

Set Free:

In this series we are looking at what it means to say someone is born again and set free.

It all starts with the Spirit of God seeking the lost and revealing to us that we need a Saviour and His name is Jesus. As we accept Jesus as our Saviour the Spirit convicts us of the need for repentance before our Father. As a sign and seal of what has taken place we are baptised and finally the Spirit who started the whole birthing process seals us with his indwelling presence and gives us gifts.

In New Testament times this process often took less than 24 hours and the new believers were radically different from their former selves. In the contemporary UK church scene this process can take years and leads to many problems and often ineffective disciples. The aim of the course is to put our understanding of what being "born again" is all about back on track with Scripture and help us be disciples who make disciples.

13th Jan – New Beginnings

20th Jan – Believing in Jesus

27th Jan – Repentance towards a Holy God

3rd Feb – Baptism in Water

10th Feb – Sealed by the Spirit

17th Feb – Becoming a Disciple

Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Message Series: Set Free

Unpacking what it means to be "born again"



Week Six

Becoming a Disciple

Sunday Morning 17th February 2019

Questions for Personal and Home Group Study

These questions are based around the content of today's talks at our morning services and it will also be useful to listen to the podcast and consider the key Bible verses.

Key Bible verses:

Mark 1:16-18 & Hebrews 5:11-6:3 (NIV)

- 1) Through this series we have considered what it means to be 'born again'. We saw in Hebrews 6:1-3 that there is a list of elementary teaching that is referred to as the milk required by a new disciple.
 - List these area of teaching on a piece of paper and against each one write what you have either learnt or recalled about them.
 - What actions do you still need to take regarding any of these?
 - The writer to the Hebrews states in an earlier verse (5:14) that in contrast to milk, solid food is for the mature believer. Why is it necessary for us to be disciples who have been properly weaned?
 - How does it help us distinguish good from evil?
- 2) At the conclusion of his most famous sermon, where he is surrounded by people that are referred to as his disciples, Jesus says some tough words. (See Matthew 7:21-31) Clearly it is possible to love the things of God and not be born again.
 - What would you say to someone who is heavily involved in a local church and serving in lots of ways, but confides in you that they have no assurance that their sins are forgiven and don't have a relationship with God as they see you have?
 - Do we make assumptions about people just because we see them in Church regularly?
- How do we encourage and at the same time challenge one another in our faith?
- 3) Human babies do most of their early learning by observing their parents and copying. Once weaned and beginning to get more independent they learn from more and more people and eventually are able to go fully on their own into the world. It is not dissimilar when we are born again, and Paul sees himself as an example to be followed (see 1 Corinthians 11:2 & Philippians 4:9)
 - Paul could have said to follow only Christ so why does he say follow my example?
 - Given that we are called to make disciples how do we ensure that we are a good example and worthy of being followed?
- 4) Jesus called his first disciples Simon and Andrew and they dropped everything and took up Jesus' challenge to follow him?
 - Why does Jesus ask his new disciples for a wholehearted response?
 - Can you recall the first time you heard His call?
 - Does his call get any easier (see Luke 9:23) ?
- 5) Not everyone that starts out with Jesus will make it. Look at Luke 9:57-62.

From v 57 & 62 it is apparent that this person had made an initial decision that he wanted to be with Jesus.

 - Why did Jesus not make it easier for people to follow him?
 - What are equivalent modern excuses that we might make?
 - How do we make sure that we keep on following?