



Central Telford Parish

Week Beginning 20th May 2018

"The Holy Spirit – Who is He?"

• Introduction

This study has more material than you can possibly get through in one session! Please look through the material and use that which will encourage or challenge your group most. Seek God's wisdom (and his Holy Spirit!) to guide you as to what is most appropriate to your group. The re-emergence and phenomenal growth of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement in recent years has led to the need for the church to face an important question: whatever we might understand or feel about the various aspects of the Holy Spirit, what is his role in the church today?

• Welcome

Name your favourite fruit and why - exotic, home-grown whatever!

Name the tool you use most around the home - scissors, hammer whatever!

• Worship

Read John 16:5 - 7 and spend some time thanking God for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Remind yourselves that God keeps his promises and that the cost of this promise was the Cross. In a time of quiet, ask God to send the Holy Spirit into your time together - to reveal more of God to you and to equip you for the work he has for you as individuals and as Church community.

• Word

Defining Terms

Read Galatians 5:22- 23 - "***The Fruit of the Spirit***"

The fruit are the deep-rooted aspects of our character that can be seen by others as evidence that God is changing us to be more like Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 - "***The Gifts of the Spirit***"

The gifts are abilities that God gives to his followers enabling them to do things that they would not be able to do in their own human strength.

The Spirit in Scripture

- ❖ Genesis 1:2 He is there at the beginning of time
- ❖ Isaiah 32:14 - 18 He was desired and predicted by the Prophets
- ❖ Joel 2:28 - 29 He was Promised by God through the OT Prophets
- ❖ Acts 1:8 He was Promised by Jesus ...
- ❖ Acts 2:1 - 4 ... a promise fulfilled 10 days later

- How would you describe the work of the Holy Spirit before Jesus came?
- In what ways does can we understand the Holy Spirit to be a person (not an "it")?
- How does our understanding of the Spirit change after the Day of Pentecost?

The Spirit Empowers

- ❖ Psalm 104:30 The Spirit involved in creation
- ❖ John 3:6 - 7, 6:63 The Spirit involved in re-creation
- ❖ Luke 1:35 The Spirit's power brought about the Incarnation
- ❖ Romans 8:11 The Spirit's power will bring about our resurrection bodies

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit empowered people for special service: (Examples are in Numbers 27:18, Judges 3:10, 6:34, 13:25, 1 Samuel 16:13 also Exodus 35:31) But the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost changed the way that people experienced the Spirit. The disciples had seen this in Jesus:

- ❖ Matthew 3:16 Jesus anointed with the Spirit at his baptism
- ❖ Luke 4:1, 14 Jesus is "driven" by the Spirit
- ❖ Luke 4:18 - 19 The agenda of Jesus' ministry is determined by the Spirit

After Pentecost, the Disciples experienced this for themselves:

- ❖ They Ministered in the Spirit: Acts 6:5, 8, Romans 15:19, 1 Corinthians 2:4
- ❖ They Prayed in the Spirit: Romans 8;26
- ❖ They Received Spiritual Gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:7 - 11

- Do you think that this was only for "then"?
- Why don't we see these things very often today?
- Could we ... should we?
- What might be stopping us?

The Spirit Purifies

The work of the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus - The word Holy implies that the Spirit aims to "cleanse" and "sanctify" us. If you have time, read John 16:8-11, Acts 7:51, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2, Romans 8:13.

- If we have the Holy Spirit in us (the Bible promises that), why do we still sin?
- How does the Holy Spirit change us?

The Spirit Reveals

- ❖ 1 Peter 1:21 The Bible came into being through the work of the Spirit
- ❖ John 16:13 Writers were guided into truth
- ❖ Romans 8:16 He reveals God to us and gives confidence
- ❖ John 14:26 He teaches
- ❖ John 16:13 He guides
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:12 He enables us to understand

The Spirit Unifies

- ❖ Peter's quoting of Joel in Acts 2:16-18 was emphasising the gift of the Spirit to the Church as a Community and we see this in the early church in Acts 2:44-47.
- ❖ The Grace (2 Corinthians 3:14) talks about the unifying work of the Spirit.
- ❖ The Body (1 Corinthians 12:21) is held together by different gifts in mutual dependence, for "the common good" v27

Works

Read Ephesians 1:17-19. Look at the various aspects of Paul's prayer, applying it to the areas in your life where the Spirit is most needed. Spend some time asking God to give you the Spirit to help you grow in your faith.

A thought to finish with

I have a friend who has, over many years, amassed both an incredible knowledge and talent for DIY as well as the most amazing set of tools and gadgets for doing tasks of every kind. I know that I can always rely upon him to advise and equip for tasks that are way beyond my feeble talents. But my pride can often get in the way and the result is regret that a job could have been completed a lot better if only I'd asked. Just as all those resources are a phone call away, so are the resources for all our spiritual tasks - we just need to make sure our spiritual pride doesn't get in the way.