

Week 3: THE NEW LIFE

"I came so that they may have life and have it in abundance."

(John 10:10)

Words of Life

Day 1:

Throughout the ages, prophets predicted that the day would come when God would give his Spirit freely to men. Those who turned to him and received his Spirit would be changed. They would be new men with a new life.

"The Lord God says this, 'I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you. You shall be my people and I will be your God.'"(Ezek 36: 22-28)

Day 2:

Jesus promised before he died that he would give his followers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will live in you and give you a new life. The promise of Jesus is for everyone. Jesus says:

"If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you. I will not leave you orphans." (John 14:15-18)

Day 3:

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in one room in prayer, and the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised came on them. From that moment on, they were changed men.

"When Pentecost day came round, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech." (Acts 2: 1-4)

Day 4:

You can experience the Holy Spirit the same way the first disciples did. When you have been a Christian for a while or have never believed in Christ before, you can receive whatever is missing in your experience of the life of the Spirit. What happened to the disciples at Ephesus can happen to you.

"When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy. There were about twelve of these men." (Acts 19: 5-7)

Day 5:

When the Holy Spirit is released in you, you will begin to experience a new kind of life. You will know God in a new way. That new life will grow in you until you become a changed person. Paul describes the result by saying:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5: 22-23)

Day 6:

As you grow in faith in the Holy Spirit in you, you will begin to experience him working in you in new ways so that you can serve

others. He will equip you with spiritual gifts, gifts which will give you a new power to do his work. Paul talks about some of these gifts in this way:

“The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the word of wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the word of knowledge given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit: another again the gift of healing through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of discerning spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.”
(1 Cor. 12: 7-11)

Day 7:

God gives the Holy Spirit so that we can be joined to the body of Christ (the Church, the Christian community). The new life in the Spirit will allow you to be more closely united with other Christians in the Church and to experience a communion with them in the Spirit. God’s word teaches:

“So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors: you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God’s chosen household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit.” (Eph. 2: 19-22)

Study

This week the two chapters we will read are about turning to the Lord in faith and repentance.

John 4, Acts 13.