

Group Reflection Questions

1. What gives you joy?
2. Is the word charismatic positive or negative for you? Why?
3. Are you joyful today? Are you joyful in general?
4. Do you experience God primarily through your thinking or through your emotions?
5. Have you become more Spirit-filled over the years? Why or why not?

The Charismatic Stream: The Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Charismatic is a word that can scare people in the church—especially the Presbyterian Church! At its root though, charismatic simply means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As one writer put it, “there is no such thing as a non-charismatic Christian.” This means that if we are a Christian, Jesus has promised us that the Holy Spirit will come and fill us. The life in the Spirit is marked with joy and peace and love most of all. Out in the middle of a field the Shepherds were overwhelmed with this joy as they encountered an angel of the Lord.

It is through the Holy Spirit that the Word of God stays active in our own time. In the reformed tradition we believe we are not only led by the Bible, but we are specifically lead in our reading of the Bible by the Spirit. It is the Spirit that leads us to continually have joy and love in our life. Without the Spirit, our faith will become dry and stagnant. But, with the Spirit we are continually refreshed by “streams of living water,” not just now, but all the way into eternity as Jesus tells us on John’s gospel.