

Pentecostalism: The Power of the Holy Spirit

THE LINK

Devotional Living Guide, February 22, 2009

Sugar River United Methodist Church

Prayer Link

Prayers for the community

Praise & Thanksgiving

Pray for healing...

Lorrie Koppein

Pray for...

E-Prayer Chain: A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via e-mail. Please send your request to Marian M. Pagan romali@sbcglobal.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

Inspirational Link

Thoughts & insights from Worship

Joel 2:28, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4

*"In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh..."
Joel 2:28*

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4.

Word Link Study Guide

This week's study guide will be a Bible Study on the work of the Holy Spirit as described in the New Testament with an emphasis on how you might experience this work.

Monday, February 23 – For this week's study, you should have a notepad to write down what you learn about the Holy Spirit. The Study Guide is meant to lead you in an in-depth study of a particular theme and your notes will help you in reflecting upon what you've learned. The gospels begin with John the Baptist's ministry. **Read Matthew 3:11** and note what he says about the Holy Spirit here. In Mark 13 Jesus warns

that days of persecution are ahead for his disciples. **Read Mark 13:9-11** and note what role the Holy Spirit will play in the life of the believer. How does this relate to you? Luke's gospel is filled with references to the Holy Spirit. **Read Luke 11:13** and note what this teaches us about the Holy Spirit. Pray for God to pour out his Spirit upon you, and invite the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and speak through you.

Tuesday, February 24- In John's gospel, as Jesus is preparing his disciples for his crucifixion, he promises to send an "Advocate" (the word is also translated as "Counselor" or "Comforter" in various versions of the Bible) who will be with his followers even after Jesus has returned to heaven. Let's see what Jesus tells us about the Spirit in today's readings. **Read John 14:15-21, 25-27** noting what specifically Jesus says about the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to call the Spirit our "Counselor" or "Advocate"? The Greek word is "paraclete" which referred to someone who gave aid and assistance to the defense in a trial – a helper of one being wrongly sued – gives the sense of the word. **Read John 16:5-15** noting what Jesus says the Holy Spirit will do. Address the Holy Spirit as your Counselor or Comforter or Advocate and invite the Spirit to do for you what Jesus promised.

Wednesday, February 25- The Book of Acts in the New Testament is the story of the early church. It could easily be called the Gospel of the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit is at work throughout the book and is a major theme of the book. **Read Acts 1:1-8** noting what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit – what will the Holy Spirit do for the believers? Let's see what happened on the day of Pentecost (from which the name, Pentecostals, is taken) when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. **Read Acts 2:1-21** noting what happened as the Holy Spirit came upon them. When the disciples spoke in tongues on that day, what was the purpose of this gift and how did it work? How is this different than most modern Pentecostal expressions of tongues? Pray for the outpouring of the Spirit upon your life and in our church.

Thursday, February 26- The New Testament affirms that all who become Christians receive the Holy Spirit – you have the Holy Spirit whether you have had a profoundly Pentecostal experience or not. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to each believer to help build up the Christian community. You have a gift or gifts given by the Spirit with the anticipation that you will use them. Some people have more dramatic gifts, others less so. Let's see what Paul teaches about these gifts in our readings today. **Read I Corinthians 12:1-31** noting the different gifts Paul mentions, their purpose, and his correction of those who thought some gifts were more important than others. If you are interested in discovering what spiritual gifts you have been given, we offer an inventory that can help you discern those gifts, contact Betsy Forester at the church office, 845-5855. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to help you discover and use the gifts the Spirit has given you.

Friday, February 13- In Romans Paul devotes the 8th chapter to the role of the Holy Spirit in our Christian life. **Read Romans 8:1-17** noting what the Spirit does in and through us and what is said of the Spirit. Paul suggests that it is not the exotic gifts of the Spirit that are the measure of one's spiritual life, but instead certain fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in us – we do not produce the fruit, but the Spirit transforms us in such a way that these are evidenced in us. **Read Galatians 5:16-26** focusing on verses 22-23. Invite the Holy Spirit to produce this fruit in you.

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I feel led by God to... _____
