

iii) God's Promise

'how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' *Luke 11: 10-13*

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Read Luke 11:1-13. Receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time and then keeping on being filled with the Spirit is not first about feeling but it's about God's promise.

Experience will come, but it follows as we simply take Him at His word. As we repent, and believe we will receive the gift of His Holy Spirit.

The problem is not at God's end, He wants to give, the problem is at our end when we don't come to drink.

Maybe we've become too busy, we've tried to survive on a quick daily 'touching base' with God. Maybe we've become too busy to read our bible or pray. Could His Spirit be the answer to our running?

Maybe we've got used to the cracked cisterns and thought it was all there was?

Maybe we're wanting our own independence and are too proud to come?

Maybe we're not sure God means to give His promise to us. Maybe we've asked before and not been sure of the answer or we're conscious of our shortcomings and want to sort ourselves out first.

'How much more' *Luke 11:13* is God's promise to you. Just take it.



Pause for Personal Prayer



Quietly read *Luke 11:13* above. Will you ask?

Discuss



- Do you believe the promise of the Holy Spirit is for you? Discuss.
- What hinders you from 'keeping on being filled' *Eph 5:18*?
- Do you want more? Share and take time to pray for each other.

Taking it Further

- Over the week take time to reflect upon *Luke 11:10-13*.
- Do you want more of the Spirit's presence in your life? Simply ask Him.
- This is a relationship which grows, don't worry about experience, just ask & thank Him.



1: Come to Me and Drink

Jesus invites every person who is thirsty to come to Him and drink.

Are you thirsty in your spiritual life? Do you want to know more of God, do you long to experience His presence in a deeper way?

Are you tired of running in life, tired of keeping going and running on empty?

Or do you sometimes simply wonder if there's more to be had, is this all that God intends for you to be and do? We only have one life, what does God want?

In this series of 3 studies on the Holy Spirit we are asking God as individuals and as a Church to help us to learn to drink from Him.

To learn to know His Spirit, to grow in our relationship with Him and to let Him guide us in our lives and as a church.

So 'that times of refreshing may come from the Lord' *Acts 3:19*

These 3 studies can be used individually in your personal devotions or as a group, but as you read, please pray.

Take time over each section. Take God at His word.

A suggested outline for the session

Open with worship and prayer

Divide your time between the 3 sections

In each of the 3 sections ...

. Ask someone to read the scripture & reflection

. Pause for a few minutes of personal prayer

. Then discuss the questions given

. At the end allow 10mins for personal prayer

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i) Are You Thirsty?

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them' *John 7:37,38*

'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters' *Is 55:1*

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. *Psalms 42:1*



The question is simple: are you thirsty?

Are you thirsty for more of God in your life, for a deeper experience of His presence in your life, for a closer walk with Him?

Have you known a greater intimacy with Him in the past and it's somehow got lost in life's busyness? Or are you coming for the first time and wanting to know what's possible? The question is simply: are you thirsty?

Think of walking on a hot day, you've nothing to drink and your throat is parched. The thirst begins to dominate, you need to find water to drink. Thirst is real, it's tangible, it drives us to action.

Jesus invites us: 'let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink'.

'Anyone' means you, no matter the mistakes you've made or the weakness you feel, no matter even your doubts and fears – 'Anyone' means you.

'Come to Me' - come to Jesus. Come to the One who knows you, with all your struggles and who loves you. Come to the One who is gentle and lowly in heart (*Mtt 11:29*). This is a personal invitation, come now.

Jesus invites us to more than we've ever dreamed possible, but we need to be thirsty. Let's not limit what He is offering, let's humble ourselves to kneel and drink. Are you thirsty?

Pause for Personal Prayer

Never mind anyone else, are you thirsty?



Discuss

- What does it mean to be thirsty for God? Discuss.
- Is it right to be thirsty for God or should we be content? - Discuss.
- How thirsty are you for more of God right now? Share and pray.



ii) Come to Me and Drink

'Be still, and know that I am God' *Psalms 46:10*

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. *Jeremiah 2:13*

Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? *Galatians 3:2*

'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' *Jn 4:10*



Thirst is what moves us to come and drink.

The cup is on the table, but we need to stop, put down what's already in our hands and take the glass up to our lips to drink. It's very hard to physically drink on the move and it's the same with God.

First stop, 'Be still, and know that I am God'. What's He's offering is the answer to all that you are running about for but you need to first stop.

Then repent of your own cracked cisterns. How have you tried to manage in your life and your family without the presence of God?

Then believe. It doesn't have to be a 'big believe', just believe as you can – God knows where you are, ask Him to help you.

Then simply and quietly ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit and if you've asked before, then ask again *Ephesians 5:18*.

Yours is to ask, His is to give. He knows what to do.

Pray: 'Father, I ask you now to fill me with Your Holy Spirit'. Then wait quietly don't rush, relax in His presence. Don't look for feelings, simply wait, you've asked it's for Him to give. After a few minutes thank Him.

Pause for Personal Prayer

'Father I ask you now to fill me with your Holy Spirit' - pray and wait.



Discuss

- 'Be filled' *Eph 5:18* means 'Keep on being filled'. What does that mean?
- What's your experience of being filled with the Spirit? Share.
- How will you personally learn to 'keep on being filled with the Spirit'?

