

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. April 10th 2005

God's Gifts - the Gift of His Presence

The gift of the Holy Spirit - a good gift

Luke 11.5-13



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

The Holy Spirit is spoken of as a good gift but for many of us he can be seen as a threat, and we can be fearful in response to his work. Our fear surrounds his actions in our lives: will he illuminate things we have done wrong, or that others have done to us so that we are embarrassed? Will we seem like failures? Will he cause pain by digging up past injuries? Are we fearful of his direction in our lives, the prospect of having to give up our lifestyle and follow his ways may not be appealing! Are we fearful of the way he can manifest himself physically - the fear of shaking, falling over, speaking in tongues? It can all seem unruly, in fact out of control. There are issues of who has control over our lives, us or the Spirit?

But he is a good gift: he is humble; he convicts us to bring healing and forgiveness; he comes alongside us in order to help us and build us up; he equips us by giving us gifts; he comforts us; he protects us.

We need faith to accept such a gift from God, trust that allows us to take a risk and taste and see that indeed the Lord is good. Faith is the key to the ignition of God's engine in our lives: the engine is the Spirit. We will see a difference in our lives when the Spirit is at work, he has to bear fruit, it is what he does best, and it is borne in us. So his work will make a big difference - that is good!



Witness: Questions to discuss

1. 'Spooky or Good', what do you make of God's gift of his Spirit to us? Make a list of any reservations you may have.
2. What do you find hardest to entrust to him to transform and shape?
3. Read Psalm 103 and allow the words to sink in. How far has the knowledge and experience of the Goodness of God permeated your mind and heart? To what extent does a lack of that knowledge affect your response to the work of the Spirit ?
4. Have you ever asked the Spirit to fill you? Why? What has happened?
5. Would you mind if you never had any kind of physical manifestation of the Spirit? Would you mind if you did?
6. What would you like him to do that you have been wary for asking for?
7. Jesus said in relation to the gift of the Spirit: 'Ask Seek Knock'. Luke 11:9. What can you do tomorrow, this week to follow this teaching?