



Life Group Notes: 'Transformed'

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER:

ROMANS 12:2:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

JOHN 16:7:

Jesus said: "...I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."

ACTS 2:4:

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

JOHN 15:26

Jesus said: "When the Helper comes, whom I send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."

INTRODUCTION:

When we have an encounter with God, our lives are transformed in so many ways. One very well-known example is Saul (also known as Paul). Saul had an encounter with Jesus that changed his life completely (see Acts 9). Within 3 days, Saul went from being a terrorist, persecuting and killing Christians, to preaching the good news of Jesus with authority and deep conviction. God fast-tracked a major turnaround in Saul's life with Holy Spirit's help. He can do the same for us!

There are many examples in the Bible where lives are transformed by Holy Spirit. God knew that we would need help every day, especially to live our lives as Christians. Jesus promised that he would send a Helper. Holy Spirit is the Helper that empowers us to live with boldness and enables us to speak and act differently. He gives us gifts and enhances our natural talents and abilities to use for His glory.

Holy Spirit is also very personal. We can develop a relationship with Holy Spirit through prayer, reading the Bible and learning to be sensitive to him speaking to us. He guides us, gives us wisdom and helps us pray when we run out of words or don't know what to pray. Holy Spirit is the One who helps us every day to do what God is asking us to do. He never leaves us and is our constant Helper. That is such an encouraging truth to think about and remember every day!

1) The Work of the Spirit:

Acts 9 tells us how Saul's life was transformed after an encounter with Jesus. He was then filled with Holy Spirit and immediately began telling others about Jesus.

- What can we learn about Holy Spirit from this example in Saul's life and how can we apply that to our lives today? Please discuss.

2) Receiving the Spirit:

We all have a choice to receive Holy Spirit in our lives and allow Him to fill us. When we do, we encounter God in a different way, and He enables us to speak and act differently. It is a continuous process.

Sometimes we stick to what we know but Holy Spirit is always encouraging us that God wants all of us, not just the parts we are comfortable about giving to Him. We can have something good, but God always has something more for us!

- If you have been baptised in the Spirit, do you continuously ask Holy Spirit to fill you again and be your Helper? If not, why not commit to this and be expectant for change in your life.
- Why do you think it is important to keep asking Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and keep on being filled if you have already experienced it once? Please discuss.

3) Relationship with Holy Spirit:

Holy Spirit is a person. He has a personality and when He speaks to us, it is always personal. We may not physically be able to see Him, but we can see the effects of Him in our lives and others. He abides in us, teaches, guides and empowers us and is the voice of Jesus on the earth.

- How should knowing that Holy Spirit is a person affect our relationship with Him and how can you personally develop your relationship with Him? Please discuss.

CLOSING PRAYER:

- If you have not been filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, take some time now to ask your Life Group to pray for you for that.
- Pray for each other for a fresh infilling of Holy Spirit in our lives and a greater level of personal relationship with Him.
- Pray for everyone in the King's Church family that we will have new encounters with Holy Spirit that transforms all our lives and those around us.