

Word notes Sunday 10/5/09 Graeme Wylie
Living in the Spirit – Joy in the Holy Spirit

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

Graeme Wylie is currently based in Rossccommon on the Shannon and heads up Plumblin Ministries, Ireland.

In Romans 14:17 Paul tells us “the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”. When someone is born again the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in their spirit, which is why we are a temple of the Holy Spirit. We can’t live the Christian life without the Spirit and if the Holy Spirit is not present we have no Christian life.

In the world people pursue pleasure and happiness. Pleasure is tied up with our physical senses and can bring physical fulfillment in all possible ways. Happiness is emotional fulfillment – we “feel” happy. Joy is deeper than both and has to do with our spirit – that deepest part of our beings. The Joy of the Holy Spirit overflows to other parts but is seated in spirit.

This does not mean we don’t have low times – the Psalmist wrote “Why art thou cast down oh my soul?” (Ps 42:5 KJV) but does mean we have access to a source of Joy that does not depend on our emotions and we should therefore live from the Spirit rather than our emotions.

Isaiah 61:3 speaks of us having the “a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair”.

God has provision of anointing of joy for His church and we need to know how to access it. That provision is to be found in “wells of salvation” from which we draw joy (Isaiah 11:3).

We need to dig down to reach the aquifer, have to actively draw water from it, choosing to access the water on a regular basis or we’ll become dry. We may need to unblock the wells, especially if life has got heavy - remember to release the joy. This is not something that we must wait for God will do to us we have to take the initiative to do it. There are a number of ways – Graeme had a list of 7 and shared these 4 of them.

1: The well of the Holy Spirit (John 4:4-15 and 7:37-39). We need to tune in to Holy Spirit. Tongues, prophecy and songs can prime the pump and the river will flow. We are wired for Holy Spirit to be being filled but need to plug into the source, to turn open the sluice gate and let the river flow.

2: The well of the word (John 15:1-7) Jesus spoke to us in order that his “joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” (John 15:11). If reading the Word become dull then keep digging through the dry bits as you’d have to in order to reach water underground. We need to walk with Jesus (Luke 24:1-32) and allow him to open our eyes to the truth and riches in the Word.

3: The well of intimacy with God. Psalm 16:11 says in your presence is fullness of joy. He touches us at the deepest part of our being and we know intimacy. Spend intimate time with God, just as you might a spouse. Do you schedule in those times or just let them happen (or not in a busy life)?

4: The well of prayer. Isaiah 56:7 says I will give them joy in my house of prayer Psalm 133 talks of the Joy of dwelling in unity – pray together.

Draw water. Dig your wells, re-open those that have got clogged up or unused. Isaac (his name means laughter) is reported as reopening and digging wells (Gen 26:17-32).

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

Ask people to share how each taps into these wells. What testimonies do they have of the Joy of the Holy Spirit welling up in them despite circumstances or emotions that in the world would drag them down?

Do a survey – what state are each person's wells in right now: Overflowing, need to put down a rope (short or long) or dry? (Each person could draw pictures of the 4 wells listed with the level of water shown in them).

For any dry or unused wells what actions will the 'owner' take to find water there?

Pray for any with specific issues of dryness. Ask the Holy Spirit to show those praying what the blockage is and pray into those things appropriately.

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

Who are the people the Cell is seeking to reach and how? Devise an action plan for the time until Summer and into the holidays.