

Word notes Sunday 23/5/2010 Tony Hodge
The role of the Holy Spirit

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

Key Text: John 16:7-15

Tony shared a few photographs of his time in Nepal and some of the dream and vision that motivates Christians to go to such remote places, sometimes leaving family behind for long periods of time, to come alongside people, help them and share the Good News.

During the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples many things, one of which was to promise them the Holy Spirit "The Friend" as The Message paraphrases, who will guide them into all truth and bring glory to Jesus rather than himself. If we are tempted to remember Pentecost just for the "fireworks" and signs then we have missed the main purpose of the Holy Spirit – not to draw attention to himself but to Jesus.

A check of events at Pentecost in Acts 2 shows us that as Peter stands up to speak in the Spirit his main subject is Jesus. A cross-check into Acts 19 and Paul at Ephesus shows the same story, when the Spirit comes Jesus is preached and big things happen.

Tony's friends in Nepal have a dream – to see a mighty welcome in the Himalayas for Jesus on his return. If we could take a spiritual Google Earth picture of the UK and Nepal the lights of God's presence may be more and closer together in the UK than in Nepal, does that mean we rest on our laurels a bit or are we eager to see revival in the UK just as much as mission workers desire to see it in their lands? If so it needs to start with "me" and while we may not have to walk for 2 days to meet with people who need Jesus, sometimes there are different hurdles here at home which make it seem as tough as that.

Thankfully Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as promised, and He will bring glory to Jesus as we allow Him to move in our lives, be it through quiet sharing of our lives in Jesus or healings, words and signs. That is the main purpose of the Holy Spirit.

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

Who needs a "comforter", those who are comfortable or those "out of their comfort zones"?

Looking at John 16 verses 8-11 and 13, what difference will the Holy Spirit make in the lives of the disciples and their witness?

Why is that so important for the growth of the church?

Where in Peter's speech in Acts 2:14-39 can you see these things happening?

When we think of "Power Ministry" what does this mean to us, in light of hearing from John 14 last week and John 16 this should we have a different view, if so how?

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

All hands to the pumps for the fun day. Come prepared to give and share God's love.