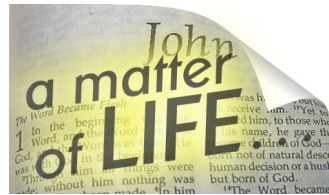




John's Gospel A MATTER OF LIFE...



Baptism in the Spirit John 1:32-34

Subtitle: **'Come Holy Spirit!' (not a typing error!)**

INTRO

THE 4 'R's

Rejection - Reluctance - Reception - Rejoicing!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS...

...PRACTICAL

Bezalel - Ex 31:1-5

...SENSATIONAL

John the Baptist - Lk 1:15

...ALWAYS EFFECTIVE

Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16 & 19, for example!

(NB There is no pattern in how the Spirit works!)

...AND HE EQUIPS

Jesus - Jn 3:5-8;
Paul - 1 Cor 12:7-11 & 28-30; Gal 5:22 & 23

RESPONSE

'...be filled with the Spirit.' Eph 5:18
'...eagerly desire...' 1 Cor 14:1

George Thomas - Sunday, 9th February 2014

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's unrealistic for a small group to do everything - so be selective! Modify the questions to suit, they are just to help leaders & groups make a start in discussing and applying what is taught on Sundays.

20 Questions!

These 20 Questions are for personal reflection and for use in small groups. They may prompt a search for the work of God in your life to be renewed. They may affirm the work of God in your life. They may spur you on to greater things. Before you begin simply ask God to lead your thoughts and to meet with you.

1. Why are people (perhaps yourself) resistant to the Holy Spirit?
2. What objections do people (you) have to the person of the Holy Spirit and his work?
3. What prevents people (you) from being filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. Can you be a Christian without the presence and work of the Holy Spirit?
5. Do you know the Spirit's presence when you are alone, or does it only work when other Christians are around?
6. When was the last time you asked to be filled with the Spirit? (Consider how often you fill the car with petrol, recharge your mobile phone, switch the kettle on for a brew.)
7. Has your Christian life reached a low-ebb, are you running on empty?
8. Is your prayer life dull and the Bible boring? Are other Christians 'yuk'? Is worship meaningless?
9. Do you feel like doing more for the Lord?
10. Are you longing to share your faith?
11. Are you experiencing inexplicable joy?
12. Are you experiencing the prompting of the Spirit?
13. Are you hearing the Lord better these days?
14. Is Jesus more real and your relationship with him more intimate than ever before?
15. Have people remarked about the difference they see in your life?
16. Are you sensing the power of God?
17. Are you aware that you love people more, that you are growing in grace, wisdom and mercy?
18. Do you have a more sensitive conscience?
19. Are you convicted by the injustices in the world so that you have a compassion for the poor and needy, for the disadvantaged and wounded?
20. Are you contemplating a huge step of faith?

A passage for reflection and to meditate on: Romans 8:12-17.