

# CITY CHURCH DNA DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 10

## DNA Day 55 - The Holy Spirit and our church part 1

Today we're looking at **how our church identity is shaped by the person of the Holy Spirit.**

The apostle Paul paints an amazing picture of the way each group of believers isn't just a club of disciples but a living 'body' through whom Jesus lives! He describes how we all have gifts given by the Holy Spirit and all have our part to play in this. In the early church there were those who came from Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds - some who were free individuals and some in slavery.

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **1 Corinthians 12 12-13.***

Paul underlines how the Holy Spirit is central to church life. So, no matter what our background or abilities, we recognise the importance of working together. Paul particularly urges those who might feel tensions due to their backgrounds - to recognise they have **all** been filled with the same Spirit because they have **all** believed in Jesus. It's equally important for us to have the same unity as part of the body of Christ in this city.

### **Pray**

**Lord we are excited to be part of your church here in Bristol! Help me to use the gifts you've given us to encourage others in this church and live for you in Bristol, and for us to move forward in unity.**

## DNA Day 56 - The Holy Spirit and our church part 2

**Today we're looking at how our church purpose is shaped by the person of the Holy Spirit.**

One of the things Jesus wanted built into his church's DNA was that his followers would go out into the world and make disciples, and that they would know the power of the Holy Spirit to do that!

*Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'* **Acts 2:38-39.**

When the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, Peter was quick to realise that anyone who believes in Jesus can receive both the forgiveness of sin **and** the gift of the Holy Spirit. The amazing thing is that, in God's grace and generosity, this promise is for anyone who responds to the call of God on their life!

As we read on further in Acts, those who had become followers of Jesus were radically changed, sacrificially loving each other as he had taught, and encountering the power of the spirit in their community. God added many to their number as a result.

### **Pray**

**Lord, we ask that you would shape our church as you did in Acts and that many would come to know you in this city. Show me how you want me to demonstrate your love as I follow you, in the power of your Spirit.**

## **DNA Day 57 - The Holy Spirit and the city part 1**

Today we're looking at **what the presence of the Holy Spirit means for Bristol's identity.**

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church in Acts 2, the effect on the community was dramatic! Everyone could see the transformation in the growing number of disciples.

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **Acts 2:46-47.***

In Acts it is recorded that not only did the early church grow rapidly, but that this was received warmly those around them! So much so, that Acts records people being added to the church on a daily basis! We also read that here, and elsewhere in Acts, many miracles - often healings - were being done by the followers of Jesus!

In the same way, we long for our City's identity being synonymous with the love and power of God among its communities with many coming to know Jesus as this happens!

### ***Pray***

**Lord we pray that you would pour out your Spirit on this city as you did in times past! We pray that you would give us favour in our communities and with those in authority, and that we would know your love and power leading us as we make disciples for you.**

## DNA Day 58 - The Holy Spirit and the city part 2

Today we're looking at **how the presence of the Holy Spirit affects Bristol's purpose.**

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. **Matthew 5:14.***

God calls us to be a city on a hill, highly visible and influential. The Holy Spirit's presence can deeply affect the purpose of a city so it reflects God's heart of compassion and grace, but this only happens when God's people **walk closely** with Him.

*Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted. **Proverbs 11:11.***

We recall City Church's prophetic word about **re-opening the wells** of Muller, Wesley and Whitefield: men powerfully used by the Holy Spirit to profoundly impact the city. It was the Holy Spirit that made Bristol miners weep and repent when George Whitefield preached, prompted George Muller to open orphanages which were a testimony to God's miraculous provision and used John Wesley's Spirit-filled ministry to bring thousands to Christ.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is always to **glorify God** and when the Holy Spirit is on the move transformative change takes place. In Acts, preaching the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit caused God's Kingdom to break into cities time and time again, bringing **radical transformation**. Don't we want that again for Bristol?

### **Pray**

**We pray that the wells of Muller, Whitefield and Muller will be re-opened and that faith will rise for a powerful move of the Holy Spirit in our city. We pray Bristol's purpose will be dynamically changed from a focus on the individual back to God and that once again many thousands will be saved. He did it then – He can do it again!**

## **DNA Day 59 - The Holy Spirit and the world part 1**

Today we're looking at **why the Holy Spirit is important for peoples' sense of identity in the world.**

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba Father'. **Romans 8:15.***

The word Abba means Daddy – picture a father throwing his small child up into the air and catching them, making them squeal with laughter. Abba speaks of tenderness, security, all-embracing love and our identity as a child of God.

When the Holy Spirit fills us, we become a **new creation** and this in turn changes the way we view the world. The Spirit softens our hearts and, increasingly, we find that **what moves Jesus** moves us. Jesus cares deeply about the world so we share his passion. We can no longer be passive bystanders.

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3:17.***

With the Holy Spirit's help, we too can stand against injustice, demonstrate compassion, be a voice for the voiceless, reach out to those in need, and carry on Jesus' Great Commission to seek and save the lost. It's in our DNA.

### **Pray**

**Lord, help us to catch your vision for the world you came to save and break our hearts for what breaks yours. We pray hearts would catch fire as your Holy Spirit moves across the nations and that right across the world your name will be lifted high. Amen.**

## DNA Day 60 - The Holy Spirit and the world part 2

Today we're looking at **how the person of the Holy Spirit affects peoples' sense of purpose in the world.**

Jesus' ministry was full of the Holy Spirit's power and after Pentecost the Spirit transformed fearful disciples into bold proclaimers of the gospel. Since then, the Holy Spirit has been **freely available** to all believers, including you and me.

*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.***

Why then do we often act as though we're powerless? Our mission as Christians is to tell the world about God's redeeming love, yet often we hold back, feeling inadequate. That's why Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to help us. Bringing both **Word and Spirit** powerfully impacts unbelievers, inspiring **conviction, repentance** and a **deep hunger** to know Christ.

But we can't minister in the Holy Spirit just by wishful thinking. To see God's purpose worked out in our world requires intentionality and we need to make the Holy Spirit welcome. Otherwise, it's like expecting a Hoover to work when you haven't plugged it in. Fortunately, the guidelines are simple. Just **ask, believe** and **receive**. God is faithful and when we look for His presence, He always comes.

### **Pray**

**We pray for your Spirit to move in power on this broken world so that we see lives transformed and a real hunger for God. As the Word is proclaimed in Spirit and truth, increase our faith for You to do great things among the nations. Amen.**