

St. George's Anglican Church
Cell Church Meeting
3rd June 2004
Agenda

Ice-breakers

- Have you ever been somewhere and not been able to understand what the persons around you were talking about? What happened?

Acts 2: 1 – 11 The coming of the Spirit

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ²And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. ⁶At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? ⁹We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphlyia, Egypt and the districts near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Questions

1. Why did God wait until Pentecost, a Jewish harvest festival, to give the Holy Spirit?
 - (a) the disciples would be together
 - (b) Jews would be assembled
 - (c) Many people would be in town as some would have made a pilgrimage for the big festival
 - (d) Religious Jews from many parts will receive the good news at the same time
 - (e) To empower disciples and Jews while they were in attitude of thanksgiving and worship
 - (f) Other _____

2. What might be the significance of the noise and “tongues as of fire” (vv 2, 3)?
- (a) To get the disciples attention
 - (b) Symbolic of the power invested in the disciples
 - (c) Symbolic of the renewed enthusiasm and energy for witnessing, given to the disciples
 - (d) Represents the movement, anointing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - (e) Other _____
3. Why are the homelands, of the travelers, named (vv 9 – 11)?
- (a) To show how far they came from
 - (b) To show how many persons were there
 - (c) To show that the crowd consisted of persons from many different backgrounds
 - (d) To show the extent of the power (unlimited) of the Holy Spirit
 - (e) Other _____
4. What attracts the pilgrims to the disciples?
- (a) They were putting on a show
 - (b) The loud sound from the sky
 - (c) They were holy men who journeyed with Jesus
 - (d) The disciples spoke their language
 - (e) Other _____
5. How does being filled with the Spirit relate to bearing witness to Jesus?
- (a) Witnesses are empowered by the Spirit
 - (b) Witnesses are enabled (given the ability to suit the task) by the Spirit
 - (c) The Spirit provides/directs the means of witnessing
 - (d) Witnessing is most effective when the Spirit directs the witnessing of Jesus to bring glory to God (unity of the Trinity)
 - (e) Other _____
6. What was the effect of the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- (a) The disciples were given the gift of speaking in “tongues”
 - (b) The disciples were given the gift to speak in different languages
 - (c) The disciples were able to preach to all persons
 - (d) Persons from different backgrounds were able to glorify God
 - (e) Other _____

Reflections

7. Have you ever seen the gift of tongues used this way?
8. Have you ever seen the gift of tongues used another way?
9. How do you feel about persons speaking in tongues?
10. When have you experienced an empowering from God to witness about Christ?

Caring

How can the group pray for you during the week?