

Raising our Sails

A Bible Study about the Holy Spirit



Answer Booklet – Guide
for Study Leaders...

Answers to Study 1.

1. From a time perspective: The Holy Spirit is there from the beginning
From a movement perspective: The Holy Spirit hovers, freely and sovereignly
There's an implication that the Spirit's power is part and parcel of the creation act
There's an implication that He is part of bringing order and life.
There's an implication of ownership and eagerness
Although many are afraid of the Holy Spirit, we should see Him as God's creation agent - bringing full, beautiful, abundant LIFE out of dark and formless voids!
Psa.133 suggests that the Spirit as the breath of God created
Luke's "overshadowing" of Mary is very similar to the Spirit's "hovering."
The Deuteronomy passage is a lovely image of parenthood and nurturing and power.
2. In Romans Paul is telling us that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and in Ephesians we see that Jesus was raised by God's mighty power – a power that is also at work in you and me.
3. The Spirit is the powerful agent by Whom God (1)creates the world, (2)raises Jesus from the dead and (3)works in us.
4. The Ezekiel passage indicates that we are not fully alive until the Holy Spirit blows on us and breathes life into us.
5. Work on the analogy of wind:
 - Invisible – but you see its effects
 - Can't control or predict it
 - Can't see where it comes from or goes – total freedom
6. The imagery of the Spirit, breathing or blowing on the Scripture writers. Them being "carried along" (same word as in Acts 2:2) and then Joseph who not only knows Pharaoh's dreams, but also comes up with a plan...
This means that the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
7. To be full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom.
8. Acts 1:8 – Jerusalem (City Jews), Judea (Country Jews), Samaria (Half Jews) and the ends of the earth (All gentiles)
Philip's ministry is accompanied by healing, casting out of demons (discernment) – these are gifts of the Spirit. His message is also received with great Joy (a fruit of the Spirit)
9. The Spirit
 - Prompts Philip to run alongside the chariot.
 - (We can assume) that the Spirit has prompted the Ethiopian to read Isaiah.
 - (We can assume) that the Spirit opens the Ethiopian's heart to believe
 - The Spirit "transports"(Greek "Snatch away") Philip to Azotus (a Philistine city)
Note the continuation of the "commission" of Act1:8
 - The Ethiopian man goes away rejoicing.Philip
 - Is responsive, he is sensitive to the moment, bold enough to speak out and challenge, and open to the unconventional.

10. As a helper – He is given masculine single pronouns

Trinity: He proceeds from the Father, is sent by Jesus and speaks about Jesus.

11. The Spirit

1Co.2:13 - teaches

Act.13:2 - speaks (note also the Spirit refers to Himself as "me.")

Eph.4:30 & Isa.63:10 - He can be grieved

Heb.10:29 - He can be insulted / outraged

Act.5:3- 4 - He can be lied to

1Co.2:10-11 - He searches out and understands the depths of God the Father

1Co.12:11 - He gives gifts to us as He chooses

Rom.8:26-27 - He prays for us – and has a mind.

12. Allow some time for people to explore the analogy but emphasise the importance of personal application.

Answers to Study 2

The last section of this study which deals with the Trinity can easily dominate the study but it would be unfortunate if it did. It is detailed because it is a difficult topic and needs a thorough response. For the group study try to concentrate on the life-giving properties of the Ezekiel 47 river and the transformation of the Samaritan woman's life. Blitz through the Trinity stuff and encourage people to reflect and ask questions in another forum if needed.

1. Various kinds. Maybe get the discussion to acknowledge three:
 - casual thirst: It's hot, we're exercising, etc. but it's not life-threatening
 - unrecognised thirst: We don't realise we're dehydrating until the symptoms kick in
 - life-threatening thirst: We're starting to shut down (most of us don't know this one.)
2. They tell us that we are thirsty for God – it is a spiritual thirst.
3. He promises to satisfy our thirst and to have streams of living water flow from us. Take time to emphasise the double promise (thirst quenched and streams flowing) in the John passages.
4. From Ezekiel passage:
 - 4.1. The altar – the place of sacrifice – it is only because Jesus died and paid for our sins that we can receive the Spirit.
 - 4.2. The more we paddle, wade and swim, the deeper the experience gets. Put another way, we crawl before we walk before we run.
 - 4.3. Into the desert regions and brings life.
 - 4.4. They grow and bear fruit and leaves and these leaves bring healing.
5. We are the temple of the Spirit. This all flows from us.
6. When we have been forgiven by Jesus and give our lives to Him, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. We will paddle, wade and swim – our experience becomes deeper and more intimate. The river will flow us into the desert lands (the trouble and heartache of the world) so that we can bring life. The river flowing from us will bring life and if we are the trees growing next to the river, then the leaves and fruit growing from us should bring healing.

Challenge: If this is what it should be – it would seem that very few are experiencing this. Challenge the group to think about why that is. For most it is because we have never progressed beyond paddling in the shallows. It's fun, it's safe, it's not too scary...
7. The Samaritan woman:
 - 7.1. He tells her to get her husband and she admits her chequered past. He's clearly wanting to address her spiritual and emotional thirst.
 - 7.2. Worship isn't about time, place and tradition.
 - It's going to come from deep within (Spirit)
 - Even if you don't have the background or tradition, you'll be able to come
 - Worship will be genuine and sincere.

- 7.3. Because deep inside she knows it to be true – this is the work of the Spirit.
- 7.4. v.28 She can leave her water jar behind and go to the townspeople she feared
- v.29 She's brave enough to speak to those who used to look down on her.
- v.30 They listen to her – because she's been transformed
- v.39 Her words carry power because we see they are willing to come.
- v.42 Her words have been corroborated by what is happening in their hearts.
8. If we are created in the image of God – emphasise this from the first reading – and God is a community – then ultimately it makes sense that we desire community with Him and others. Emphasise the internal dialogue of the God-family.
9. Notice the Father (“LORD”) who sends Jesus (“Me”) and the “Spirit” who empowers.
10. The Father is **God**.
Jesus is **God**.
The Holy Spirit is **God**.
11. No, these verses describe more than three “modes/faces” of one person. Rather, these persons interact, send, teach and listen.
12. If God is a community of three Persons and they are in perfect unity then there is perfect love in God and then God IS love (love-in-action)
If we are created in His image then we are created for community.
Thankfully His Spirit can help us.
13. The video shows a windmill being blown and then pumping water. The video is called “stand” and focusses on the windmill – we're more interested in the wind and the water that brings life. The video tends to lead to the conclusion that the windmill is the key, but actually it is the wind and the water. Be sure to emphasise this.
Allow for personal application.

Answers to Study 3

1. Warmth,
Light,
Security, keeps wild animals away etc
Power – can be dangerous – e.g. house or forest fire
- can cook and bake with it – etc.
2. That He will baptise with the Spirit **and** fire. We have to conclude that Spirit and fire are one and the same, because this is what happens in Acts 2 on Pentecost and because this kind of language is common in Hebrew Poetry (parallelism where one concept is presented in two ways). A good example (if people ask)
PS 61:3 For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.
3. .
 - 3.1. **The** Angel is God. More specifically it is probably a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. An angel would not allow Moses to bow.
 - 3.2. Moses has to take off his sandals and he hides his face (v.6) – the fire represents the holiness of God. Interestingly, falling “facedown” in the presence of God happens frequently in the OT (Gen17:3; Lev9:24; Num16:22; Num20:6; Num22:31; Jos5:14; 1Chr21:16; Eze1:28) and it is probably safe to assume that Moses does the same here. The point is that an attitude of worship is required (take off shoes) and a posture of worship is adopted (Moses hid his face). There is worship taking place in this moment and AN angel would not allow himself to be worshipped.
 - 3.3. It's a picture that God's working in us does not destroy us.
(There are examples of the fire of God consuming things in the OT, but this is usually meat sacrifices and the enemies of God.)
 - 3.4. Moses will be called to lead the people of God out of Egypt. He will need power, perseverance and courage. Try to get people to list images like “fire in the belly”, “fire in the bones” and “fiery conviction” and other analogies...
4.
 - Exo.13:21; Pillar of fire: The presence and guidance of God
 - Lev.9:23-24; Sacrifices consumed: The pleasure and presence of God – brings joy
 - 1Ki.18:36-38; Sacrifices consumed: The presence and power of God – brings repentance. (“that you are turning their hearts back again”)
 - Isa.6:5-8 Live coal from altar – cleansing, purification – brings restoration.
5. - There was **wind**. (The freedom of the Spirit)
 - Fire – separated and settled on each of them. (One Spirit working uniquely in individuals)
 - They spoke in **known** languages (The Spirit enabled them)
 - A crowd was gathered (The Spirit drew them)

- Peter preached (The Spirit empowered him)
 - About 3000 added (The Spirit touched them).
6. The two trees represent Joshua and Zerubbabel (The Offices of King and Priest).
 7. The people of Israel who were supposed to shine the light of God's glory into the world.
 8. Anybody looking at this vision would know that it is not as simple as putting a pipe into the olive tree. The olives would have to be picked and squeezed for their juice. The point is this: The Spirit flows through the office of King and Priest. This doesn't mean that the King and Priest are the **source** of the Spirit but that He flows **through** them. The working of the Spirit through people is as mysterious as the flow of oil from tree to lampstand.
 9. Courage, wisdom, perseverance, insight, persuasion, etc
 10. They'd have to avoid trying to pull it off through their personalities, their pedigrees, their training, their status etc.
 11. We are spiritually dead because of our sin. The Holy Spirit can't live in us because of our sins. When Jesus forgives us, our sin is paid for and the Spirit can come and work in us.
 12. .
 - Joh.16:7-8; He convicts us – shows us our sin, that we can't be righteous on our own and that we will face judgement
 - 1Co.6:11 Our conversion is in the name of Jesus, but it is the Holy Spirit who helps us become born again. Remember John 3?
 - 1Co.12:3 We can't even truly receive Jesus as our Lord without the Holy Spirit's help.
 13. .
 - 13.1. Keep drinking
 - 13.2. It controls us and we see the effects it has: Slurring, double vision etc.
 - 13.3. It destroys us.
 - 13.4. Keep drinking – i.e. that means that if being filled with alcohol means that we are controlled by it, then being filled with the Spirit means we must give control over to Him. (He doesn't control us against our will like alcohol does, we have to give Him control and we can take it back). It means constantly asking Him to take control in areas in our lives and ordering the areas of our lives in line with His plans and purposes.
 - 13.5. Our lives are filled with His presence, power and fruit and gifts.
 - 13.6. The bush doesn't burn up and nor do we.
 14. In the following ways:
 - Throw water on it – make excuses why we can't
 - Overwhelm it with CO₂ – Smother it with Sin
 - Suck away all the oxygen – we never listen to God's whispering in our lives
 - Deprive it of material to burn – we are so busy that God can't use us

Conclusion:

Please note that the video clip about William Booth is just a teaser/trailer. The point is that the footage of his funeral roots the greatness of his life's impact in reality. This was a man who made a big difference and was powerfully used by God. There are other clips about Booth, but they are mostly too long or the quality is too poor. The clip is just to be reminded that great things can be done through those who surrender to the Spirit and this is what Booth did.

Answers to Study 4:

1. Read the parable at the end of the study and help the group list the items in the parable
2. The Law is put into minds and written on hearts instead of on clay tablets and put into the ark of the covenant. It means that the Holy Spirit helps us to intuitively know the difference between right and wrong. This is why Jesus could summarise the Ten Commandments down to "Love God. Love Others." He knew that the Holy Spirit working in us would help us figure out the details. This means that the it is not the letter of the Law, but the Spirit of it.

Jeremiah is saying that we will be able to have a personal and intimate relationship with God. Examples of this is that once we get to know God, we don't need fixed prayers, we can pray our own prayers and we also become more adept at feeling God's nudges and promptings as He works personally and uniquely with each of us. (He doesn't talk to me in the same way as He talks to you – how do you know His God? By the Spirit!)

Spend some time emphasizing that the old Covenant tried to work from the "outside-in" and now the New Covenant works "from the inside-out".

3. (Take time with these passages from John – they are personal intimate pictures of the Holy Spirit.)

Underline is about and the **bold** is what He **does**. (See discussion of some of the points below:)

Joh.14:15-26 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor to be with you forever**-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, **but you will see me**. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day **you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you**. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach** you all things and will **remind** you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ **Peace** I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- Counselor: (Paraclete) One who is close, intimate and trusted (Who He IS) (See what the Counselor **does** below)

- Spirit of Truth: It's more than the "truthful Spirit." He IS truth.
- World cannot accept Him/ Neither...: Like the wind, those who don't know can't grasp Him
- He lives with you...in you : Mysteriously God's Spirit lives in us. We don't have language or science that is adequate to describe this, but it's true.
- Counsellor – Holy Spirit: Makes it clear that Paraclete and Holy Spirit are one and the same.
- Father sends in my name: The Spirit comes from Father and Son, this is a Trinitarian work.
- **Counselor**: The one who advises, prompts, directs. (What He DOES) (See who the Counselor **is** above)
- **be with us forever**: He will not leave us.
- **I will come to you & You will see me**: This is Jesus talking, but the point is that the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to say I have Jesus in my heart even though Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. The Holy Spirit connects us to the Father and the Son.
- **You will realise...** Here the Holy Spirit helps us understand and experience the wonder of the Trinity and how we are part of the God family too.
- **Teach**: He will help us to understand God better
- **Remind**: He will remind us of what Jesus said.
- **Peace**: He will be the one who helps us to be at peace even when chaos erupts.

4. .

4.1. He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment.

Sin: When we realise our sin, we realise our need for God.

Righteousness: Jesus returns to the Father because He's obtained righteousness for us. So the job has been done by Him.

Judgment: If we ignore Jesus (who obtained righteousness) we're condemned.

*The point here is that it is the Holy Spirit who brings us to **conversion**.*

He's the One who helps us see our sin, and we realise that Jesus is the only one who can save us, and that without Jesus we face judgment.

4.2. He plays the role of teacher, mentor and guide. Specifically he makes Jesus' life and teachings real to us.

5. In Mark it is about the Holy Spirit giving us the right and wise words to say in very high pressure situations. A nice example is Peter in Acts 4 where the scholars are astonished at Peter's words and courage.

- ✓ AC 4:8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is

" `the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the capstone. '

AC 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

AC 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

In the 1John text it is about recognising false teaching. John isn't advocating that we don't need teachers, but that we recognise that when untruth is being pushed, many of us will experience a level of distrust or discomfort. There aren't great examples of this in Scripture, but people should be able to share stories of those who sounded great, but there was something fishy...

6. Repentance, Rest, Quietness, Trust – tease these out:

- It means relinquishing the frantic need to be in control
- It means recognising that I can't do everything

7. Control freakishness, manipulation, scheming, trust in earthly power, etc

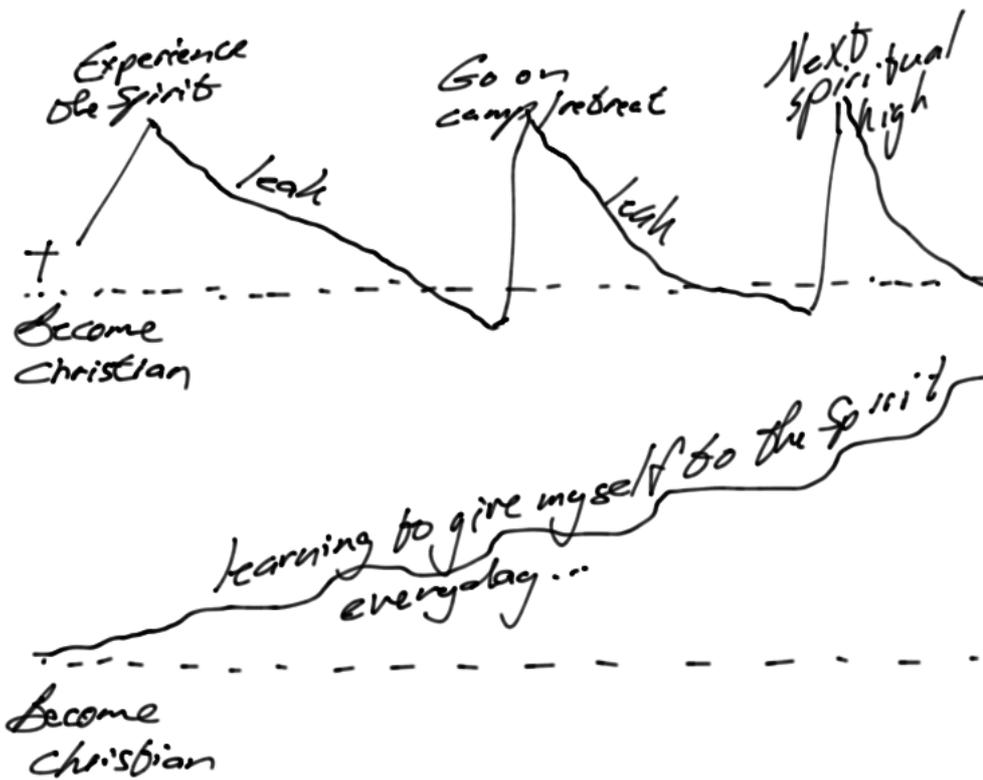
8. He loves them, wants to heal and answer them

9. He promises guidance, prompting, leadership – The Spirit as Paraclete.

10. Personal stories – try to highlight the personal and intimate nature of the support, guidance and prompting that people received.

In the DIGGING DEEPER section – I recommend that people read it silently and then open it up for discussion.

The Andrew Murray illustration could be added to by sketching out this graph, which illustrates the two options well.



Give time to the parable at the end – emphasise two things:

- Experiencing the Spirit is a very **normal** thing – it's relational and comfortable, like having a wife who comes from Russian descent...
- Keeping the marriage healthy is key – If the ambassador focuses too much on how his wife will prompt him (will she squeeze his arm, whisper in his ear, wink across the room) he'll tie himself up in knots. But if he is in good relationship with her, she'll get the message across!

Answers to Study 5:

The crux of this study is that the Spirit "seals the deal" that we know like we know like we know that we are forgiven and loved. Focus on the Spirit making the fact that we are children of God, so real to us.

1. Go through this question fairly quickly – the answers are in the questions, but this question is there to establish the four modes of sealing:
 - a) secured – safe – unchangeable
 - b) authority – veracity
 - c) belonging – possession
 - d) guarantee – promise – foretaste
2. There's no fixed right answer, just let the discussion go.
It boils down to being a mix of guarantee, belonging and security...
3. Paul says that:
 - 3.1. We are "**marked**" as those "**who are God's possession**" and the seal is the Spirit. (Type of seal is belonging, but also a sense of unchangeable)
 - 3.2. The Spirit is also a "**deposit**" (Grk: word *arrabon* which means deposit, down-payment, first-fruit, pledge) "**guaranteeing our inheritance.**" (Type of seal is guarantee/promise)
 - 3.3. "**Until the redemption...**" (in this sense the redemption is not only our being saved from sin, but the day when we are all completely healed and restored. i.e. When Jesus comes again.
4. .
 - 4.1. There is no difference: These are all the same thing. Paul is doing a very Hebrew thing, using parallelism to say the same thing with multiple nuances.
 - a) Anointing comes from the OT and we think of a king being chosen and anointed. We've been chosen and we are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" (1PE 2:9)
 - b) He sets His seal of Ownership on us – this is also His Spirit.
 - 4.2. Two things:
That we will stand firm
and that we will receive the eternal life that is to come.
 - 4.3. Deposit.
5. The incredible promise of eternal life.
(Spend some time talking about how this hope enables us to live in "tents" and that the Spirit's working in the lives of the "saints" we admire enabled them to be brave, to give up many things and make amazing sacrifices – all because they didn't hammer their tent pegs in too deep.
6. (Spend good time hammering this one home)
Our **inheritance is that we are children of God.**
The Spirit helps us to know this. He makes it possible to relate to God as Father (in

spite of our earthly father's failures). He makes us brothers and sisters to Jesus. We are not slaves, but dearly loved children.

Here are the main points again:

- a) Inheritance means we are children (not slaves)
- b) We can call God "Abba" - intimate & personal
- c) We have certainty deep within (His Spirit testifies with ours)
- d) Jesus is our brother – co-heirs with Christ
- e) We don't fear death – we're heirs
- f) We are free – no longer slaves

7. Both texts are saying the same thing:

- a) Eph: The HS seals (guarantee/possession) us for the Day of Redemption (Second Coming) but we mustn't grieve Him.
- b) 2Tim: God knows us – that we are His (possession) but we must turn away from wickedness.

There is a RESPONSIBILITY that comes with the Spirit's presence. We must respond.

8. .

8.1. You can't produce fruit from your grand-parent's tree.

You have to produce your own fruit.

Trees that don't produce good fruit will be cut down.

9. - You produce what you are (good or bad)

- To bear good fruit we have to be a good tree.
- We will be recognised by our fruit-bearing

10. .

- a) Jesus is the vine and the Father is the Gardener.
- b) What doesn't produce fruit gets cut off.
- c) Fruitfulness leads to pruning which leads to greater fruitfulness.
- d) Remain in Jesus – this is how we bear fruit.
- e) Branches not bearing are pruned off and thrown away
- f) Remaining in Jesus also means that His words remain in us.
- g) Remaining in Jesus also deepens our prayers
- h) Bearing fruit proves we are disciples
- i) Bearing fruit glorifies God.

11. .

11.1. Like the English, the Greek word is singular. There's one fruit with 9 segments. We can't pick and choose, we have them all.

11.2. We could summarise it as love expressed in 8 different ways.

11.3. He suggests we "keep in step" with the Spirit – it implies the same closeness as abiding or remaining from John 15 does. **Spend time emphasising that the**

Spirit can make things grow out of our tree that would not normally grow there. And there is now law (no limits) as to what he could change in us.

CASE STUDY:

Don't spend too much time on this, but do encourage people to think of their own examples of Jesus living out the fruit. (Think of a few yourself) Once folk have shared these, point out that it's each easy to find examples of this in Jesus, because this is **who** He was not just things He **did**. (It's the inside-out principle from last week again.) The same can be true of us – the Spirit can transform our nature and character.

SUMMARY:

Emphasise that our identity is that we are children of God, and that because the Spirit lives in us, we can know this truth deep in our bones.

The closing song portrays the "Abba" concept so well!

Answers to Study 6:

1. .
 - 1.1. Because of what happened later...
(I really don't think one can argue that the flames actually looked like tongues)
 - 1.2. These were known languages. (Some scholars have argued that it was a miracle of hearing rather than a miracle of speaking, but then surely it would have been "ears of fire") The point about Acts 10 and Acts 19 is that in each case these were missionary settings where people of other language groups were present and that the tongues would be understood by others and be a sign of God's power.
 - 1.3. The tower of Babel (Gen 11) where God confused the languages and separated people.
 - 1.4. The HS is playing the role of interpreter. He is making sure that people hear the message of God.
2. Today it could happen that people are still given the ability to speak in a language they don't know to reach those who speak that language. But it also happens when someone is given the unique ability to communicate cross-culturally, cross-generationally, or when someone is able to make difficult concepts easily understandable. This is the interpreting, bridge-building work of the Spirit.
3. .
 - 3.1. In this section and the verses that go before, Paul is talking about our broken and struggling world. The world is waiting for Jesus' second coming which is the "childbirth" (our ultimate adoption & redemption) but there are birthpains (sorrow, disaster and pain) that come our way.
 - 3.2. Emphasise here that the word here is a synonym of *arrabon* (Deposit-DownPayment-FirstIntstallment) that we looked at last week.
So we're back at the picture we had last week of the HS as our seal that we are God's children and that there is an inheritance of eternity for us.
 - 3.3. The presence of the HS as first-fruit/deposit/down-payment means that we have HOPE.
 - 3.4. Firstly we have to wait for this hope to be revealed – it hasn't come yet.
Secondly: we don't know what to pray for.
 - 3.5. He prays for us. (As certainly as He creates hope in us – that's what "In the same way" means. So He gives us hope and He prays in us for us.
 - 3.6. It implies real struggle, real love, real passion.
It can also imply that this is speaking in tongues, but first and foremost, it is about His anguish on our behalf.
In v.22 it is creation (and us) that groans in anguish
in v.26 it is the Spirit groaning with us and for us and in us.
 - 3.7. God the Father searches our hearts, and because He knows the Spirit, who knows us, the Spirit is connecting our needs to the Father.

3.8. The Spirit prays (where?) In us through us

The Spirit prays (when?) Continuously

The Spirit prays (how?) With groans (passionately, earnestly)

The Spirit prays knowing (two things) Our weakness and what we need

The Spirit's prayers are effective because He prays according to God's will.

4. Personal answers:

Need things like

- It's a comfort
- It means I don't have to pray perfectly
- He's bridge-building again – this time between me and God.

5. .

5.1. Gifts: They're not mine, not from me – I can't brag, I can't claim.

Service: (From Grk *diakonos*) which implies service for others

Working: (Outworking: derived from the Greek word that we get "energy" from)

Literally: Different kinds of "energisms" which God "energises" in us all.

5.2. From God: Spirit, Son and Father (v.4,5,6) by the Spirit mediates them to us.

5.3. For the COMMON good.

5.4. By the Spirit and one/another

Emphasises that it comes from the Spirit and never to all but a selection of people.

5.5. As the Spirit determines.

6. .

6.1. Here is a quick definition of the gifts in alphabetical order sometimes with a brief example of their use.

- Administration: To organise things effectively and efficiently to minimise chaos and friction so that God's work can be done.
- Apostle: A pioneer or missionary – a church planter, a starter. Not good at maintenance – likes to break new ground.
- Artistic Creativity and Craftmanship: Particular skill at these creative pursuits for the communication of God's message or to inspire praise to God.
- Discernment: To have a "gut feel" about people and what they teach and to recognise falseness/evil before others do.
- Evangelist: Someone who is particularly good at explaining the gospel to people and getting them to give their lives to Jesus. (Billy Graham)
- Faith: An above average ability to trust God to provide and then to step out on a limb because of that faith.
- Giving: Being able to give of their finances and possessions freely and easily so that God's work can be done.
- Healing: To have particular compassion for the sick and to see an unusual number of folk healed when they pray for them.
- Helps: A bit like Service, but all about helping others reach their winning post. Being adaptable and flexible to do and be whatever others need.

- Hospitality: To make space in their homes and hearts for others.
- Interpretation of Tongues: To translate when someone has spoken in tongues. (To just know what has just been said.)
- Knowledge: God reveals something to these people that they could not have known by normal means. ("There's someone in this room who has just been diagnosed with liver cancer and God wants to heal you.")
- Leadership: The ability to impart vision and clarity and help groups of people to accomplish the goals needed to make the vision a reality.
- Mercy: Being able to show exceptional kindness and patience with difficult to love people. (Mother Theresa)
- Miracles: To have the ability to trust God and then see Him answer prayers in supernatural ways.
- Musicianship: Not just good music skills but an ability to usher people into God's presence.
- Pastor-Teacher: (Some people separate these two, but it is one task) People who are good shepherds. Our best teachers were the ones who cared about us. What do the best parents do? (They teach their kids good values)
- Prophesying/Prophecy: Not only about foretelling the future, but in particular bringing God's comment on current affairs, and in the context of Paul in 1Cor14 it seems to have the implication that it's a message relevant to the person who hears it and that it convicts them. These are the people who see past the lies and distractions of the world and make God's will clear to us. A good example in apartheid times was Desmond Tutu and Beyers Naude.
- Serving: Being willing to do the practical things that help others get the job done. Very comfortable and willing to be in the background.
- Teaching: The ability to communicate the truths of God's word in a way that people remember and apply to their lives.
- Tongues: To speak in a language not known to yourself. Sometimes in public when there is interpretation or otherwise in private.
- Wisdom: Being able to see, grasp and work with the nuances of tricky situations. Able to bring clarity when people feel lost or confused.

7.

7.1. "I can ask for a specific gift." The Spirit decides and the need of the body is the agenda. If I'm part of a church where everyone has a hammer, the Spirit might give me a pliers. (to pull out all the bent nails from the hammers!!!)

7.2. "A gift is for life" No – the needs of the body change, or I might move to a different body.

7.3. "This is MY spiritual gift" No – The gifts are on loan. Not ours, but the Spirit's.

8. We can take spiritual gift inventories (questionnaires) but these can easily be manipulated. The best is to:

1. Draw near to God and make sure I'm humble open and willing to serve.

2. Get involved in various activities – we'll quickly see what our gifts are **not**.
3. Get advice from spiritually mature, discerning leaders who will be straight with us.
4. Go back to step 1

Section on Tongues:

Suss the group out – this may not be a big issue for them.

The key issues are:

- The three ways of speaking in tongues
- That it seems that tongues bridge the gap (when we don't know) and that tongues are like training wheels on a bicycle, they come off when we learn how to ride properly.
- Most people who want to speak in tongues have the wrong motive.

Meditation:

1. Although the intercession of the Spirit seems a bit esoteric, the idea that I don't have to start the prayer conversation but just join it, is a very important mind shift for us to make. It has helped me with the “pray anywhere anytime” aspect of prayer.
2. Try to tease out the following:
 1. the large spectrum of people people (male, female, young, old)
 2. Their ordinary-ness.
 3. That they're experimenting (some of them seem to be in the wrong place)
 4. Others have the same gift but exercising it in different ways.
The two ladies with hospitality: One is a greeter, the other opens her home.
3. Try to end with a round of prayer where you encourage people just to jump into the Holy Spirit's stream of prayer.

Answers to Study 7

The first section deals with the sin against the Holy Spirit – although this is not an issue that is relevant to everyone, the key point that it does make is to come back to one of the key roles of the Spirit which is that He is the one who brings us to conversion. If you skip this section, which probably needs to be done if time is short, do make sure to summarise what is in Q.4.

1. Note what Isa.35:5-6 says “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”
 - 1.1. The Pharisees who should have had a firm grasp of the passages about the Messiah should have recognised Jesus as the Messiah even before the crowds did.
 - 1.2. Three arguments
 - A house divided: Why would Satan drive out Satan?
 - If their argument were true then what was to say that they were any different?
 - To drive evil out you need to be stronger than it.
 - 1.3. The correct answer is: NOTHING.
 - 1.4. They have spoken against Jesus and this indicates that they don't believe in Him.
 - 1.5. No
 - 1.6. Against Jesus.
It can be forgiven.
 - 1.7. His role is to bring people to faith and conversion.
They have stubbornly, persistently and vehemently resisted His prompting.
By rejecting Jesus, they show their hard-hearted unbelief.
2. The core problem is unbelief: They will not repent and they will not listen.
3. If they truly believe in Jesus they haven't done it.
If they're worried about it then they can't have done it. (Unbelief means that we wouldn't care about anything that Jesus said.)
4. The important issue to raise here is that for most people, we don't know that they have committed the sin against the Spirit until they have died, because they may still have a death-bed conversion. BUT there are some who will so harden their hearts so much that even if Jesus appeared to them in all His majesty and love, they would still refuse. (Hitler might be an example...)
5. One of the best simple definitions of entropy is
“a process of degradation or running down or a trend to disorder” (Merriam Webster)
6. The key problem is that we can't be good by ourselves.
We can't pull ourselves up by our bootlaces.
We're a bad tree, we have a sinful nature (Paul calls it the “flesh” or the “old person” or the “law of sin at work in my members”).
We have spiritual entropy going on in us. **(Keep working this idea through the study)**

7.

7.1. The "Spirit of Life" who sets us free from the law of sin and death.

7.2. The law sets the standard for us to enter God's holiness, but our sinful nature fights against the law – we can't keep the law.

7.3. Sin is condemned in us – in other words, our past failures are nullified and even the powerful pull of sin in the present can be overcome by the Spirit working in us.

8.

Sinful Nature	Spirit Led
* Minds on agenda of sin nature	* Mind on what the Spirit wants
* Mind is death.	* Mind is life and peace
* Hostile to God.	* (Isn't hostile)
* Doesn't and can't submit to God's law	* (Does submit)
* Can't please God	* Can be pleasing to God

9.

9.1. We need a new tree/nature. (This means we have to "die" and be "resurrected" to "new management.")

9.2. No.

9.3. From Jesus who offered His righteousness on the cross and His righteous blood flows over us.

9.4. Yes – He raised Jesus from the dead.

10.

10.1. It's more like "demonstrate" (an out-working – letting what is inside come out!)

10.2. Because it is a miracle when I in my brokenness am able, with God's help, to do something good.

10.3. He's working in us – transforming our words thoughts and actions. Look at the verbs – to will (get our thoughts and motives right) and act . It's all for His purpose.

This is wonderful good news – emphasise it!!!!

11.

11.1. The choice is between living according to the sinful nature or according to the Spirit and we must make a choice. (see second part of the answer to the next question)

11.2. No. No. Because we must "put to death the misdeeds of the body by relying on and using the Spirit's power, inspiration and love. **It's important to recognise that we work with the Spirit – we constantly make choices that co-operate with Him or impede His work. Remind the group about how we can *quench* the Spirit (in study 3).** (Entropy means that if we are

passive it will go to our sinful nature. Kind of like running up the “down” escalator (if you stop you go down)

11.3. Children of God – looking like Jesus (remember the Spiritual Fruit that we looked at in study 5? - They lead us to looking more like Jesus.)

12. The common theme is to have a slowed-down, waiting, trusting attitude.

Isa.30 – repent, rest, quiet, trust

Isa.40 – Not relying on youth or experience but on God

Joh.15 – Remaining, abiding, in Jesus and His word

Act.1 – Waiting – trusting

Gal.5 – To keep in step means He takes the lead – we wait for Him.(How often we want Him to stay in step with our plans!!!)

13.

13.1. He is at work in me – patience

13.2. He gives me all I need (not want) – but I need to know Him

13.3. He is faithful to protect me from evil – be bold.

13.4. He in me is greater than he in the world – don't be intimidated.

14. Note that the verbs (underlined) at the top of the definition are what we do and the ones at the bottom are what God does.

15. Personal Answers

16. Personal Answers

17. Personal Answers

18.

18.1. It was active – while he couldn't fix Catherine, he could fix himself.

18.2. Caleb wasn't in the best of spaces (he was being served divorce papers, ignored by his wife, and spending a lot of time alone) he made the best of the moments he was in. We can't always be on the mountain top, but we see Caleb using moments in the firestation to think and pray, putting his best into his work and washing the dishes. He was learning to “abide” in Christ wherever he was. He was “raising his sails” to catch whatever breezes of wind that were blowing.