

Life At The River: Roots and Fruit Jeremiah 17:7-8

Prayer Link

Prayers for the Community

Ardienne Fleener, at home; Robert Pagan's Mother, cancer treatments; American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.

Additional Requests: _____

SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS – HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

E-Prayer Chain: A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. Please send your prayer request to: sugarriverumc@tds.net. *(Quicker response and more confidential)*

Prayer Link Listing: If you would like to have your concern listed in this weekly publication, please contact the church office: sugarriverumc@tds.net or call 845-5855. *(Printed for worshiping Community)*

Please note in your request if you would like the E-Prayer and/or the Link listing. If you would like to join the E-Prayer team, please indicated that as well.

Inspirational Link

Thoughts and Insights from Worship

Roots:

How are we growing deeper in our Spiritual and Community lives?

Fruit:

How are we demonstrating the fruit of God's Spirit in our lives?

^{NIV} **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Walking the Spirit-Filled Life

I Corinthians 2:4, 4:20

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

I Corinthians 2:4

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." I Corinthians 4:20

Monday, September 15 – The Promise of the Holy Spirit: **Read Joel 2:28-30**

The Old Testament has many prophetic promises of a future time when God would do an amazing new thing on the earth. Before the time of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon specific individuals for a particular task and time. Anticipation, hope and bewilderment must have been present within this Jewish nation. What does the prophecy of Joel promise specifically? What kind of emotion would such a prophecy create within the people? How long did they have to wait for their promise to be fulfilled? How does Joel's prophecy have relevance for us today?

Tuesday, September 16 – The Teachings of Jesus about the Holy Spirit: **Read John 14:15-27**

Jesus taught his disciples at length about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He encouraged and comforted them with the promise of the coming of the Spirit. In fact, Jesus instructed them that it is to their advantage that he be crucified, raised and ascend to the Father saying, "It is better for you if I go away." **Read John 14: 1-16:33.** Make a list of all of the specific things the Spirit is going to accomplish within his followers. How do these various ministries of the Holy Spirit become ours today?

Wednesday, September 17 – The Day of Pentecost: **Read Acts 2:1-41**

The Jewish festival of Pentecost happened 50 days following the Passover. From the time of Jesus' death to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost was therefore 50 days. On the Day of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem God poured out His Holy Spirit in a way never before done in history. As you read Luke's account in Acts 2 imagine yourself there. What did they experience? What did they see, hear, say, feel? How does the Apostle Peter interpret these events? How does he reference the prophecy of Joel in Acts 2:16? What was the crowd's response? What is the significance of the Day of Pentecost for us today?

Thursday, September 18 – The Spirit's Gifts: **Read I Corinthians 12:1-31**

One of the central means of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of God's children is to give each one spiritual gifts. There are many New Testament texts which describe this, the most prominent being **I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:7-13 and Romans 12:1-8.** There have been many attempts to organize and categorize these gifts. The experience of discovering, developing and deploying our spiritual gifts is vital to a fruitful and joyfilled life of faith. Read the spiritual gifts texts in a thoughtful and prayerful way. Pray asking God what spiritual gifts He has given you. Can you identify a person who has each of the gifts listed? Consider completing the churches Spiritual Gift Discovery Survey.

Friday, September 19 – The Spirit's Fullness: **Read Ephesians 5:15-20**

The Apostle Paul commands us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18) The Greek verbal tense here is present continuous, meaning we should continually be in a state of being filled with God's Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:30 we are instructed to "not grieve the Holy Spirit". In what ways might we have grieved God's Holy Spirit? (**See 4:25-32**)

How can we be continually filled with God's Spirit? Who do you know that could be described as "full of the Holy Spirit?" Would you conclude this week of study by inviting God to fill you now with His Holy Spirit?

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I feel led by God to...