

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

DEEPER

**INSTEAD BE FILLED
WITH THE SPIRIT**

WEEK 6



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

TOPIC : Deeper week 6

Sermon audio:

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/389

TIME TO PONDER:

In the journey we get to explore the wonder of getting to live in partnership with the Holy Spirit. It is only because of Jesus that we can

live in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It is because of Jesus' holiness that we qualify to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The degree to which the Holy Spirit influences our lives is based on how much we are willing to trust Him. The greater trust we have in Him, the greater influence He has in our lives.

So what would it look like if we relinquished more and more control and trust in the Holy Spirit more?

- We would have a **greater boldness**. - supernatural courage.

Acts 2:14

*Then Peter stood up with the Eleven,
raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in
Jerusalem, let me explain this to you;
listen carefully to what I say.”*

This is the same Peter who disowned Jesus a few weeks earlier!

Acts 4:13

*When they saw the courage of Peter and
John and realised that they were
unschooled, ordinary men, they were
astonished and they took note that these
men had been with Jesus.*

Courage was the stand out characteristic of this new breed of Spirit filled people!

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- We would see more of the **Holy Spirit's power.**

Acts 3:4-6

Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

This was not hope, this was real authoritative faith! Peter must have sensed a strong nudging of the Spirit that gave him such power to declare healing to the man.

With a greater filling of the Holy Spirit comes greater power to do what Jesus did.

- With more reliance on the Holy Spirit we would have **greater direction and guidance.**

Acts 16:6-10

6 Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter

Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

If we want great clarity and guidance we need to be hungry for more of the Holy Spirit.

Question 1: Have you found yourself more aware of the Holy Spirit's guidance over the past weeks? Are you willing to release more control to Him?

TIME TO REFLECT:

How do we practically push deeper into His presence?

It starts with **PRAYER** - prayer is the key to being more full of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:1-13

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” 2 He said to them, “When you pray, say: ““Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.””

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' 7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your **shameless audacity** he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son

asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Question 2: What is it that stands out to you from how Jesus teaches us to pray?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

Imagine the impact on our lives and those around us if we were able to get just 1% better in each of these 5 areas of prayer.

1.

1. Firstly Jesus tells us to align our lives with his purpose. We are to find out what God's plan is and do that. Don't expect God to bless what you are doing. We are to allow the Holy Spirit to captain the boat. Then we can catch the wind of His Spirit and go where He wants us to go.

2. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those... We need to forgive so that we can be forgiven. Like a dam whose sluice gates have not been opened in a while first spews mud and filth. How blocked are the sluice gates of our lives? Are you holding onto sin, unforgiveness and bitterness? Is it worth blocking the flow of what the Holy Spirit is trying to do through you? Confess and forgive.

3. We need to develop a **shameless audacity**. Are you willing to push through till you have an answer? No matter how long it takes. It takes a lot of faith to keep pushing on when you haven't had an answer.

1 Kings 18:41-44

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."

42 So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

43 "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said.

Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."

44 The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea.”

Why was Elijah so persistent? He had a *cheat code* for prayer. How? Because he already knew what God wanted to do!

1 Kings 18:1-2

1 After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.” 2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

What has God spoken to you? Keep persisting till you see breakthrough.

4. Base your prayers on God's goodness not yours. Anchor your faith to HIS GOODNESS and NOT your goodness or badness

Luke 11:13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

It is so easy to fall into worldly thinking that God's answer to prayer will be based on our deserving and not his grace. Don't do it! He loves us in spite of us and wants to lavish love on us.

5. Lastly we need to discover that the Holy Spirit is the real answer to all of your prayers.

The Holy Spirit **is** the good gift to answer your prayers.

As an example, see how the early church prayed and the answer that was given during a time of intense persecution:

Acts 4:29-31

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Holy Spirit empowered them! The answer to the prayer was to fill the church with more of his presence and power. He is our answer to empower us to do all that we are called to do.

Question 3: How could the Holy Spirit be the answer to the prayers you often pray?

ACTION STEP

Set aside time this week to pursue the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and watch for increased boldness, direction, flowing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Allow the Holy Spirit to unblock wells of unforgiveness, bitterness and sin. Lastly, learn to accept God's goodness which is not based on performance but on his character and grace.

To listen to other sermons

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons>