

Morning everyone

I hope you are all excited about Pentecost and what today represents, the Holy Spirit living with us always.

Pentecost was held 50 days after Passover each year and was also called the Festival of harvest, a festival of thanksgiving for the harvested crops.

The people of the time had heard lots of prophecy about the Holy Spirit to come for example in Genesis, Joel, Isaiah, Job, so you wouldn't think it would have surprised them but it obviously did.

Jesus mentions the Comforter, counsellor, to the disciples in John 14. Who would draw alongside them to comfort and guide them, that the holy spirit would enter every believer, **That means you and me, I find that exciting to know.** It says the world cannot see him because it is not looking for him and does not recognise him.

We **NOW** know because it has already happened that Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven and we **NOW** know he ascended into heaven to prepare a place for **us** We know because it has already happened. **BUT for us the holy spirit is NOW and with us always**, and that is exciting to know.

Jesus had told them to not leave Jerusalem, as they would be baptised in the spirit and would receive power and be His witnesses. I wonder if they realised the depth of what he really was saying. How worried were they when 10 days had passed after Jesus's ascension?

The disciples had just chosen a replacement for Judas Iscariot and they were all meeting together in one place; there were also in Jerusalem many Jews from many nations who were gathered there for the festival.

Therefore, Peter's speech to come was given to an international audience and it resulted in a worldwide harvest of new believers.

I am going to re-read some of the reading because it is so difficult to imagine:

Suddenly there was the sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm and it filled the house where they were meeting.

They saw what seemed to be **tongues** of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other **tongues** / other languages as the Spirit enabled them. You would expect them to be frightened half to death after what had just happened, but they were calmed by the spirit. There were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation. ⁶ When they heard the sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ *Utterly amazed* (hardly surprising), they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking (backward) Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" It must not have made sense to them.

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stepped forward and spoke filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit

He dismissed the wine theory as it was early in the day. He went on to use words spoken by the prophet Joel which they would all have understood. He is at pains in his speech to show that the events of the day point beyond themselves to reveal that Jesus is Lord and Messiah, and that God's salvation is at hand, that we were in the **last days so from now on everything had changed** until the great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

The Spirit has come to mark the church--every member of it – including you and me -- as belonging to God and as God's representatives, servant, prophets, in the world.

The foreign languages are not an instance of trickery or mass hysteria. ***God is at work here, equipping people to communicate about Him. There's a message for us here, that the spirit will equip us to communicate about him.*** The Spirit prompts them to engage in *prophecy*. **The community of faith is a community of prophets. *Including our church.***

A commentary I read said Peter does not speak of prophecy as predicting the future as is it is so often seen. **Instead, prophecy is truth-telling.** I like this as it shows we need to ‘prophecy’ relevant for today, where people are now.

It is a part of proclaiming the word of God and identifying God's salvation at work

Acts does not regard Pentecost as an entirely singular occurrence either. This scene introduces a sequence of occasions in which the Spirit mobilizes Jesus' followers and introduces new directions for ministry and community. See the Spirit at work in Acts **4:23-37; 8:14-17; 10:1-11:18; 13:1-4; 15:1-35; 19:1-7**. It is for us now, the future and forever. Its an ongoing process as shown in Acts.

The Holy spirit is a key to the Kingdom of Heaven, **and it made all the difference to Peter as highlighted by his speech and his life.**

Without the Holy Spirit we are devoid of power, passion and productivity. **With the Holy Spirit we can do all things.** He is the third person of the Trinity. He reveals God to us in life and in scripture, he opens the words on the page. He will enter every believer and be with each one, everywhere, constantly He will guide every believer in all truth, **including you and I.**

I remember my son when he was about 5 years old being prayed for and he glowed when we asked how he felt he said he felt like he had squiggly patterns all down his body, the spirit affects us in different ways, none more right than another **but I repeat it is for us all.**

If we live with the spirit in our lives, we cannot help but shine. As I know I have said before my friend helped bring me to come to faith because of the spirit shining through her.

It does not matter what denomination you belong to the spirit is **not** monopolised by one it is for all of us. **Every Christian has been touched by the holy spirit; in fact you cannot be a Christian without the Holy Spirit.**

If you have ever been put off by some actions of the spirit, that seem to you to be excessive, please do not allow that to turn you away from the greatest gift. **He will give you the power you need, the gifts you need, the grace you need and the fruits you need.**

It is so important we keep 'in touch' with the Holy spirit, every evening prayer of my own includes asking for the spirit to live in me and through me, to surround, protect, guide me and to make my path straight and I always feel there and then as if this has happened, although I may let life get in the way the next day, so I need to come back and drink of the spirit again.

For me it is the spirit that helps me never doubt my faith, how can you deny such depth of God's love.

But my challenge like many I am sure is to see the spirit with me at all times and in all things, so that I am bold about Jesus and do not get lost in wordly things, so I continually need to go back and pray and drink of the spirit.

How deep do we know what we have been given, God with us, how much do we show what we have in our lives, God with us. We are so blessed, so **let us** stay in the spirit and shine his love to the world around Starting today, tomorrow and always as well as to one another of course.

There are so many Non-Christians praying and looking for answers at this time, so let's fan the flames of the holy spirit and trust in the Holy spirit to lead us.

Peter insists that God's Spirit is poured out widely, across all of us and across social boundaries. **Even me!!**

It is for all of God's people.

Rachel Hughes on Wildfires festival online this week said that our message to everyone is: God is for you

I implore you, be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times, keep looking, keep asking, keep taking the spirit in and it will flow out from you.

The spirit is God with us, a key to our faith and the Kingdom of heaven.

The spirit is for you and me!!!!!! **You cannot use it all up, so keep drinking.**

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