

This Sunday, Steve shared a great message around what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Infilling of the Holy Spirit is not to be confused with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Indwelling:** The Holy Spirit lives in us from the time of our salvation. He leads, guides and empowers us because He lives in us if we are saved by faith in Christ!

...with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14. *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* 1 Corinthians 6:19.

**Infilling (Baptism in the Holy Spirit):** This is a separate, promised action of the Holy Spirit which happens after our salvation; and it is not limited to a one-time 'event'. *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."* Acts 1:4-5. *Instead, be filled with the Spirit...* Ephesians 5:18 (written to believers)

In Acts 10:44-48, we read: *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.* From this passage, we learn four things about the infilling of the Holy Spirit:

### 1. They experienced the power of the Spirit

Peter had to stop his talk as a result of the power of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit fills us with the understanding of God's transforming love in our lives; one of the main reasons being so that we are empowered to share the Gospel with others. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1:8.

### 2. They were released in praise

*For they heard them ... praising God.* Acts 10:46. There is something about being excited about what God is doing that makes us want to burst into expressions of praise. But sometimes we feel awkward about praising God in a public setting - a writer to the Times put it like this: "Why is it that if a cinema comedy produces laughter, the film is regarded as successful; if a theatre tragedy brings tears to the audience the production is regarded as touching; if a football match thrills the spectators, the game is reviewed as exciting; but if the congregation are moved by the glory of God in worship, the audience are accused of emotionalism?" (letter written to the Times). We need to throw off some of our conservatism and step out of our comfort zone to praise God!

### 3. They received a new language

*For they heard them speaking in tongues...* Acts 10:46.

- **What exactly is speaking in tongues?**

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.* 1 Corinthians 13:1. *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.* 1 Corinthians 14:2. We also don't have to speak in tongues, but we get to speak in tongues! It is a spiritual prayer language, which is a gift from God. It is a gift that is available to every single Christ-follower - it's not a reward for good behaviour.

- **How does it help?**

Sometimes in times of praise or prayer, we are limited by words. God gives us an extra 'channel' of communicating with Him through the spiritual language of tongues. Speaking in tongues is something that is under our control - we can start it, and we can stop it. It's not an "out of control" experience.

- **Does the New Testament approve of speaking in tongues?**

*I would like every one of you to speak in tongues.* 1 Corinthians 14:5. *I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.* 1 Corinthians 14:18. Absolutely! The New Testament simply cautions against unwise use of it in public meetings with out interpretation (1 Corinthians 12).

- **How do we receive the gift of tongues?**

Simply by asking and starting to speak, although sometimes laying on of hands by others can be helpful.

### 4. Possible hindrances

There is an amazing passage of scripture in Luke 11:9-13, where Jesus speaks about being filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses three of the hindrances: *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

- **Doubt:** Luke 11:9-10 repeats the words "ask, seek, knock" - probably because He knows our human nature!

- **Fear:** God uses the picture of a human father in Luke 11:13 because we know a Father's intention towards a child is never to cause them harm

- **Inadequacy:** We often have a nagging sense that we are not worthy - that God would only give this kind of gift to a 'good' Christian, but not us. The only prerequisite is that we should ask.

In week two of this series, Steve used the analogy of us stepping under the waterfall of God's love. The Holy Spirit is often represented by water. Being filled with the Spirit (baptised in the Spirit) is like putting down our umbrellas and stepping out into the rain, allowing it to soak us!

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Icebreaker (Choose 1)

- Did you speak gibberish (or have some other secret language) as a child?
- Name a gift you received that you'll never forget

## Questions For Groups (Choose 2 or 3 questions)

1. Was there anything that Steve spoke about during Sunday's message that encouraged you? Or anything that you have questions about and would like to discuss?
2. Share about how you felt when you gave someone you that you were close to a gift that you knew they would like. Why were you so eager to give that gift? What good did it do for the person you gave it to? From your gift-giving experience, what can you learn about receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?
3. How has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit been an advantage in your life? Has he given you strength in times of trial? Has he given you comfort in times of grief and loss? Has he guided you as you work to share the Gospel and build God's Kingdom?
4. Read Acts 2:1-4. This passage describes the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and filled the early church giving them boldness to speak about Christ as well as the ability to speak in tongues. Share your personal reactions to the gift of tongues. How did the message influence your beliefs?
5. Steve spoke about some of the hindrances to being filled with the Holy Spirit - doubt, fear & inadequacy. If you haven't been filled with the Holy Spirit, what are some of the misconceptions, fears or questions that are holding you back?
6. In Acts 10, we read of when Peter met Cornelius. Led by the Spirit, they came together to experience another level with God. Who in your life inspires (or has inspired) you to experience another level with God? What is about them that stirs your spiritual hunger?

**NOTE TO LEADERS:** Discussing baptism in the Holy Spirit can give rise to opportunities to discuss water baptism. If there is anyone in your group that has not been baptised in water, encourage them to attend the water baptism teaching this Sunday, the 11th of August after the 9 am meeting. Our next water baptism service is on the 18th of August (9 am & 6 pm).

# PRAYER POINT

Is there anyone in your group that has not been baptised in the Spirit, or who has not spoken in tongues and desires to? Set aside some ministry time to pray for one another. Some gentle worship music on in the background may help in setting a tone of receiving.

# ACTION POINT

Flourish is just three weeks away!

**Ladies:** Have you booked your tickets and invited a friend?

**Gents:** Have you signed up to volunteer?

On the 25th of August, Flourish Sunday, Jose Vilandy will be sharing his story at both our meetings (child soldier to champion barista). This is another great opportunity to invite your friends and family who don't usually attend church to come along to a Sunday meeting.