

# 2

# Being 'Church'

## 2. Church is a 'Spirit-filled' community

### Reviewing the message

What did you think was the most important point made in Sunday's sermon?

Were there any issues raised in the sermon that you'd like to discuss further?

### Clarifying the message

We have seen that the Christian church is a community of people who have received the Holy Spirit from the Lord Jesus. The Spirit now joins us to the resurrected Jesus and to one another—we are bound together as 'church' whether we like it or not!

- In Acts 2:14-41 Peter is explaining the remarkable manifestation of the Holy Spirit in and through the Christian community on the day of Pentecost. How is the Holy Spirit demonstrating his presence?
- What is the Holy Spirit particularly facilitating and highlighting on this special day?

### Going Deeper [optional]

We are going to focus now on Acts 2:32-41

- What and whom has brought about the Spirit's presence? [vv32-33]
- According to Peter, how does a person receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? What does this involve?

Note that the Spirit is a divine person of the Godhead given to live with the believer (see John 14:23). Therefore there are no degrees of having him—either he is present or he is not.

### Living the message today

- What do the following verses show us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian community that is Church?
  - 1 Cor 12:4-11 (note: you may extend this reading if you did not cover it in the previous study)
  - Gal 5:16-26
- In the Bible, to be 'filled with the Holy Spirit' means to be particularly empowered by God for a special ministry (for further details—see Stuart's sermon notes on the church web site). Do you think that Christians ought to seek such 'fillings' of the Spirit? Why/why not?

*Further reading:  
Jesus promised that  
the Holy Spirit would  
act in this way in  
John 15:26-27 and  
John 16:7-11.*

*Baptism: throughout  
the book of Acts it is  
usual for a person  
who has just  
become a Christian  
to be baptised with  
water as a sign of  
their new birth  
wrought by the Holy  
Spirit. For example  
see Acts 8:38; 9:18;  
10:44-48; 16:14-15  
etc.*