

CAFÉ CHURCH SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE



How do we do to receive the Holy Spirit?

Café Church 2nd April 2017

In the first part of the talk five different groups of people are referred to – all of them become filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Those waiting and longing to be filled (Acts 2 Pentecost)
- Those receptive to Jesus (Acts 8:14-18)
- Those that were hostile (Acts 9 Paul)
- Those that knew nothing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7)
- Those not expected to receive the Holy Spirit- Gentiles. (Acts 10:44-46)

How would you describe yourself in relation to these groups of people?

Has your position changed over time?

The book of Acts describes what happens to these people. They had a physical or emotional experience, they began to praise God and they received gifts.

Physical or emotional experiences

These can include: shaking, feeling very warm, as if drunk, passing out, feeling a great peace, feeling loved very deeply.

There is no right or wrong experiences, for some people it can be very dramatic, for others there may be no apparent effect until later and even then, it can be a slow change.

Share your own experiences or those you have witnessed.

Praising God

‘Our worship of God should involve our whole personality, mind, heart, will and emotions.’ -

Do you agree?

Can emotionalism be a problem in our worship?

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

These were mentioned in the previous talk. (1 Corinthians 12)

The gift often referred to at the time of receiving the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts is the gift of ‘Speaking in Tongues’. ‘Tongues’ simply means a language that has not been learnt. Paul says in 1 Corinthians, 13 that it could be earthly, human languages, or it could be heavenly, angelic languages.

It’s speaking to God: prayer or speaking to the Church when it needs an interpreter so the church understands.

It can build up the individual Christian, or the Church and the New Testament approves of this gift. But there are restrictions and St Paul does warn us about using it in public if it confuses others or makes them feel isolated. It is not the be all and end all of Christian life.

Not all Christians speak in tongues
It's not the mark of being a Christian / being filled with the Spirit
It's not the most important gift

It can be very helpful, treasured gift but remember there are other gifts and we do not all receive all of them....different people receive different gifts to build up the body.

Things that may get in the way

We may be doubt that we can receive the Holy Spirit, we may fear what may happen, (or fear that nothing will happen!) we may feel unworthy of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Jesus deals with these feelings in Luke 11:11-13. We simply have to ask.

What else might get in the way of any one receiving the Holy Spirit?

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a once in a life time event.

When Paul says 'Be filled' in Ephesians 5:18 it's in the present continuous tense....not to be filled once then it's all over ...but to go on being filled again and again and again...continuous. Is this your experience?

Receiving the Holy Spirit

Spend time as a group sitting quietly, you may like to play some suitable quiet music or a suitable worship song.

The leader could invite the Holy Spirit – the words below are just a suggestion, use what is right for you and your group. You may wish to pray for each other in turn round the group or pray in pairs or pray individually. Whatever feels best for your group.

Come Holy Spirit

Lord I thank you that you say: 'Ask, and you will receive,' and tonight we ask that you would come and fill us with your Holy Spirit.

May we turn from anything that prevents us coming to you...say sorry for our wrong actions, thoughts, deeds and ask for strength by the power of your Holy Spirit to overcome our wrong ways, our sins.

***Lord, fill us with the Father's love
Lord fill us with your holy Spirit
Lord, come in Jesus' name. Amen.***

***Thank you
Thank you
Thank you Amen***