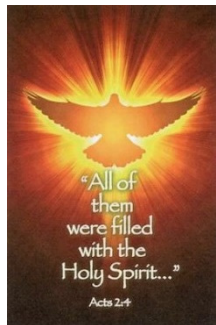


Week 5

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.



ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Acts 2:1-4,11

This is the fifth in a series of studies tracing the Journey from Easter to Pentecost as told by Luke in his two books: *The Gospel of Luke*, and the follow-up volume, *The Acts of the Apostles*. Here, in the second chapter of *Acts*, Luke recounts the extraordinary events of that first Day of Pentecost in the Christian era. The disciples (some 120 or so of them) are gathered together most probably in the large Upper Room where they had been accustomed to get together continuing to prayerfully wait on God for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had told them to (Acts 1:4,5). Without doubt it was this experience (rather than the resurrection appearances of Jesus) that totally transformed them from a group of frightened men and women hiding away in an upper room to a group of bold witnesses for Jesus out on the streets proclaiming the Gospel to all and sundry!

Questions and Pointers for Discussion/Reflection

1. We are told here that 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (v.4) i.e. none of them missed out on this wonderful experience! We are also told earlier that they were 'all together in one place' (v.1) prior to the Spirit falling upon them. Was there more to their 'togetherness' than just being in the same place (see Acts 4:32)? What part did corporate prayer play in this (Acts 1:12-14)? What is the connection between the 'togethernesses' of v.1 and v.4?
2. Luke tells us here that they were all 'filled' with the Holy Spirit (v.4). What is the difference between this kind of 'filling' and the kind of 'filling' Paul spoke of in Ephesians 5:18?
3. There is a difference between being 'born again of the Holy Spirit' (John 3:1-8); being 'baptised with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 1:5) or '(initially) filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:4); and being '(continually) filled with the Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18). Do you agree?
4. When the Holy Spirit came and filled these first disciples he came as 'wind' or 'breath' breathing new life into the gathered church (v.2). What are the evidences of this new spiritual life (see John 3:16; 10:10; etc.)?
5. When the Holy Spirit came and filled these first disciples he came as 'fire' (v.3). How are we to understand this? Holiness? Enthusiasm?
6. When the Holy Spirit came and filled these first disciples he gave them new 'words' to speak (v.4). What is the significance of this in terms of the supernatural? In terms of witness (see v.11)?
7. Luke tells us that when the Holy Spirit came upon the church on the Day of Pentecost 'all of them' were filled with the Holy Spirit (v.4). All 120 of them! Nobody was left out! The whole church was filled with the Spirit! What can we learn from this?
8. When the Holy Spirit came upon those first disciples they 'began to speak in other tongues' (v.4). This is a reference to the 'gift of tongues' Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 – the God-given ability to speak in a language (human or angelic) that we have never learned. What is the point of this? Is this still a gift for today?
9. Jesus tells us that the primary reason behind us being 'Spirit-filled' Christians is so that we can be effective witnesses (Acts 1:8). How do we see this being worked out in v.11?

What do we learn from Peter's encouraging words in Acts 2:38,39?