



STUDY 18

The Spirit's Fire

John 16:7 -15, Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 2 Timothy 1:6, Acts 2:1-4

We live in an age and at a time when God's Spirit is being poured out. The bible encourages us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. When we are filled with the Spirit we fall in love with God's word and with his bride, the Church. Imagine how our lives and our ministries can flourish as we walk with, listen to and are empowered by his Spirit

When the bible tries to explain to us what the Holy Spirit is like, it often uses the image of "fire". The Welsh preacher Christmas Evans described revival in this way; "Revival is God bending down to the dying embers of a fire just about to go out and breathing into it until it bursts once again into flame."

We can position ourselves in an environment for God to move, and although we can't control the sudden act of God turning up we can be open and ready to respond immediately when it happens. 2 Tim 1:6 tells us to 'fan into flames the gift God has given each of us'. As we do that, in faith we believe he will breathe life into us. This gift has many sides; healing, salvation and provision to name but a few. We need to be open and have an expectation to receive with gratitude the new life that he has for us. We see that, within community, God demonstrated his power and God's gifts were imparted through the laying on of hands. We need to be actively involved in this process if we want to see revival and life in not only our personal lives, but within our communities and around the world.

CONNECTION AND ACTION *Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.*

Q: Describe an experience(s) you've had with the Holy Spirit. What impact did it have in your life, or in the life of others?

Q: How can we cultivate a desire for and openness to the Spirit of God? How do you do it?

Q: How would you describe living life in the power and life of the Holy Spirit? What words would you use to describe it?

Q: How can we be spiritual without being "weird"?

Q: Leaders – Use this study as an opportunity to pray. You could:

- Pray for people to be filled or re-filled with the Spirit.
- Pray for people to receive the gift of speaking in tongues.
- Pray for each other in the Spirit. Pray for revival in each other's lives and in church.

As you do this, exercise a balance of freedom and discernment, gauging the level of comfort people in the group have with what is going on, and making sure it is appropriate and orderly.

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Men's Conference is all about causing men to take a stand for righteousness & truth. Please speak with the men in your Connect Group and go to www.mensconference.com to register them today!
- Our Live Album recording is coming up on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th Oct at our City & Hills Campuses. Doors open at 5:15pm for a 6pm start. Why not go and sit together as a Connect Group! Get your tickets at myhillsong.com

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I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these scriptures and questions to develop a Biblical worldview.

Read Rom 8:4, 5, 9, 14, Gal 5:16, 22-26

Q: What work of the Spirit in our lives are these passages talking about? In what ways can I lives be different as a result of what the Spirit does? (**Leader's Tip:** These passages are talking about how our lives can be changed, become more Christ-like and bear fruit when we live in step with the Spirit).

Q: What do they say about how the Spirit works in us, and what we can do to release the Spirit in this way?

Read Acts 2:1-5, 4:31, 8:14-17, Eph 5:18-20, 1 Cor 12:7-11

Q: What is involved with being "filled with the Holy Spirit"? How does it happen? (**Leader's Tip:** Through prayer, often with the laying on of hands).

Q: What should be the result of being "filled with the Spirit"?

Q: What is the relationship between being filled with the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

Leader: Use this study as an opportunity to pray for and in the Spirit. (See the Connection section for ideas and guidelines).

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

Q: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit empower or guide you as a leader?

Q: How are you leading others into a hunger for and experience of the Spirit?

Q: How do you continue to cultivate you passion for and openness to the Spirit over the long haul?

Q: How would you help people you lead to be "normal" yet also "spiritual" (i.e. not "weird").

• **Leader:** Use this study as an opportunity to pray for and in the Spirit. (See the Connection section for ideas and guidelines).

Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:

- Starting new connect groups over the rest of the year.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Ps Brian & Bobbie Houston

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – Causes we are supporting through Nation Builders:

1. **Church Planting** – Supporting a new generation of dynamic leaders to plant & build churches that will serve communities, influence cities and ultimately impact nations. Including: Amsterdam, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Hillsong Germany.
2. **Gospel Missions** – Supporting missions locally & others that are furthering the Gospel all around the world. Including: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Hillsong TV and overseas workers in SE Asia.

Brendan & Camille White planted Hillsong Paris in 2004. France is one of the most secular nations on the planet. Recently Ps Brian spoke about the phenomenal growth we are seeing when he and Bobbie were in Paris as part of their visit to our Global Churches. Ps Brian reported that when he visited Paris in 2011 there were around 1,100 people in attendance. This year, he saw over 2,000 people in Church.

Please continue to pray for

- The Global Churches
- Hillsong Conference Europe - The Netherlands and Sweden beginning 3rd & 10th October

