**Connect Study - Fire in the Nations**

**Mark 16:11-14** But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn’t believe her. Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them.Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead.

The disciples did not believe Mary’s report that Jesus was alive and that she had in fact seen Him. Later that same day Jesus appeared to two of his followers going to Emmaus (this incident was also recorded in Luke 24: 13-35). Likewise, these had not believed Jesus’ resurrection. However, when the Lord finally opened their eyes to His resurrection, they returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. Once again, the eleven disciples did not believe their report, just as they had not believed in Mary earlier. These were unbelieving believers. Their unbelief led to fearfulness thus retreating into hiding. We need to check if we are unbelieving believers. Yet Jesus took these unbelieving believers to take the gospel to the world. Who then can help us with unbelief. Jesus promised a Helper who would come alongside to help.

The key is the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:4, he commanded these people to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 says “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

The Holy Spirit initiates. In the book of Acts, he led many people to share the gospel to certain people. The key here is obedience. Obedience releases power.

The Holy Spirit wants us to go and proclaim. Often we are waiting for something that will never come to us. He is waiting for you to go, for you to go and proclaim. Just as when you are sitting at the traffic lights with the green lights, you don’t have to call the Main Road department as whether you should go.

The Holy Spirit confirmed the gospel with signs and wonders. A gospel without power is not a complete gospel.

Discussion:

Are you an unbelieving believer in regards to some aspects of your life?

Are you baptised with the Holy Spirit? How has the baptism of the Holy Spirit impacted your lives?

Share an experience when the Holy Spirit prompted you to share with someone, and what happened after that.

Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with someone today. Pray for signs and wonders to confirm the proclamation of the gospel.