

Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 10th July 2005

Theme: Believers Are To Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Welcome: Try an ice-breaker for fun! (See www.revmark.tk and follow the link)

Worship Suggestion: Read & meditate on the words of John the Baptist in Mark 1:7-8

Word/ Teaching Slot Key Scriptures: Acts 2:38-39; John 7:37-39; Luke 11:9-13; Eph. 5:18

- If the Lord Jesus needed to be filled (Luke 4:1,14), the apostles needed to be filled (Acts 2:2-4), and Paul needed to be filled (Acts 9:17), we also need to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
- This is not simply becoming a Christian and receiving the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18), and so had the Holy Spirit in Him all His life, but He still needed to be filled or baptised with the Holy Spirit in order to fulfil all that His Father had sent Him to do. This happened when He was baptised in water at the river Jordan (Luke 3:21-22).
- The disciples received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them (John 20:22), but they were told to wait until they had received the baptism with the Holy Spirit before they began their ministry (Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:2-4).
- The Bible uses many different ways to describe this filling. These include:-
being filled (Acts 2:4); being baptised (Acts 1:5); the Holy Spirit coming upon (Acts 1:8); receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17); pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45).
- It is not the label that matters but what actually happens, that is, we are enabled to do God's will and to be true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- It must be remembered that we are not just to be filled once and leave it at that.
- We need to be continually filled (Ephesians 5:18).
- The first disciples were filled at least twice (Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:31)
- Some of the biblical hindrances to leading a life in the fulness of the Spirit are:
disobedience (Acts 5:32); pride (1 Peter 5:5); lack of faith (Heb. 11:6); an evil motivation (Acts 8:18-24).

Questions and discussion Points

1. Can you think of any other hindrances, which people may have in not being filled with the Holy Spirit?
 2. Why do so many Christians feel that they don't need to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
-

Witness (See Acts 1:8)

3. Do you need to be filled for the first time or filled afresh with the Holy Spirit? Don't put it off. Ask and receive from your heavenly Father. (See the prayer below)
4. How can we meet the needs of the world in the way God the Father wants us to (like Jesus did) without being filled with the Holy Spirit (like Jesus was)? Discuss this after reading John 14:12!

Time to act & pray!

(Maybe you could pray the following prayer together during your cell meeting? However, please don't rush it or do it for the sake of it. This is serious stuff so watch out! God will answer – if you mean it!)

A simple, but profound prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the promise that whoever asks will receive, and whoever seeks will find. I know that I need more of your power in my life. I know that I need more of the fruit of your Holy Spirit in my life. Father, I confess my sin before you, I forgive all those who have wronged me, and I ask you for your cleansing in my life through the blood of Jesus. I open my life completely to you. Please send the Holy Spirit into my life in power right now and fill me so that I may be an effective witness for You. In Jesus' name, Amen."