

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 4: SACRED PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION – Spiritual Breathing

Acts 17:28

JESUS SCENE – Portable Spirituality

Luke 4:1

Mark 9:2-8

Psalm 116:9

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE #3 – Awareness (Infilling)

In any relationship, intimacy is cultivated, not just through honest and open conversations, but by

- *GOD AS ATMOSPHERE...*

**Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; 34:14-15; Psalm 104:29-30
Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17; 1 John 4:16**

- *THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST...*

John 14:26

- *INVITING THE SPIRIT INTO YOUR MIND...*

Romans 8; Galatians 5:16-25

- *BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT...*

Ephesians 5:18

- 1) Spirit-filling is NOT assumed to be true of all Christians.
- 2) Spirit-filling is an ongoing need and a repeated experience.
- 3) Spirit-filling is not just about awareness, but about _____.

... Acts 4:29-31

- *A NEVER-CEASING CONNECTION...*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

CONCLUSION – Take A Deep Breath

Acts 17:28; 2 Corinthians 3:17

If you would like to receive weekly e-mail meditations during this series, you can sign up at www.themeetinghouse.ca or e-mail Meghan at meghan@themeetinghouse.ca.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Explore and discuss the implications of this quote from John MacArthur: *The reason some Christians feel so fatigued and defeated is that they are holding their breath spiritually when they should be opening their hearts to God to accept the atmosphere all about them – His divine presence.*
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, including key texts, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you. Why are both drinking and breathing appropriate analogies for our interaction with the Spirit of God?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read each of the references listed under "God As Atmosphere". How would you describe God to a spiritually seeking person in ways that honour God's *personal* nature as well as his *spiritual* nature. That is, what do you mean when you say "God"?
4. Read Paul's description of the kind of fruit we should expect to see in our lives as we allow the Spirit of Christ to influence us in **Galatians 5:22-25**. For each aspect of this fruit, a) identify a scene or teaching in the life of Christ that illustrates this reality, and b) discuss a contemporary example of what this might look like today if Jesus was living his life out through someone.

SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few minutes to quietly meditate on the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22-25**. Picture how your life would be different if you allowed the Spirit of Christ to effect your character in these areas. Imagine specific scenarios that would be radically different if you allowed Jesus to radically reshape your spirit. What most excites you about this vision? What area of your life would need to submit to the most radical renovation?
6. If you like, share one prayer request with your group in light of #4 above. Take time to pray for each other's spiritual development this week.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 5 / 12, 2006