

God's Empowering Presence Week 4

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



POWER FOR SERVICE

Read Luke 24:36-49

This current period in the Church Year lies between Easter and Pentecost. This could describe many Christians who are genuine believers, they know Jesus Christ died and rose again for them, but they don't yet know the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit in personal experience? They seek to live out their Christian lives to the best of their ability but the reality is that all too often it feels like pushing a broken down car up a hill. This seems to be especially so when it comes witnessing, seeking to share the good news of Jesus and the Gospel with others. Now there is no

way that Jesus wants or intends for his followers to live out the Christian life like this. This is the subject of this passage here in Luke 24:36-49. The context is the Upper Room and one of the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Having calmed their fearful hearts and troubled minds, and confirmed to them that he was truly risen from the dead and alive, and it really was him standing there in their midst, Jesus turns to more important matters - the two matters that lay at the heart of everything he had to say during his post-resurrection appearances: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to 'Go and make disciples!', and The Last Commission (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5) to prayerfully wait on God to be endued with the supernatural power of God - 'wait ... until you have been clothed with power from on high'!

Questions and Pointers for Discussion/Reflection

1. 'The evangelism of England is a work that cannot be done by the clergy alone ... There will be no widespread evangelism of England unless the work is undertaken by the people of the church!' (*Towards the Conversion of England*, 1945). Discuss.
2. It is said that Harry Emerson Fosdick's church grew because 'his people shared with those they met on a Monday what they had heard from their Pastor on a Sunday'. What can we learn from this? Could we follow suit?
3. Look again at vs.46-48. What exactly does Jesus mean by 'You are witnesses of these things'?
4. Note how Jesus justified his teaching here by appealing to Scripture rather than to his own inherent authority as the Son of God (vs.44,45). It has been suggested that the Bible is 'a book of stories that illustrate God's gracious dealings with individuals and people groups' rather than a 'book of rules and regulations'. Do you agree?
5. What does it mean to have our 'minds opened so as to understand the Scriptures' (v.45)?
6. The supreme purpose of the Bible is to testify to the Person and Work of Jesus. Do you agree with this? What is it about the Person and Work of Jesus that is singled out in vs.46,47?
7. How do we best understand the meaning of the word 'repentance' used here in v.47? Do we over-complicate things?
8. How does understanding the phrase 'Missio Dei' (the Mission of God) help us to see 'mission' in a more encouraging light?
9. 'Every Christian has the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit does not have every Christian' (A W Tozer). Discuss.
10. What is the difference between being 'born again of the Holy Spirit' (John 3:3-8), being 'baptised with the Spirit' (Acts 1:4,5), and being 'filled with the Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18)?
11. The Greek word for 'power' (v.49) means 'supernatural power'. What kind of 'signs and wonders' (Act 2:43), if any, should we expect to see today in 'confirmation of God's word' (Mark 16:20)?
12. 'God fills men, not mice, with his Spirit!' ~ A W Tozer. What can we learn from Luke 11:11-13 about the gift of God's Spirit?
13. Have we lost the art of 'prayerfully waiting on God' (Isaiah 40:31KJV; Acts 1:12-14)? What can be done to recover it?
14. Share something of your own experience of the Holy Spirit.