WOODLANDS CHURCH

July 2nd 2017. Confidence: Confidence in the Holy Spirit

Discussion notes

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them? Spend some time discussing the response to the message and the issues that it raised.

We are continuing our series on "Confidence". At the beginning of the year we felt God saying to us that He wanted to give us a renewed confidence in Him, His Word and Spirit, and the Good News.

Read 2 Corinthians 3v17-18, 5v5 and 1v21-22

Jesus says that the Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants. Sometimes we can feel that the way the Spirit works is a bit mysterious and don't feel that confident in how He works in our lives and through us to serve the world. Let's look at four things that the Holy Spirit does that we can have confidence in.

1. Witness of the Spirit.
The Spirit reassures us that we are God's children (Romans 8v15-16) and that we have a secure future (2 Cor 1v21-22, 5v5). What does it mean for the Spirit to witness/testify to our spirit? How have you experienced the Spirit reassuring you?
Read John 16v7-8 Before you were a Christian, looking back, do you think you experienced the Holy Spirit working in your life?

2. Filling of the Spirit
The Holy Spirit is at work when we become a Christian, but we also need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 1v5&8, 2v4, 4v31, 8v14-17. Can you think of a time when you were filled with the Holy Spirit? Tell the rest of the group.
Why does God want to fill us with the Holy Spirit?

3. Transforming Power of the Spirit
When we become a Christian God accepts us and loves us as we are, but he doesn't leave us there. He is committed to transforming our lives to become more like Jesus'. It is the Holy Spirit that transforms us (2 Cor 3v17-18).
Read Galatians 5v16, 22-25. These are the characteristics that will grow in our lives if we let the Holy Spirit work in us. How have you experienced the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life? Like any fruit tree, it will naturally produce fruit if we get rid of weeds and bugs, and ensure that it has enough light and water. How can you ensure that you get rid of pests/weeds and open you life to the love and life of God, allowing the fruit of the Spirit to grow?

4. Gifts of the Spirit

As well as transforming us to **be like** Jesus the Spirit helps us to **act like** Jesus - with supernatural power! Next week we will be taking a closer look at the gifts of the Spirit and how we can use them to minister to those around us.

There are two things that we can do to hinder the work of the Spirit in our lives

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 ***Do not put out the Spirit's fire****; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.*

Ephesians 4:29 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And* ***do not grieve the Holy Spirit*** *of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

How do you think you can put out the Spirit's fire and cause Him grief?

Take the opportunity to pray in twos and threes.

Pray that you would each be filled with the Spirit afresh, that you would know His power and reassurance.

Pray that you will behave like Jesus and act like Jesus this week with the Spirit's help.