

Week 2

Who is Lord and the Giver of Life

Prayer:

Prayer for the Indwelling of the Spirit by Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD)

Holy Spirit, powerful Consoler,
sacred Bond of the Father and the Son,
Hope of the afflicted,
descend into my heart and establish in it your loving dominion.
Enkindle in my tepid soul the fire of your Love so that I may be wholly subject to you.
We believe that when you dwell in us,
you also prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son.
Deign, therefore, to come to me,
Consoler of abandoned souls, and Protector of the needy.
Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak, and support the wavering.
Come and purify me.
Let no evil desire take possession of me.
You love the humble and resist the proud.
Come to me, glory of the living, and hope of the dying.
Lead me by your grace that I may always be pleasing to you. Amen.
(<https://www1.villanova.edu>)

Video:

Although it is not necessary to watch the short video it gives a short introduction to the context of the study.

Scripture: **Ezekiel 37:1-14; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6; 13-17**

Notes: *Who is Lord and the Giver of Life* (renews, restores, refreshes, resurrects, rebirths, born again, new life)

2 Corinthians 3:1-6; 13-17

vs 3 The Holy Spirit is the *spirit of the living God* that

vs 6 *gives life.*

vs 17 *the Lord is the Spirit, and the Spirit is the Lord; and*

vs 17-18 where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is *liberty* (emancipation, freedom)(cf **Isaiah 61:1-2**); which brings

vs 18 transformation, transfiguration;

vs 7-11, 18 ever-increasing glorious glory;

vs 12 hope; by

vs 12-16 lifting the veil from our minds (reason, rationale)

vs 1-6 The Spirit of the Living Lord now writes His word of the new covenant, no longer on stone (or paper) but on the hearts of people, so that they become *living letters* of the *living God*, for all to see and read.

The Spirit of the Living God gives life to:

- *a believer* – transforms/renews thoughts, perspectives, convictions, behaviour, desires, etc so that they can be witnesses, serve and spread, faith, hope & love;
- *the church* – dramatically as on Pentecost and the church in Acts, and more ordinarily as the churches in Asia – Minor;
- *Jesus Christ*. The Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of Christ** in two ways.
 - (i) The Holy Spirit is
 - a. the gift that Christ gives us,
 - b. that spreads the salvation of Christ;
 - c. that glorifies Christ;
 - d. makes Christ alive in us

(John 14:15-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 1:1-4, 2:33)
 - (ii) the Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Christ in the sense that it is the Spirit who descends upon and fulfils Christ and through Christ gives life. This is evident from the
 - a. *prophesies* about the Spirit (Isiah 11:2; 61:1-4)
 - b. at the *birth* of Christ when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35)
 - c. at the baptism of Christ when the Holy Spirit descends like a dove upon Christ (Luke 3:22);
 - d. fills Christ at *the beginning of His ministry* (Luke 4:1);
 - e. empowers Christ *during his ministry* (Luke 4:14, 18-19);
 - f. *at Christ's resurrection* he is declared Son of God, our Lord, through the Holy Spirit (Romans 1:3-4);
 - g. *ascended and seated at the right of God*, Christ receives the Holy Spirit and pours out the Holy Spirit as a gift to us (Acts 2:33).

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel 37:9; Genesis 2:7, John 20:22 ***naphach*: to breathe, to blow.**

Most profound, powerful, intimate verb. God *blowing/breathing* life, His life-breathe (*ruach*) into us.

Questions to discuss in group or reflect upon individually:

- 1 What are your favourite/ memorable examples of renewal of *Biblical characters*? (eg Peter, Paul?)

- 2 What examples of *personal* renewal have you experienced *in your personal life*?

- 3 What examples of renewal in *the church*
 - a. have you personally experienced/witnessed?;

 - b. in the Bible have struck you most?

- 4 What are your dreams for
 - a personal renewal;

 - b. renewal of the church

Closing prayer:

Tune In: There will be a ZOOM meeting to discuss the past week's focus every Sunday evening at 6pm.