

### QUIET TIME

#### Theme: The Person and functions of the Holy Spirit

- Try to make a specific time every day to meet Jesus Christ through reading and meditating his Word.
- Pray, talk with Jesus Christ and make a few short notes about this Bible passage in your notebook.
- Record what you discover, what speaks to your mind and heart, what you find difficult or what you understood.

Day 1 Ezekiel 36:25-27  
The promise of the Spirit in the Old Testament

Day 2 John 7:37-39  
The promise of the Spirit in the New Testament

Day 3 Acts 2:1-11  
The outpouring of the Spirit

Day 4 Titus 3:4-8  
Regeneration through the Spirit

Day 5 Acts 11:14-18  
The baptism with the Spirit

Day 6 Ephesians 5:15-21  
The filling with the Spirit

Day 7<sup>BS</sup> Galatians 5:16-26  
The fruit of the Spirit

Day 8 Romans 12:3-8  
The gifts of the Spirit

Day 9 Romans 8:1-17  
Living through the Spirit

Day 10 1 Corinthians 6:13-20  
Your body is a temple of the Spirit

- Think about Ephesians 1:17.  
The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and revelation so that you may know God better.
- Ask God that you and others may get to know him better.
- Pray every day for someone or something specific and wait in expectation for what God is going to do (Psalm 5:3).

### STUDY

#### Theme: The Person and functions of the Spirit

Read study 28 carefully before the next meeting. If you have questions, write them down and mail them to one of your group leaders. We will seek an answer together.

### BIBLE STUDY

#### Theme: The fruit of the Spirit

If you like, you may already prepare the Bible Study for the coming meeting by reading through the Bible passage. Make use of the 5-step Bible Study method. The Bible passage is: **Galatians 5:13-26**

### MEMORISATION

#### 1. Motivation

Jesus memorised Bible verses (Luke 4:4-13). Are you doing that?

#### 2. Memorisation

Memorise this verse in the Bible version of your choice.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT

##### John 16:8

When he comes,  
he will convict the world of guilt  
in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.

**John 16:8** (NIV)

#### 3. Review and back-review

*Review* the last 5 memorised verses once every day and back-review all other memorised verses once every three weeks.

#### 4. Review of the Bible books

All 39 books of the Old Testament  
All 27 books of the New Testament

## 28. The Person and functions of the Holy Spirit

The New Testament refers 254 times to the Holy Spirit and calls the Holy Spirit with 39 names, such as 'Spirit of truth' (John 14:17) and 'Spirit of grace' (Hebrews 10:29). The Holy Spirit is also depicted by symbols, such as fire (Acts 2:3), wind (John 3:3-8), water (John 7:37-39), oil, seal and deposit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). But who is the Holy Spirit and what are his functions?

### A. The nature of the Holy Spirit

#### 1. The Holy Spirit is God

The Bible teaches that God is one (Mark 12:29). Christians believe in one divine Being, in one God (Mark 12:29). However God is unfathomable (Job 11:7-8) and therefore no human being can define God or describe God's divine nature. Christians believe what God has revealed about this divine nature to us.

God is the invisible Spirit (John 4:24), but without relinquishing his divine nature he takes on the visible human nature in Jesus Christ. Thus God, who is before and above creation, enters his creation and also human history (John 1:1,14).

After Jesus Christ completed his work of salvation on earth and had ascended to heaven, he returned to this world and lives in the bodies of every individual Christian as the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18). He also lives in the Church, which is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 2:22). The Holy Spirit applies the completed work of salvation of Christ in the lives of Christians (John 16:13-15; Romans 8:9-11). Thus God is the invisible Spirit in the universe, the Spirit in the Christian Church and the Spirit within the Christian body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

In the Bible God reveals that there exists an inner differentiation in the unity of the divine nature. Throughout the Bible God reveals himself in three Persons: the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). All three Persons share in this divine nature and are fully God (Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 1:3,8-9; Romans 8:9-10). The expression 'Person' here does not point to an individual person, but points to an inner differentiation that exists in the unity of God's nature. This differentiation in the unity of God's nature is called 'the Trinity'.

#### 2. The Holy Spirit is a Person

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power which we are able to possess in a certain quantity, but is a Person who wants to possess us! He has a mind, will and emotions. And he speaks and acts (John 14:26; Acts 16:6-7; Romans 8:27; Ephesians 4:30). That is why we Christians can never strive to receive or possess more of the Spirit, but should rather strive that the Spirit possesses more of us!

Christians should desire to be more and more surrendered and submitted to the Spirit! We should not ask, "How do I get more of the Spirit", but rather "How does the Spirit get more of me under his control." "How do I live more in submission to the Holy Spirit?" "How does the Holy Spirit influence and control more areas of my life?"

### B. The work of the Holy Spirit

#### 1. The Holy Spirit represents Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ promised his disciples that he would not leave them behind as orphans, but that *he himself* would return to them in the Counsellor' (Greek: *paraklētōs*) (John 14:16-18). This word is also translated as 'Advocate and Comforter, but is best translated with 'Representative', 'Someone called to stand next to you and help you', especially against an accuser.

The Holy Spirit is above all the Representative of Jesus Christ. He teaches Christ's disciples all things they should know and reminds them of everything he said to them (John 14:26). He guides them into all the truth which he heard from Jesus Christ and he glorifies Jesus Christ (John 16:13-15). He testifies about Jesus Christ (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit has been given to Christians to be for them everything Jesus Christ would have been if he had still been with them in his human nature! That is why the Holy Spirit can never be separated from Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit is: "God with us and God in us" (John 14:16-17). He is: "Christ in us" (Romans 8:9-10).

#### 2. The Holy Spirit works in people, both believers and unbelievers

##### *The Holy Spirit convinces*

The Holy Spirit convinces the people in the world of sin (i.e. they miss God's goal), of righteousness (i.e. the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is received through faith) and of judgment (i.e. that they remain condemned under God's wrath if they reject Christ) (John 16:8-11; cf. John 3:16-18,36).

##### *The Holy Spirit applies Christ's work of salvation in the lives of believers*

The goal of the Holy spirit is not to give us sensational experiences, but to change and renew us and so to bring glory to God (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:29-30).

##### ➤ *The Holy Spirit regenerates believers*

When we believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit resurrects our dead spirit to new life and comes to stay in our bodies (John 3:3-8).

##### ➤ *The Holy Spirit gives us absolute assurance that we are children of God*

He gives us a deep assurance that we are God's children (Romans 8:16), that God has declared us perfectly righteous, that God overrules all events in our life for our good (no matter how painful they might be) and that God

will not allow anyone or anything to separate us from his love for us (Romans 8:31-39)!

➤ *The Holy Spirit guides us continually*

He guides us in the circumstances of our life through the specific words in the Bible correctly interpreted (Ephesians 6:17). He works out God's plan in our lives through the words in the Bible. That is why reading, studying, meditating, memorising and applying the Bible are so important! Jesus Christ requires that we obey the words in the Bible (Revelation 2:1,7).

➤ *The Holy Spirit cares for our spiritual growth and sanctification*

If we submit to the Holy Spirit and allow him to lead us (Romans 8:5-6; Galatians 5:16,18,25) he will fight against our sinful nature and enable us to conquer the expressions of our sinful nature (Romans 8:13b-14). He transforms and renews us and bears fruit in our lives.

➤ *The Holy Spirit intercedes for us*

He prays for us because often we do not know what to pray for, or we are not certain whether we are praying according to God's will (Romans 8:26-27; cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

### 3. The Holy Spirit works in the worldwide Church and in the local church

*The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ in the life of church members*

The Holy Spirit lives in the midst of the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). His first function is to glorify Jesus Christ in the experience and lives of Christians (John 16:14-15). That is why the test for any spiritual event or experience is: "Does it glorify Jesus Christ?" The Holy Spirit gives Christians a personal knowledge of God and of his glory (his attributes) in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6). He teaches us everything we ought to know, reminds us of the words of Jesus Christ, testifies of Jesus Christ, guides us into all the truth of Jesus Christ (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13) and enables us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3).

*The Holy Spirit directs the activities in the congregations*

The Holy Spirit makes the worldwide Church into the dwelling place of God (this is figuratively speaking) (Ephesians 2:21-22) and into one Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). He is responsible for the good functioning of the Church and appoints the elders of each congregation (Acts 20:17,28). He keeps the teachings and doctrines of the Church pure (Acts 15:28). He guides the deliberations in such a way that a unanimous decision can be taken. In our time people believe that decisions should be made in a democratic way by voting, but this may never replace the revealed will of God in the Bible! The congregations must hear what the Spirit says to the congregations (Revelation

2:1,7) and the congregations may not go beyond what is written in the Bible (1 Corinthians 4:6)! Moreover, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to each believer as he thinks best (1 Corinthians 12:11) (cf. lesson 29). The Holy Spirit also directs the different ministries in the congregation (Ephesians 5:18-19), as witnessing, preaching, worship, prayer, praising and singing. Only the Holy Spirit can make Christian meetings into something that is 'spiritual'.

*The Holy Spirit directs the missionary ministry of the congregations*

The Holy Spirit selects and calls certain Christians to become workers (Acts 13:1-4). God only knows the hearts of people and knows which people are suitable for the tasks that need to be done. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ closes and opens doors (Revelation 3:7-8; Acts 16:6-10). He only knows which places are strategic and which people are suitable to carry out the task. The Holy Spirit gives the worker discernment (Acts 13:9-11), encourages him in his task and gives joy to new believers, even in difficult circumstances (Acts 13:49-52).

### C. The baptism with the Spirit

The expression 'baptism with the Spirit' occurs 7 times in the New Testament (Matthew 3:10-12; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:14-18 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). All 7 times it expresses rebirth (regeneration), that is, the beginning of the Christian life! It means receiving the Holy Spirit who causes people to be born again and to be saved (Acts 11:14-18; Acts 15:7-9). It means receiving the Holy Spirit who causes people to belong to the Body of Christ (the Church) (1 Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 3:11-12) and by which the Holy Spirit comes to live in the body and spirit of the believer (John 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Through the baptism with the Spirit the Holy Spirit begins to apply the completed work of salvation of Christ in the believer. The believer is transformed and equipped with power and spiritual gifts in order to fulfil his task.

### D. The filling with the Spirit

#### 1. What is the meaning of the filling with the Spirit?

Jesus promised all believers that the Holy Spirit would be as streams of living water flowing out of the hearts and lives of believers (John 7:37-39). Filling with the Holy Spirit means that you have submitted (entrusted) yourself to God (Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit), that God possesses you completely, guides you by means of the Bible ('the sword of the Spirit') and that he causes you to bear fruit! The measure in which you are filled with the Spirit is dependent on the measure you allow the Holy Spirit to possess, control and influence you. The filling with the Spirit is the same as the lordship of Jesus Christ in your life.

## 2. How are you filled with the Spirit?

In order to receive the Holy Spirit (Jesus Christ) for the first time in your life, you need to hear and understand the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ (who he is and what he has done for you) (John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:13).

But what can you do when you know that you have accepted Jesus Christ, but do not experience that you are filled with the Spirit? What must you do in order for the Holy Spirit to possess, control and influence you again?

### *Restore your Spirit-filled life*

All sins grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:25-32) and bring separation between you and God. The Holy Spirit does not leave you, because you have once for all been justified (forgiven) completely and Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit would remain with you and in you for ever (John 14:16-17). But in order to restore the disturbed relationship between you and God and once more be filled with the Spirit, you need to do the following:

- Confess all sins, of which you are aware, ask forgiveness and accept his forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9).
- Break with every sinful practice and every sinful relationship in your life (Proverbs 28:13; 1 Corinthians 15:33) (*Read* Ephesians 5:3-13).
- Humble yourself and ask forgiveness from people whom you have wronged (Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:16). Return stolen goods, set wrongs right again and keep peace with all people (Romans 12:18).
- Submit yourself to God's Word in your daily life (James 4:5-10; James 2:13).

### *Pray for the Spirit-filled life.*

- Every believer has the privilege to ask God for specific things in his life (Luke 11:9-13) (*Read* Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6-7). Therefore pray for the following:
- Pray that Jesus Christ would again possess and control you through his Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:18; cf. Galatians 2:20).
  - Pray that Jesus Christ would do a new work in your life by changing (transforming) your thoughts, behaviour, habits and character. Pray that you may bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
  - Pray that Jesus Christ would equip you for a specific service and possibly give you a spiritual gift that fits that service.

### *Maintain your Spirit-filled life.*

This you do by means of persistent discipleship. You need the Holy Spirit for every aspect of discipleship: The Holy Spirit reveals and glorifies Jesus Christ and puts him in the centre of your life (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God (the Bible) as a sword in your life (Ephesians 6:17). He guides you by means of specific Bible passages just when you need them (Matthew 4:1-4).

The Holy Spirit helps you to pray (Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18).

The Holy Spirit gives you love and peace to maintain the unity of the Christian Body (Romans 5:5).

The Holy Spirit gives you the words to speak when you witness (Matthew 10:19-20) and spiritual gifts to serve (1 Corinthians 12:11). He cause you to bear fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Holy Spirit gives you strength to obey, so that you are able to do what God says (1 Peter 1:2).

## E. The fruit of the Spirit

### 1. The fruit of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit who lives in your new born-again human nature expresses himself in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness towards God, gentleness towards others and self-control in yourself (Galatians 5:13-25).

### 2. Walking by the Spirit

If you are a Christian, Christ is in you (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27) and you are in Christ (Philippians 1:1; 3:9; Colossians 1:28). Then the Spirit of God or Jesus Christ (the Holy Spirit) lives in your body and your spirit and you belong to Jesus Christ. Then you have the responsibility to live under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables you to put to death your sinful old nature, leads you in the way God wants you to go and helps you to bear fruit. In this way the Holy Spirit (God, Jesus Christ) becomes the ruling force in your life. 'To walk (live) by the Spirit' means that you allow yourself 'to be led by the Spirit' (Galatians 5:16,18,25) and 'to freely and willingly co-operate with him'.

### 3. A Spirit-filled Christians has certain distinctive characteristics

The Bible teaches that a Christian must be filled with the Spirit continuously (Ephesians 5:18). In this way the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) becomes visible. The Spirit-filled life is regarded as the normal Christian life. It has the following characteristics:

- You do not get involved in wild parties, drunkenness and debauchery (Ephesians 5:3-13; 1 Peter 4:3-4), but meet other Christians in conversation, singing and making music (Ephesians 5:19). You glorify God and build one another up. This is an example of self-discipline (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
- You do not become negative or critical towards people and circumstances (Philippians 2:14). You are not dissatisfied or unthankful. You are content (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6) and thank God at all times and under all circumstances (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). This is an example of joy.
- You are not proud or focused on yourself. You are not uncooperative, divided and selfish. You accept the authority of another person (Ephesians 5:21). You are

willing to be the least and to serve the other (*Read* John 13:1-17). You regard the other as more important than yourself, acknowledge his strengths, talents and gifts, and keep the interests of the other in mind (Romans 12:10b; Philippians 2:3-4). You are friendly, well-mannered, affectionate and thoughtful. This is an example of meekness.

You watch carefully how you conduct yourself. You have rejected your old sinful life-style and have adopted the new holy life-style and develop that life-style.

You are full of practical wisdom (Ephesians 5:15) and apply the knowledge of the Bible as good as you can.

You make efficient use of your time and of the opportunities God gives (Ephesians 5:16).

You strive to know God's will at all times and to obey these in accordance with what the Bible teaches (Ephesians 5:17).