

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
Bishop Frank J. Beard
Worksheet #1

Introduction

John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Church, wrote the following entry in his personal journal. This entry is often called his “heart-warming experience.”

May 24, 1738:

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading [Martin] Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

- Describe a time when you had a personal experience of the presence / power of Christ in a special way.
- In what way or ways did this experience bring you closer to Christ or confirm your faith in Christ?

Read the following Scripture passages: John 14:15-17; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4

- Why do you believe Jesus instructed his disciples to be prepared for the arrival of the Holy Spirit?
- What key words does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit's role?
- What key words does Jesus use to help his disciples know what the Holy Spirit might experientially feel like?

Read Acts 1:8

- What key words catch your attention in this passage?
- According to this passage, what is the main purpose of the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you believe a specific directional ministry plan was provided in this passage?

Bishop Beard's Seven Nuggets:

Discuss any or all seven of these “nuggets.” What catches your attention or gets you excited?

What raises questions for you?

How do these “nuggets” help us prepare for the HS?

- *Invitation.* (The HS comes by a personal or corporate invitation).
- *Expectation.* (The Disciples “expected” what Jesus promised).
- *Participation and Preparation.* (They laid the groundwork for the HS through prayer).
- *Unification.* (They were united in heart and purpose).
- *Celebration.* (The wind and the fire led to a celebration launching them out into the streets).
- *Manifestation / Application.* (The HS is given for GO!)
- *Multiplication.* (Folks responded to Peter’s message and the Disciples and new believers grew in their faith).

Read Galatians 5:22-23

- Why do you think spiritual fruit is the evidence of the “spirit-filled” life? Why not?
- Do you believe that believers possess, or have the capacity to possess, all of the fruits listed?
- The HS, symbolized by wind and fire, brought direction and purpose to the early disciples. Can you name a few ways that renewal might be needed in the corporate and personal lives of believers today?