



# The 2018 City Weekend

2-4 March

**ST HELEN'S**  
BISHOPSGATE

City Ministry - [www.christiansinthecity.com](http://www.christiansinthecity.com)



## **ILLUMINATION of the reader**

- initial opening of eyes <sup>1</sup>

- ongoing opening of eyes <sup>2</sup>

## **COMMUNICATION to the reader**

- living words <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; 2 Corinthians 4:6

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 119:18; Ephesians 1:18; Luke 24:45,32

<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 3:7; 4:12; Ephesians 6:17; Acts 8:26; 16:9; 21:10; 27:23



## Personal study questions

- Inspiration:
  - sum up your view of what the Bible is
  - which object best represents the place the Bible has in your life at the moment? Is there any disconnect between your view of the Bible as God's Word and how you in practice relate to it?
  - is Psalm 1:2 true of you? How could you do this more?
  - do you feel the temptation to prize secular education and learning more than education in the Word – whether for yourself or for your children (if you have them)?
  - is the Bible the final authority in your belief and behavior? In what areas are you struggling to submit to its authority?
- Illumination:
  - give thanks for God opening your eyes to understand the Spirit's words
  - how would you rate your experience of listening to and reading the Bible at the moment? Are your eyes opened and your heart warmed? Is it a duty or a delight? What could you do about that?
- Communication:
  - Martin Luther said “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me”. Can you relate to that? Give some examples
  - how could you get non-Christians you know (eg colleagues) exposed to the Word, so that they get to hear God's voice? Pray now for some of them by name
- what is your main take-home from this session? Has it left you with any questions?

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# THE HOLY SPIRIT (2)

## Promise of the Spirit

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### THE SPIRIT PEOPLE

- presence <sup>1</sup>

- relationship <sup>2</sup>

- renewal <sup>3</sup>

- resurrection <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 33:14; 25:8; Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

<sup>2</sup> Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-18; 1 John 2:20

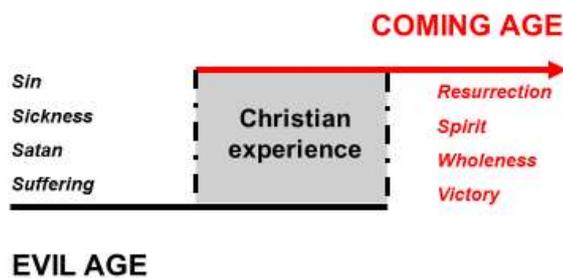
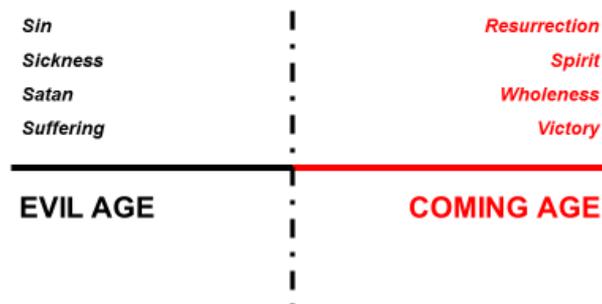
<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 44:3; John 4:14; 7:38; Acts 3:19

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 37:1-14; Ephesians 2:4-5

- power <sup>1</sup>

## THE SPIRIT KING

- the gift of the Spirit King <sup>2</sup>
- the reign of the Spirit King <sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 7:6; 2 Corinthians 3:3

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 11:2; 61:1; Luke 4:16-21; 3:16,21-23; Titus 3:5

<sup>3</sup> Acts 2:32; Ephesians 1:13



## Discussion questions

### The Spirit people

- presence: how should the presence of God among us by the Spirit shape our view of meeting together? How should his presence in us shape how we use our bodies?
- relationship: what's the difference between knowing God and knowing facts about God?
- renewal: do you know people like the woman in John 4 who are spiritually thirsty and trying to quench that thirst in a way that only the Spirit can?
- resurrection: how does the vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 encourage you as you think of your workplace?
- power: what does it mean that 'we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit' (Romans 7:6)?

### The Spirit person

- do you tend towards expecting too much now or too little now?
- what is going to be your main take-home from this session?

# THE HOLY SPIRIT (3)

## Baptism & fullness of the Spirit

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### **BAPTISM with the SPIRIT**

- at conversion <sup>1</sup>

- not a second experience <sup>2</sup>

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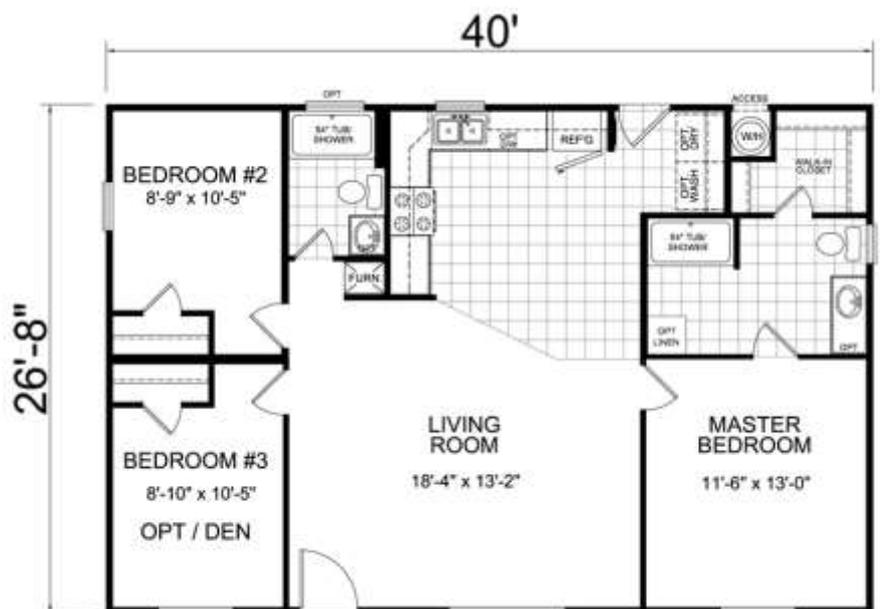
<sup>1</sup> 'baptise with the Spirit': Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:4-5; 11:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13. Water baptism: Acts 2:41; 10:47. Tongues: Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

<sup>2</sup> two-stage?: Acts 2:4,33; 8:15-17; 19:1-7. Hunger: Psalm 81:10; Matthew 5:6

# FULNESS of the SPIRIT

- at a moment in time <sup>1</sup>

- over time <sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Luke 1:41,67; Acts 4:8,31; 7:55; 13:9; 14:52

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 5:18-21; 3:16-19; Acts 6:3,5; John 7:38-39



## Personal study questions

### Baptism with the Spirit

- have you been baptized with the Spirit?
- have you come across the teaching that Spirit baptism is a second experience after conversion? What do you make of it?
- Psalm 81:10 says 'Open wide your mouth and I will fill it'. How wide is your mouth open spiritually at the moment? Do you hunger for more of God, or have you plateaued in the relationship?

### Fullness of the Spirit

- in what kinds of situations in the weeks ahead could you imagine the Spirit filling you and equipping you as you step out of your comfort zone and speak for the Lord?
- given Christ is already in us by his Spirit if we are believers, what does it mean to pray for him to 'dwell' in us?
- which room in your heart and life are you most resistant to the Spirit reordering as he sees fit?
- how does the Spirit's reordering work fit with our effort?
- pray: hand over the keys to all the rooms in your life, praying for Christ by his Spirit to take up residence in every room. Pray that by the Spirit the truths you know would move from head to heart. Pray that you will be filled with all the fullness of God
- what is your main take-home from this session? Has it left you with any questions?

## THE HOLY SPIRIT (4)

Life in the Spirit

Romans 8:1-27

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### **PRESENT HELP of the Spirit –**

as we struggle with **SIN** (v1-9)

- Spirit vs Law - by the Spirit we fulfil the Law (v1-4a)

Spirit vs flesh - by the Spirit we overcome the flesh (v4b-9)

**FUTURE HOPE of the Spirit–**  
as we struggle with **SUFFERING** (v10-27)

- the Spirit's guarantee – you will live (v10-13)

- the Spirit's witness – you will inherit (v14-17)

- the Spirit's groaning – you will rule (v18-27)



## Discussion questions

### Present help

- Spirit vs Law: how does the plastic ruler illustrate the powerlessness of law to change us and our need of the Spirit? How did the Pharisees (in the Gospels; or Paul before his conversion) exemplify this? How are the requirements of the law fulfilled in us by the Spirit?
- Spirit vs flesh: can you relate to the battle between the desires of flesh and Spirit? How do we experience victory in the battle?

### Hope for the future

- how does the Spirit give us hope for the future?
- what excites you most about our future inheritance?
- why is creation looking forward to the revealing of the sons of God? Do you think of life in the age to come as a physical reality, living in a renewed universe?
- would you say you are 'waiting eagerly' for that day? What keeps us from that mindset?
- what is your main take-home from this session / from the weekend away teaching as a whole? Has it left you with any questions?