

WHAT WE BELIEVE – WEEK 4

The Holy Spirit and The Church

BIBLE STUDY

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

GET THINKING!

1. What do you think a Spirit-led or spiritual Christian is?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, "You must love your neighbor as yourself." 15 However, if you continually bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (Gal. 5:13-18 NET)

1. How does Paul call Christians to live in vv.13-15?
2. What is the role of the Spirit in living as a Christian in vv.16-18?
3. What is the relationship of the Christian to the Spirit in vv.16-18?

19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, depravity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, murder, drunkenness, carousing, and similar things. I am warning you, as I had warned you before: Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God! 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, being jealous of one another. (Gal. 5:19-26 NET)

1. What is the contrast between the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh?

2. So what will a Spirit-filled or Spirit-led Christian look like?

FOR US

1. What does it mean for us as Christians and as a church the 'live by the Spirit' and 'behave in accordance with the Spirit.'?

5. THE CHURCH

GET THINKING

1. Why can an understanding of the church that focuses on a building or an institution be unhelpful?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

16 So the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:16-20 NET)

1. Who is Jesus talking (v.16) and what is their mission (v.19) (can you spot the repeated word?)?

2. If the correct understanding of the church is the assembly of disciples, then what is *the* mission of the church according to Jesus?

3. What aspects of making a disciple does Jesus outline (vv.19-20)?

4. What encouragement does Jesus give us for this mission in vv.18, 20?

FOR US

1. How does this mission apply to us at Rochdale Evangelical Church?

2. How could we approach fulfilling this mission?

DAILY READINGS

DAY 1

Read

6 So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, "Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He told them, "You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth." (Acts 1:6-8 NET)

Reflect

This passage is just before Jesus returns to the Father at the ascension and where he gives the disciples (the early church) their mission.

1. What is the mission of the early church and what role does the Spirit have?
2. How should the role of the Spirit encourage us in our mission?

Pray

Pray for our mission to Rochdale asking for us to be filled and empowered by the Spirit for that mission.

DAY 2

Read

1 Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven residing in Jerusalem. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Completely baffled, they said, "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that each one of us hears them in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs- we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds God has done!" 12 All were astounded and

greatly confused, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others jeered at the speakers, saying, "They are drunk on new wine!" (Acts 2:1-13 NET)

Reflect

Acts 2 records the promised coming of the Spirit.

1. How is the power of the Spirit shown in this passage?
2. How is the mission of the Spirit to empower the church to testify shown in this passage?

Pray

Give thanks that Jesus has given his Spirit and that all believers have his Spirit. Pray we would be empowered to testify to Jesus by the Spirit.

DAY 3

Read

14 But Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed them: "You men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this and listen carefully to what I say. 15 In spite of what you think, these men are not drunk, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 17 'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 And I will perform wonders in the sky above and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. 21 And then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know- 23 this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power. (Acts 2:14-24 NET)

Reflect

1. How does Peter explain what has happened at Pentecost from the Old Testament? (You can read on in Acts 2 to see more Old Testament background).
2. How do we see the Spirit's 'floodlight ministry' in pointing to and glorifying Jesus in the Spirit's empowering of Peter?

Pray

Pray that the Spirit would empower you and Rochdale Evangelical Church to point to Jesus.

DAY 4

Read

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "What should we do, brothers?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." 40 With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!" 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. 42 They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:36-47 NET)

Reflect

1. How do we see the Spirit's work in the formation of the church?
2. What does Peter require to be a member of the church?

Pray

Pray for the Spirit's work in forming our local church both in bring people to faith and uniting us in repentance and belief in the gospel.

DAY 5

Read

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the fresh and living way that he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. 23 And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. 24 And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, 25 not abandoning

our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:19-25 NET)

Reflect

The writer to the Hebrews explains the confidence we know have in our relationship with God because of Jesus death on the cross offering himself (as a priest and the sacrifice) for our sin.

1. Look for the phrase “let us” and see what the consequences of our confidence in Jesus should be.

2. Vv.24-25 talk about our attitude to meeting together as the church. What should we be doing and why?

Pray

Pray for a devotion to meeting together and our commitment to each other when we meet.