

The Holy Spirit & Power – September 21 & 22, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Joel 2:28-32

- As Joel prophesies about the peril, repentance and restoration of God's people, what does he say will happen "afterward" (28-29)? Consider the sensory experience that is God's Spirit "poured out" upon you. Why do you think Joel described it in this way?
- List everything the Holy Spirit will empower God's people to do (28-29). Describe the empowered people (28-29). Do you see yourself in this group? Why or why not? In Acts 2, at Pentecost, the Apostle Peter claimed this prophecy was fulfilled. What do you make of his assertion, and what does it mean for you?
- What will happen to and among creation (30-31)? Is this literal or figurative? Why? Why do you think Joel calls the "day of the Lord" – God's fully inaugurated Kingdom – both "great and dreadful"? What will salvation look like (32)? How does it feel to read in the Bible of the Holy Spirit's power being demonstrated in these ways? For any questions or uncertainties you have, speak to God.

Day Two: Luke 24:45-49

- We pick up in the middle of Jesus revealing his post-resurrection self to a few of his disciples. Why did he "open their minds" (45)? How do you think Jesus did this? Did he give an academic lecture? Or did something supernatural happen?
- What did the Hebrew scriptures say about Jesus' death and resurrection (46)? What message will his disciples preach (47)? Where (47)? What did Jesus then say about his disciples (48)? How do you think it felt to witness Jesus preach forgiveness, to watch him die and then see proof of his resurrection?
- What did Jesus say he was going to send to the disciples (49)? Where did he tell them to stay (49)? Until when (49)? Meditate on the phrase "clothed with power from on high." Imagine donning the power of the Holy Spirit. Seek a real experience of it: ask the Holy Spirit to clothe you with power. Then, spend one minute in silence, listening and watching for him. What do you sense?

Day Three: John 15:26—16:15

- What will "the Advocate" do, and how does Jesus describe him (15:26)? Why must we also testify (27)? What awaits the disciples (16:2)? Why (3)? Why does Jesus say these things (1, 4-5)?
- What does Jesus sense about his disciples' emotions (5-6)? What reassurance does he offer (7)? Why do you think Jesus' earliest followers weren't excited about the promised Holy Spirit? What about you: how do you feel about him? Is Jesus – God-in-the-flesh – easier for you to grasp than God-in-the-Spirit? May you seek and celebrate the Holy Spirit as the boundless presence of God.
- What will the Holy Spirit testify about sin, righteousness and judgment (8-11)? What does Jesus know the disciples are unable to bear (12)? In what ways does the Holy Spirit gradually reveal truth to you, instead of all at once? Why do you think God operates in this way? Summarize Jesus' remarks about how the trinity operates as one to lead us into all truth (13-15).

Day Four: Ephesians 3:14-21

- Describe Paul's prayer posture (14-15). What power does he want for believers (16)? Why (17)? "Rooted in love" and empowered by the Holy Spirit, what can we grasp (17-

18)? What must we “surpass” in order to experience the fullness of God (19)? What do you think this means, and how does it make you feel? Ask the Holy Spirit to do what only he can do: may he supernaturally and inexplicably testify to your heart about the hope and love of God.

- What is God able to do (20) How (20)? What does this bring to mind about the power of the Holy Spirit working in you? What hope does it give you? What glory does Paul give to God (21)?
- What makes this passage similar to Ephesians 1:15-23? Why do you think Paul kept praying for the Ephesians to be filled with the Spirit’s power? Why is this prayer needed for us today? Pray the Spirit helps you to always know God’s presence, hope and power.

Day Five: Revelation 21:1-8

- What did John see (1)? Describe the Holy City (2). This is an interesting way to envision the “not yet” of God’s Kingdom fully realized. What is your own picture of the “not yet” coming to pass?
- What did the voice say about God among his people (3-4)? All tears wiped away, no grief or pain – the old order will be no more. What will this mean for you? What tastes do you have of it today? Consider how you can invite others to partake of this “first course” of the Kingdom. Pray you’d be empowered to do signs and wonders, including divine healing, prophecy, etc.
- How does “he who was seated on the throne” sum up this absolute reign of his Kingdom (5-7)? How will God ensure that his goodness is the only thing we experience (8)? Bring to mind those things in your life that are anything but new, and those places of persistent pain and disappointment. Ask God to meet you in this “now and not yet” place. What is the Spirit speaking to your heart?