

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]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is a recap and ice-breaking question for cell members to share how God’s intended salvation plan stretches back into the Old Testament, back to the garden of Eden. While some may argue that the Old Testament was done away with when the New Testament came in, we need to understand that there is no cut-off in the Bible between the Old and New Testaments. We cannot do away with any part of God’s Word in history, because God is a covenant-keeping God.*

*Also, we see the Old Testament foreshadowing many things to come through Christ. For e.g, the Law of God was given to the Israelites at Shavuot. This is a foreshadow of what happened in Acts 2 - the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. When the disciples received the gift, they became witnesses for Christ. Jews celebrated a joyous harvest*

on Pentecost, and in the new covenant following the Christ, the New Testament church celebrated a harvest of newborn souls on Pentecost. Without an understanding of the Old Testament, we may not appreciate the richness of the New Testament and the promises of things to come.

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]

**Leader's Notes:** A relate question. This question allows members to identify and share deeper about common reasons which hinder them from growing deeper either in the Word, or growing to know the Holy Spirit more intimately. If time allows, they may share their personal experience. For instance, some reasons why Christians are not open to the Holy Spirit include: a fear of the unknown when one surrenders to the Holy Spirit, and the disruption to our lives that He will bring, an ignorance about the person of the Holy Spirit, and perhaps a discomfort with manifestations borne out of bad past experiences. Much of the misunderstanding in the Church today contributing to a resistance towards the Holy Spirit may also stem from the use of colloquial lingo that are often not explicitly found in the biblical but nevertheless used in the charismatic circles (e.g. what is referred to as "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" is in fact usually a subsequent experience or filling of the Holy Spirit after coming to Christ, and after water baptism).

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]

**Leader's Notes:** A reflect question. More specifically, this question allows members to further explore and unpack the important functions of the Person of the Holy Spirit. For example,

- We need the Holy Spirit to teach us God's Word because only the Spirit of God can help us **fully** understand (1 Cor 2:10-12).
- Jesus also taught people the Word of God (people had the Scriptures) when He was on earth (Lk 24:27, Lk 24:45, Jn 7:14, Jn 8:2). Jesus Himself calls the Holy Spirit our Teacher (Jn 14:26, Jn 16:13).
- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and through us, longing for what God wants (Romans 8).

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]

**Leader's Notes:** This is a response question. Members can share what God is impressing upon them to do in this season of their lives. We may not feel like it, which is normal as our old sinful nature is always at enmity with God (Rom 8:5-8). Loving and obeying God is an act of our will, not our emotions. As we daily choose to obey God, the Holy Spirit will transform us by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:1-2).

Pray for one another to be filled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit – see Acts 2:37-38.

### 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.”