Study on Acts 2:1-21

\*“**Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift *that* I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit”** *(Acts 1:4,5).*

**\*“When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”** *(Acts 1:8).*

**\*When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place**, *probably Mark’s house in Jerusalem****.* Suddenly there was a noise from the sky, which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak** *(2:1-4).*

**\*“Each one of you must turn away from his sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God’s gift, the Holy Spirit”** *(Acts 2:38).*

DVD Spot: **Acts DVD, *the visual Bible*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezC9qyBRBV4>

\*From Acts 2:1-46

Discussion Questions:

1) Chat together about your journey with Jesus.

Is your life different through meeting Jesus? How?

Who or what has changed you?

2) People who belong to one of the Christian cults *like the Jehovah Witnesses,* will talk about Jesus as a created being and the Holy Spirit being the force of God. How do you see Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? How do the Biblical writers talk about Jesus and the Holy Spirit in regard to God?

3) Where is the Holy Spirit? Does the Holy Spirit live in you? When did the Holy Spirit first come to live in you?

*Read 1 Cor. 6:19-20; John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13.*

4) What effect has the Holy Spirit had on your life?

Is He changing you, and making you more like Jesus?

Talk about the struggle in you between your selfish human nature, and the Holy Spirit who lives in you. *Read*

*Galatians 5:16-26.*

5) The Holy Spirit gives us a foretaste of what life will be like in heaven with God. The Holy Spirit is a down payment, the first installment, of all that is to come *(Eph. 1:13-14).* Are you looking forward to heaven?

What do you think heaven will be like?

Quotes:

The following are quotes from Sunday’s message on the theme: “Everything you always wanted to know about the Holy Spirit”*.*

**\*In a nutshell, the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of God”, or as the Holy Spirit is sometimes called in the New Testament, “the Spirit of our Father”** *(e.g., Matt. 3:16; 10:20****).* It is the same Spirit that was in Jesus, and for this reason among others the Holy Spirit is also sometimes called “the Spirit of Christ” or “the Spirit of God’s Son”** *(Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6).* **But essentially, the Holy Spirit is God’s Spirit.**

**\*Is the Holy Spirit God’s force, then, much like *The Force* in the “Star Wars” movies?** **This is how quite a lot of people see the Holy Spirit.** Those who are connected with the various cults like the Jehovah’s witnesses for example, talk about the Holy Spirit as being the force of God. They talk about the Holy Spirit as being an “it”, “a thing” which comes from God.

**But this isn’t how Jesus, and the New Testament writers in echo of Jesus, talk about the Holy Spirit. Jesus, himself, spoke the Holy Spirit as a “him” rather than an “it”, as a person rather than a thing** *(John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8,13),* **and he spoke of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit being a unity of persons** *(Matt. 28:19).* **And following Jesus, that’s how the disciples of Jesus and the writers of the New Testament speak of the Holy Spirit** *(Acts 5:3-4; 13:2; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 13:13).*

When we speak of “the Holy Spirit” being in us, then, we don’t mean that the force of God is in us. No, rather **we are talking about *God Himself living in us!!***

**\*Which leads us to our next question, “Where is the Holy Spirit?** **Well, the Holy Spirit *like the wind* blows wherever He wants to go** *(John 3:8****).* But what we can say we sure is that the Holy Spirit lives in those who trust in Jesus as their Saviour and follow him as their Lord.**

**\*The Holy Spirit comes to live in us when we are baptised. Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit are tightly linked. When a person is baptised, they receive the Holy Spirit** *(Acts 2:38).*

**\*The Holy Spirit comes to live in us when we are baptised, *and he goes on filling us as we listen to Jesus and as we allow Jesus to feed us*** *(Eph. 5:18; John 1:33; 7:37-39; Luke 11:13).*

**\*The Holy Spirit acts in us in two basic ways: Firstly, he leads us to grow in our faith in God as our dear Father, and in Jesus as our Saviour. Without the Holy Spirit in us, there would be no growth in our faith. In fact, we would have no faith period without the Holy Spirit** *(1 Cor. 12:3; cf. John 14:25-26; 16:7-15; Eph. 1:17).*

**And secondly, the Holy Spirit enables us to grow as God’s children, to become more and more like Jesus. As Paul sums it up in his letter to the Christians in Galatia** *(Gal. 5:22f):*

**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.**

**Who does this describe? As John Stott points out in his little book on the Spirit, this is a self-portrait of Jesus.**

**\*God’s aim in giving us His Spirit, in coming to live in us, is that we more and more become like Jesus** *(Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:1-2).*

**That’s why the Holy Spirit is such a wonderful gift: not only does he enable us to grow in our faith in Christ, *but also he enables to be more and more like Jesus.*  He sets us free from being slaves to our selfish human nature, slaves to living our lives for ourselves** *(Gal. 5:16-26).* **He enables us to live for others as Jesus did, and as such he gives us a foretaste of what life in heaven will be like** *(Eph. 1:14-15).*