

# Lifegroup notes from Sunday 26 June 2022

Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20

Fire of the Spirit

We're continuing to revisit our vision statement, L.I.F.E to the full:

Love of the Father

Identity in Christ

Fire of the Spirit

Everyone's welcome.



In Our reading Paul speaks of the work of the Spirit in purifying us, setting us apart of Christ, and living in a radically different way from the wider world. We sometimes shy away from talking of purity, because it can often be overlaid with a harsh judgmentalism, but if the call upon is to become like Christ, then that means growing in holiness. Just as the refiner's fire heats up and purifies gold or silver, so too the Holy Spirit comes as fire to burn away the dross in our lives. It sounds painful, and that's because sometimes it is!

John promised that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt 3:11), and on the day of Pentecost that is exactly what happened (Acts 2:3) as what appeared to be tongues of fire appeared on the believers.

Peter preached that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for everyone that the Lord calls (so that means us) in Acts 2:17. This promised Spiritual baptism results in us finding our place in the church family, learning how we are uniquely shaped to serve Christ and see others come to faith (1 Cor 12:7) echoing Jesus words that the Spirit is given for the mission of God to have an effect on the world (Luke 4:18)

Paul instructs us to "be being filled" as a constant reality, which in turns results in the transformation and holiness that glorifies God, and warns in 1 Thess 5:19 against resisting or quenching the move of the Holy Spirit (sometimes we're quick to pour water on the Spirit's fire!).

It is the Spirit that changes us, purifies us, sets us apart (sanctifies) just like an Old Testament sacrifice, and empowers us to live for and serve Christ and His church in our own individual way.

Some questions

- What encouraged or challenged you in this message?
- How would you describe your experience of the Holy Spirit?
- When we think of the fire purifying, that sounds hard and violent – have you known the Spirit's work in purifying you? What happened?
- Looking at the reading and other passages mentioned – what work of the Spirit draws you close, and what makes you anxious?
- In what ways are we tempted to quench the Spirit??
- Is it realistic to expect to "be being filled" with the Spirit each day?