

CAFÉ CHURCH SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE



Theme: 'What, or Who is the Holy Spirit?'

We regularly speak about the Holy Spirit – and state our belief in him when we repeat or sing a creed in Church – but who is he?

- **How would you explain who the Holy Spirit is to someone who had no previous idea, no theological teaching.....give time to think then share in your group.**

A quick biography of the Holy Spirit

- **Read Genesis 1:1-2 and Genesis 2:7**

The Holy Spirit has been present from the very beginning and brings life. The Hebrew word for the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:1 is *rûah* - it's a very similar word to the word that used in Genesis 2:7 for 'breath'. Generally speaking, in the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *rûah* — is used for 'breath' and 'Spirit'.

The Holy Spirit works like this in our lives ...he is a creator spiritHe bring life.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon particular people at particular times for particular tasks – for example:

Craftsmanship

Exodus 31:1-5 Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God to give him the skills necessary to complete the tabernacle.

Leadership

Judges 6:34 The Spirit of God took control of Gideon and, despite his lack of confidence in his own abilities, he became a great leader

Strength

Judges 15:14 The Holy Spirit gave power to Samson so he could break the ropes which bound him

To preach

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit came upon the prophet Isaiah to enable him to 'preach good news to the poor.

Inspire with the Word of God

2 Samuel 23:2 The Holy Spirit enabled David to speak God's word

Can you think of:

- **any other examples from the OT**
- **examples of anyone - famous or ordinary – that the Holy Spirit has acted upon in this way**

Joel (2:28-29) prophesise that the Holy Spirit will be available for everyone not just particular people at particular times

*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on **ALL** people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, **regardless of gender**
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions. **regardless of age**
Even on my servants, both men and women, **regardless of rank or background**
I will pour out my Spirit in those days. **For EVERYONE - sometime in the future***

There is a long wait....400 years between OT and NT and then after his resurrection Jesus again promises the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for his disciples (Luke 24:49, Acts1:8)

But still they had to wait ...wait until in Acts 2:2-4 we have that amazing outpouring when all who knew and trusted in the Lord were filled with the Holy Spirit. Joel's prophecy came true.

And this Spirit is freely available for all who turn to Christ. **Every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit** although not all are filled to overflowing....not all thirst for more. We can pray for this thirst if we don't experience it at the moment.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Makes us 'Children of God'

By the Spirit we are adopted into God's family and become heirs to God's kingdom.

Read Romans 8:14-17

We are God's children and the HS helps us to develop our relationship with God...that we might know God better.

- **How does the Holy Spirit do this?**
- **Share specific personal examples of how you have developed your relationship with God?**

As we become part of the same family, Paul tells us we start to look more like Jesus:

'we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'(2 Corinthians 3:18)

How? Paul writes about the fruit of the Spirit – and as we bear fruit the family likeness is more visible.

'...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22)

- **Share examples when you - or others known to you - have produced fruit in this way?**

The Holy Spirit gives Gifts

Gifts of the Spirit are listed in various places in the New Testament – they are special abilities provided by the Holy Spirit to Christians for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.

The list of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 includes wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits ...there are others listed elsewhere in the New Testament.

We don't necessarily get all of these gifts.....there is diversity but there is interdependence...we as a body (the church) need all of them. And the church should be growing (read Acts 1:8)

The Church has been likened to a game of football...22 working themselves to death, desperate for a rest... watched by thousands desperately in need of exercise. David Watson (a church leader and writer) comments;

'In different traditions, the church for years has been either pulpit- centred or altar-centred. In both situations, the dominant role has been played by the minister or priest'

The church cannot operate in maximum effectiveness and grow until each person is playing his or her part.

- **Discuss how our Church operates....are we effective?**
- **How could we become more effective?**
- **What part can you play in this, as individuals or a Life Group?**

Pray for more of the Holy Spirit – for yourself, for your group, for our church, for the universal church.