

Series - -

Date/s - 20 May 2018

Topic - Pentecost: Word and Spirit

Speaker/s - Pastor Vincent Lun

**Welcome** [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[www.thesource4ym.com/games/](http://www.thesource4ym.com/games/)

[www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html) < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

**Worship** [15 min]

You may select songs like “This I Believe (The Creed)”, “O Praise The Name (Anástasis)”, “Holy Spirit” or “Spirit Break Out”.

**Spiritual Objectives**

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that we must be 100% Word and 100% Spirit;
2. Commit to the application points to 1) love and obey the Word, and 2) embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Word** [45 min]

In commemoration of Pentecost's Sunday, Pastor Vincent Lun started his sermon by reminding us of the need to recognize the importance of celebrating the feasts of the Lord.

- 2018 marks the 70th year of the founding of the modern state of Israel. The Church is living in the end times and we need to grow strong in the Lord. Pastor Lun shared that one reason why Christians tend to have very shallow faith is because we have been cut off from our Jewish spiritual roots. In order for us to have a complete picture, we need to go further to re-discover our Jewish spiritual roots.
- The Bible specifies that, these designated feasts, are the “feasts of the Lord”, not “feasts of Israel” (Leviticus Chapter 23). Therefore, these are divine appointments.
- These feasts are divine appointments with God and parts of the rhythm of life that God established. One of the keys to sustaining our faith is to learn to live according to God's rhythm and purpose.

Pastor Vincent Lun went on to share more about the Feast of Pentecost.

- Pentecost is one of the 7 Feasts of the Lord. Pentecost takes place on the 50th day from the day after the Sabbath following Passover (resurrection Sunday for NT believers).
- Many Christians mistakenly believed that Pentecost only happened in Acts 2. The first Pentecost actually happened 1,500 years before Acts 2 – when the Israelites received the Torah (Law of God) on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19).
- Even till today, the Jews will celebrate Pentecost (happened 3,500 years ago), to remember that they received the Torah (teaching/ instruction) on Mt Sinai.
- **The Mt Sinai (Exo 19) Pentecost: Receiving the Law on Mount Sinai**
  - Lev 23:15-16a, Exo 19:1-5
  - Feast of Pentecost: To remember the receiving of and rededication to the Torah (Torah = teachings/ instructions). It has been celebrated for 1,500 years before Christ and during the Pentecost, the Jews read Gen-Deu & Ruth
  - Israel was delivered out of slavery, and chosen by God to show the people of the world what it meant to

- live under God’s rule, as people of God. It was the prototype for God’s kingdom.
- The Torah governed not only major areas, but every area of an Israelite’s life.
- **The Acts 2 Pentecost: Receiving the Holy Spirit**
  - Ref: Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:5-11
  - Due to the diaspora (the dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel), Jews from different nations would come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came exactly on Pentecost day, not one day earlier or later.

Pastor Vincent emphasized that Jesus is 100% Word & 100% Spirit.

Pastor Vincent was concerned that we, believers, tend to swing from one extreme to the other, we choose either Word or the Spirit. For instance, if we just stay in the Word alone, it will become just head knowledge. We will become dry and worse, very legalistic. While there is nothing wrong with the Bible, the Word of God is not to remain as just head knowledge- we need to obey God in action.

- John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - Grace = charitos - charismata (grace gifts of the Holy Spirit)
  - Truth = Aletheias - John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
- John 14:15-26 – Obedience to the Word will lead to empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

We are to grow in our calling to be a 100% Word & 100% Spirit believer/ church. In this regard, Pastor Lun left us with several practical application points:

- We are to **LOVE and OBEY the Word.**
  - This is the key to spiritual growth, to receiving further revelation from God, to experiencing more the presence of God, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When we have...
 

Only Word:	We will dry up
Only Holy Spirit:	We will blow up
Both Word & Spirit:	We will grow up
  - Romans 8:28 - This helps us to become mature and able to remain steadfast in the midst of storms, e.g. when facing a relationship break up, financial difficulties, when face with death, etc (1 Cor 15).
- We are to embrace the **WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

May we re-dedicate ourselves and pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit this Pentecost Sunday!

**Discussion Questions**

1. **Pastor Lun emphasized the significance of returning back to our spiritual roots, as a Church. This includes learning about the spiritual truths embedded in the divinely appointed feasts of the Lord set out in the Old Testament, such as the Pentecost (or Shavuot).**

**Why do you think it is important not to jettison the Old Testament, in our understanding of the Word? What might we stand to lose as a Church if we fail to recognize the relevance of the Old Testament today? [10 min]**

2. **Pastor Lun shared his concern that we, as believers, tend to swing from one extreme to the other, choosing either the Word or the Spirit. What are some reasons why Christians tend to be inclined towards one extreme? In your individual walk with God, do you notice a similar inclination? [10 min]**

3. **Why is it of critical importance that we are 100% Word and 100% Spirit? What are the important functions of the Person of the Holy Spirit?** [10 min]
4. **God speaks to us through the Word and through the Holy Spirit. Share one area where you will take concrete steps to obey God by your actions.** [10 min]

**Works** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. We would read the bible daily & act upon the truth/ command we have received.
2. Walk in step with the Holy Spirit, hear, see & do likewise.

**Announcement****1. WATER BAPTISM CLASS**

Sat, 2 Jun | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel

Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 27 May. For enquiries, please contact Clara Tan at 65114160 or email her at [claratan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:claratan@riverlife.org.sg)

**Church Vision Statement:**

“A vibrant family where sons and daughters mature and reveal the Father’s glory from generation to generation.”