

Week beginning: 10th May 2009

1 Thessalonians 4 – ‘Change’

Welcome: If you had a single ‘magic wish’ and you could change one thing about yourself what would it be? (If there is only nervous laughter and amusing but superficial suggestions ... what could that mean?)

Worship: Don’t forget to worship in your cell meeting. It is through worship that we draw near to God – sing ‘*Just as I am*’ (S of F 316) Come on, you don’t need music for that! (In fact ... it’s better sung without the music!)

Discuss: ‘*Just as I am*’ is a song that acknowledges & celebrates the amazing Grace of God. The title highlights the ***condition*** of the one who is approaching The Cross to receive the free and unconditional Salvation of Jesus Christ.

1. Do we change at the Cross?
2. If your answer is ‘yes’ – in what way do we change at the Cross?
3. If your answer is ‘no’ go back to question 1 and don’t leave cell until your answer is ‘yes’! (Action on cell leaders!!)
4. After becoming a Christian is there any responsibility on ***us*** to change our way of life ... or is that all the Holy Spirit’s business?
5. Encourage your group by telling them how you have changed.

Word:—‘*When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place*’. (Acts 2:1)

Teaching Slot: The believers had three outstanding things in common. They had **anticipation**, they had **expectation** and they had ***desire***. Anticipation, expectation and desire for what? For CHANGE! Their anticipation owed its urgency to the promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit ***would*** come (John 15:26). Their expectation was firmly rooted in their experience – Jesus was the All-Powerful son of God and they had watched Him keep ***every one of His*** promises. And their all-consuming ***desire*** was to become (*to change into*) people who could and would glorify Him by doing His Will. In a world where modern-day believers have virtually every material need they could ever wish for – ***a desire to change*** can often be sadly absent.

Witness:

The world needs to know that change is not threatening. Tell somebody about how you have changed for the better since accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.