
- How I should handle...(For example: how I should handle the conflict with my boss.)
- What I should trust You for relative to...(For example: what I should trust You for relative to my health problem and the treatment for it.)

... I yield to You all that I am, and all that my future holds. By faith, I commit to live out what you reveal. Speak Lord, you servant listens.

After you have offered your prayer and spent some time listening for the Lord, share your prayer with your partner or small group. Pray for one another, asking God to answer you prayers and to empower each of you to live out your commitment to yield.

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