

# The Fire of the Spirit

Exploring St Paul

*Contexts of today for believing and belonging*



Scripture Summer School 2016

# Welcome

## ★ Contexts

★ Experience (1 Thess and Gal 5)

★ Experience (Gal 5)

★ Belonging (1 Cor 12)

★ Spirituality (Rom 8)

★ Spirituality (Rom 8)



# Sequence

- ★ Hungers of the heart
- ★ Coping in the culture
- ★ The heart of the Good News
- ★ The Table of the Faith
- ★ What *is* the Spirit saying to the churches?
- ★ "Hymns Ancient and Modern"
- ★ And so...



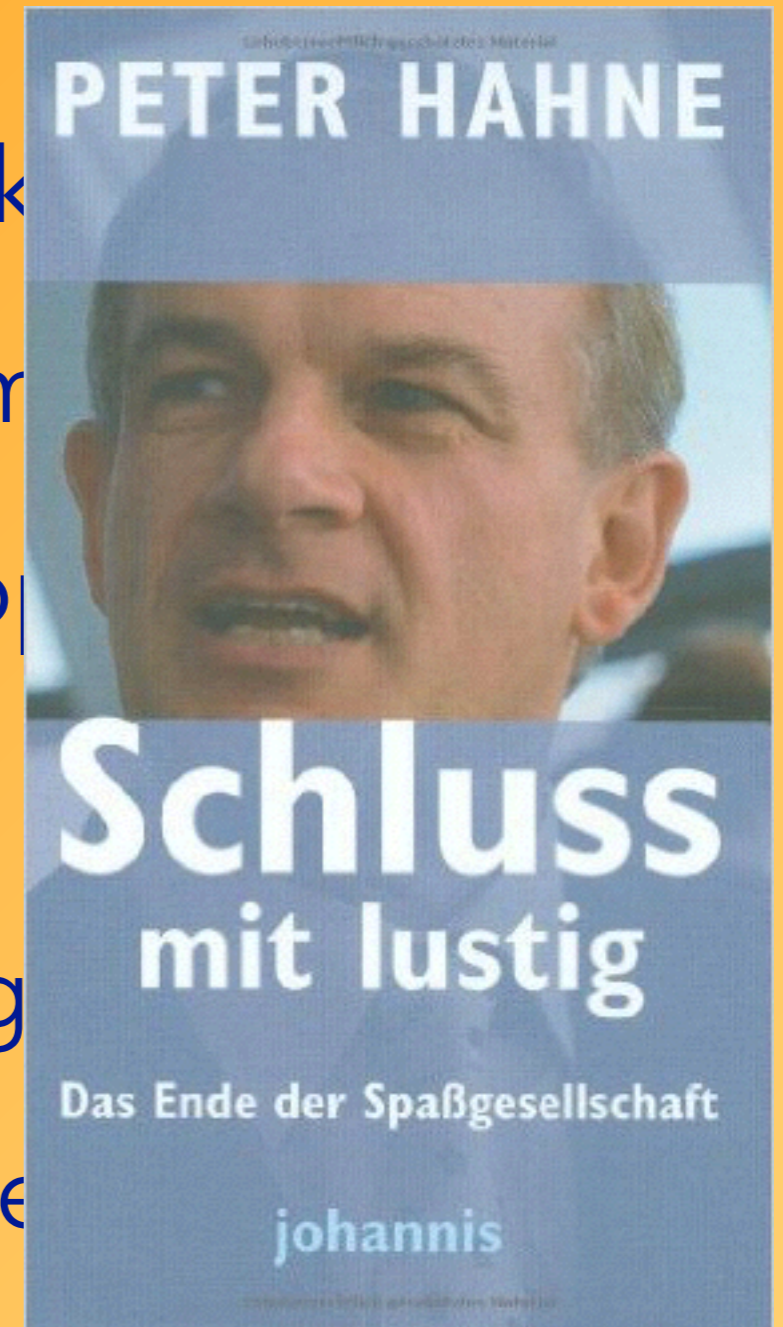
# Hungers of the heart

- ★ Current “handing on” not working
- ★ Culture of distraction (Schluß mit Lustig)
- ★ But: great values in young people
- ★ Mindfulness
- ★ The arts seem to be flourishing
- ★ Those still active are even more active



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# Coping in the culture

- ★ Denial
- ★ Nostalgia (restorationism)
- ★ Critical embrace



# Heart of the Good News

- ★ Various proposals...
- ★ Good question to ask “the cultured despisers”
- ★ What do you think?





# Heart of the Good News

★ God

★ Jesus

★ The Holy Spirit

★ Community



# Heart of the Good News

★ Centre:

★ The great events that brought us new life in Christ

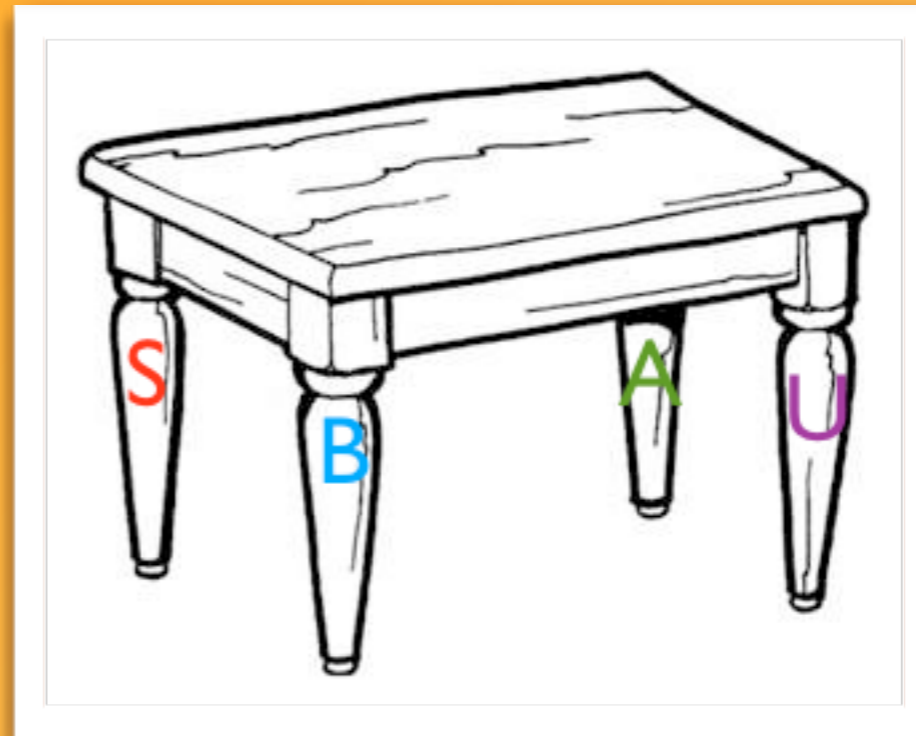
★ The continued gift and presence of the Holy Spirit

★ Great theologians of this: Paul, John, Luke, Hebrews



# Table of the Faith

- ★ Spirituality
- ★ Belonging
- ★ Understanding
- ★ Action



# Table of the Faith

- ★ Jesus' practice of table fellowship
  - ★ The kosher system
  - ★ The implications
- ★ Table as product (briefly!)
- ★ Table as metaphor



# Table of the Faith

★ The Irish church: swot analysis

★ Leadership?

★ Discipleship?

★ Community?



# What is the Spirit saying?

- ★ Pope Francis
- ★ No to retreat from “the world”
- ★ Reconfigure the vision of the kingdom
- ★ Live the vision, at personal cost
- ★ The epoch of the Spirit is upon us



# Hymns ancient and modern

- ★ Classically: Henri Le Saux, Bede Griffiths, John Main etc.
- ★ Programmatically: Pierre Hegie, José Pagola
- ★ Apologetically: Francis Spufford, John Cottingham, Rupert Shortt



# And so...

- ★ Contexts
- ★ Experience (1 Thess and Gal 5)
- ★ Experience (Gal 5)
- ★ Belonging (1 Cor 12)
- ★ Spirituality (Rom 8)
- ★ Spirituality (Rom 8)





# And so...

- ★ How “old” is the church?
- ★ At the end of 2,000 years?
- ★ At the start of 10,000 years?
- ★ Ireland: closer to the Gospel perhaps

