

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Life Group Study - Pentecost

Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done, on Earth as it is In Heaven.

We are to be the people, who learn not so much to be chameleons, passing with some embarrassment from one world to another, but who learn the new combined colour of a heaven-and-earth combined reality in which we can speak to God about the world and to the world about God in the same tone of voice and with the same full integrity, so that we can, in our lives and our words, speak in prayer to the Father for the mess that we still see around us in the world and speak in witness to the world about the sovereign rule of God through Jesus.

NT Wright

Read Acts 1:4-8

- Why have we received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- Discuss the quote from NT Wright. How do we learn to fully embrace our 'heaven-and-earth' combined reality?

Read Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 37:27 and Galatians 3:26-29

The name for the Spirit of God in Hebrew is Ruach, which means 'the wind' or the 'the breath' of God.

In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit rested on a special few, he was fitful, and his power was impersonal. Not so the new thing that God was doing, as was prophesied, no longer would his presence be restricted to a tabernacle or a temple, the elite and the uber spiritual. No longer would God be removed or distant. Rather, the Holy Spirit would make his home in every single person who accepted Jesus as their Lord and gave their life over to him.

- The new covenant means that the Spirit of God now finds home in the people of God, both individually and corporately. Knowing that we are now the 'temple' of God and knowing the nature of God. What can we expect of the Spirit?
- What is the promise Paul speaks of in Galatians 3:29?

Read Romans 8:14-16

- As we mature in Christ we learn to fully embrace our identity as sons and daughters of God. What, if anything, holds us back from embracing our new identity in Christ?

Read Acts 2:1-8

The Spirit enables us to speak with wisdom and power and eloquence. His presence in our lives purifies our hearts, and it is out of the overflow of our hearts that our mouths speak.

- How do we share the gospel with people?
- How do we 'fan into flame' the gifts of the Spirit in our lives?
- The Apostle Paul urges us to eagerly desire all the gifts of the Spirit, what does 'eagerly desiring' look like when put into practice in our lives? What holds us back from eagerly desiring all God has for us?
- How do we remain 'full' of the Spirit?

To close spend time in prayer, expect the Spirit of God to move amongst you and fill you up.