

Word notes Sunday 29/03/09 DT Braven-Giles
What did Jesus come to do?

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

DT prefaced his talk by following up on some of the praise and worship, affirming that whatever our background we all have a place in God's Kingdom family – among the great multitude that no-one can number from all nations (Rev 7:9).

What has changed as a result of the coming of Jesus? It's clear from Mark 1:1-6 that Father God intended something big to occur, hence the clear notice given through a messenger and following all the prophecies of the Old Testament. We then read about how John, the herald of Jesus' coming, baptised in water (a common thing to do) but that Jesus would baptize (immerse, completely soak) in the Holy Spirit.

What for – see John 10:10. Why baptism – see Romans 6, summary: a Life to the full alive in Christ rather than dead in our Sin by identification with his death and resurrection though baptism.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Not just "the presence of God", the Holy Spirit IS God – part of the Trinity, the 3 in 1. "Spirit" here can also mean "Breath" and if we look back at the start in Genesis 1:2 we see how the Spirit of God is poised – brooding ready to make something happen as soon as God speaks (which must use breath!). It's the same today now that Jesus has broken the Sin-barrier and brought about new life in Jesus through the Holy Spirit as he breathes into our lives.

This age we now live in, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:16-21, Joel 2:28&29), is a foretaste of the Kingdom that is to come – that's what the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:1-10) are doing – bringing Kingdom rule into our lives now –eg through healing – in the Kingdom there will be no more pain or suffering, healing though the Holy Spirit now brings some of the Kingdom future into the Kingdom now.

That's what Jesus came to do: show us the Father, pay the price for our rejection of Him and usher in the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we can live an abundant life in power.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Ask if anyone has something to share on what God did for or said to them on Sunday.

At his baptism in the afternoon, Andy shared how his life had changed as a result of meeting Jesus. His testimony was fresh and exciting – ask people to share what changed in their lives when they were saved?

For some that may have been a while ago. Is the Holy Spirit still breathing our lives? Ask people to share what God has done for them recently – eg have any seen the miracles they asked for last week answered? (See Jon's email last week re his interview). Or anything else such as were the Holy Spirit has revealed something, given a word, arranged circumstances etc?

Pray for each other to open ourselves up to receive more of God's Holy Spirit – and to be ready to ask him to move in and through us.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Review the Cell's vision for outreach. What is the strategy and where are you in seeing it happen?

Romans 14:17 says that righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit are characteristic of the Kingdom of God. Please pray for the first Town Pastors patrol this Saturday night – and for Simon in Bury St Edmunds, that these things will result from the presence of God's Kingdom being brought onto the streets physically and through prayer.