

KINGS NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 5th June 2022 10 am

Pentecost Sunday - The gift of the Spirit Promise, Presence, Power
Queens Platinum Jubilee

Welcome to all

Opening Scripture

Hymn MP 476 My Lord what love is this

Scripture Isaiah 35 (page 719)

Prayer

Children's talk Battery powered toy.

Chorus MP 691 This is the day

Notices Ukrainian appeal and Fellowship lunch next Sunday

Quote from the book of the Queen's speeches

Prayer of thanks for the Queens witness

Prayer of thanksgiving

Communion

Reading Ezekiel 36:16-28 (page 868)

Acts 2:1-21 (page 1093) split into two readings

Hymn MP 685 Therefore the redeemed of the Lord

Sermon The gift of the Spirit, Promise, Presence, Power

Hymn MP 765 Who can cheer the heart like Jesus

Closing Prayer:

Close



Exordium

Today is Pentecost Sunday - also known as Whitsun; white Sunday.

Acts 2:1 **When the day of Pentecost came**, Pentecost is the Greek word for fifty. In this case 50 days, 50 days after the Passover festival when Jesus went to the cross giving up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of his people.

This festival is called the 'feast of weeks'. It's a week of weeks, 7 weeks from the day after the Passover Sabbath. We can understand this festival from Lev 23:15-21. God's people when they entered the promised land were told to bring the first-fruits of their crops as an offering to the Lord. It was the harvest festival. So it was at this same festival when centuries later many were gathered in Jerusalem that the Spirit came, the long promised gift of the Spirit. God was to have a harvest of people, and he is still today gathering in a harvest of people from all around the world.

So three sections this morning: Promise, Presence, Power.

1st the promise, x2

Let's go back to the beginning, literally. Of the ¾ million+ words in the Bible the word 'Spirit' is there in the second verse, Gen 1:2. God is Spirit and right at the beginning it is His Spirit that brings life x2.

His Spirit creates – Psalms 104:30 **When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.**

And when the Lord made man we read: **"the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."** Gen 2:7 'breathe' and 'Spirit' being the same word, Ruach. His Spirit breathed life, the life of God into man, and **the man became a living being.**"

But the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord God in the garden of Eden he died, immediately. God's Spirit departed from him leaving him cut off from God, that connection, that relationship was severed. He no longer had the life of God in him.

Man is not born with His Spirit but God sent his Spirit to specific people for specific purposes. For example he chose Bezalel and gave him supernatural gifts and ability to furnish the tabernacle of God. So also to Moses for what God called him to do, So also Joshua as he was to lead God's people. All the way through God gave his Spirit to certain people for a particular purpose, to Caleb, to Baalam, King Amasai, Azariah, Zechariah son of Jehoiada and to the prophets as well as other people. Like Saul for a time,

and particularly King David the forerunner of Jesus the ultimate Spirit filled man.

Before Jesus came there was a long history of failure to live to please God. When the Lord rescued his people from slavery **he set his Holy Spirit among them.** Isaiah 63:11 God's Spirit was 'among them'. **Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.** Isaiah 63:10 So the Lord was against his people.

Those who did not have the Spirit in them would turn away. That is why Moses voiced called out to God: "**I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!**" Num 11:29

✚ **Moses knew that without God's Spirit it is impossible to please God.**

You and I have neither the power nor the inclination to love God. Romans 8 reminds us that the man or woman without the Spirit of God has - despite outward profession - a heart and mind hostile and contrary to God's way.

Jude points out that there were troublemakers in the church and they did not have the Spirit of God in them.

Because without God's Spirit no-one will keep His laws, God planned to move and empower hearts to want to honour and love Him.

“ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ... you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. Ezekiel 36:27-29

Joel 2:28 **“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.**

And how will this be? Through Jesus Christ, the Holy one of God. The promised One will come who will have **the Spirit of the Lord rest on Him** Isa 11:2, God's chosen Servant **“I will put my Spirit on Him”** Is 42:1

Fast forward to the day of Pentecost. Christ has completed his work of redeeming people through his death on the cross. With my guilt removed the Lord brings His Spirit so that I will have a heart to love and obey him.

And so when Pentecost came God-fearers had gathered from every point of the compass (see Bulletin) Peter quotes those words from Joel: **“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.** Acts 2 Not every person but all peoples from all around the world.

This is what John the Baptist said would happen, his baptism was one of water water but Jesus would baptise people with the Holy Spirit.

✚ **Have you been baptised? -in water? Was there more?**

Later Jesus said **while he was eating with them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”** Acts 1:4-5

So Jesus as he drew to the end of his time on earth said: **“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever— the Spirit of truth.** John 14:15-17a

In other words Jesus when he ascended to heaven quickly returned to live in His people. The HS is **the Spirit of Jesus** Acts 16:7, Phil 1:19 **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”** John 14:18

And that is the wonder of this life **Jesus in me, the hope of Glory** Col 1:27

Jesus God himself present with his people, in his people, so secondly:

2nd Presence,

In the reading in Isaiah there is talk of desert and parched land being glad and the wilderness rejoicing. Yes that is what it is like, my empty heart is filled, suddenly there is someone there, - a new reality in my experience!, I now have life on a different level. *It has to be experienced to be understood.*

The Spirit of God brings order and life from death and decay. Hear what Isaiah says speaking of a wasteland, ... **till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, x2 and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence for ever.”** Isaiah 32:13-17

✚ **The Spirit brings the life of God to me, - His presence in my present x2 we now become fully living beings!**

So this is what we rejoice at with Pentecost - the day the Spirit came.

1. There are several first in John 20 Jesus gives His Spirit to the Apostles - **“And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”** v22
2. Then in Acts 2 as the disciples gathered together in the upper room for prayer, tongues of fire separated and came down on each one, and **all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.**, that cloud by day and the fire by night that accompanied God's people together in the desert now separates - note the word separated - to each one individually. Each one has a personal knowledge of God and his presence, each man or woman boy or girl.
3. **Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.** Acts 2:5 (as Bulletin) and so when Peter has finished preaching

the sermon of his life we see the Spirit given to those 3000 God fearing Jews who then returned home joyfully forming churches where they live.

Here is the wonderful promise given to Abraham that through his promised descendant Jesus a blessing would spread over the whole world. The curse of Babel that brought confusion and scattering is reversed. Now the blessing comes uniting, not in language, but in one Spirit, sharing the life of God.

4. Then in Acts 10 starting with Cornelius' house the Spirit is given to the Gentiles the non Jews - **The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.** Acts 10:45

Now every true believer is united as Paul reminds the church: **For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.** 1 Cor 12:13

So lastly - Power x2

2 Tim 1:7 **“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”** So Paul reminds timid Timothy. Do you feel weak and timid, and fearful? Who doesn't, but with Jesus in me it is different.

Jesus gives His power so I can live like him. Do you have that power? I can see some here do, and I can see some here don't. Do you say: “I keep trying but I fail. I have tried but it doesn't work, nothing changes, I keep losing the battles, I can't keep it up, God hasn't helped me.”

✚ Without Jesus' power no-one lives the way they should – Everywhere around we see: immorality, failure, dishonesty, greed and much more.

- Mike Tyson some years ago went into training with Islam to beat temptation. The New York Times of 12th April 1996 said: Mike Tyson, the heavyweight boxing champion, remained silent yesterday about a woman's allegation that he assaulted her in a Chicago nightclub. His Islamic spiritual adviser, however, said that "Iron Mike" was prayerful and that although he recently mastered the five daily supplications a devout Muslim must recite, he faced a "never-ending struggle" with temptation.

Yes, he would. And so too anyone else trying to change. Don't think that being religious will make a difference – No, whichever one it might be!

It is only Jesus who can remove the power and grip of sin. It is only Jesus who can set me free to live as I should. Without Him you can do nothing.

Gospel

Are there some here now starting to see your sin more clearly? That is a good place to be. If you see the ugly truth about yourself then do what those who were listening to Peter did. They asked **what must we do?** Good Q, x2 Peter had told them how they had been complicit in crucifying Jesus Christ the Lord of Glory. “Not me” you might say, but every sin is like banging a nail into Jesus' hands and feet. Every rejection of God's way, ever disregard for his law and his way is the same as nailing the Righteous one to the cross. Bad language, lewd thoughts, sex before marriage, dishonesty, trickery, selfishness and pride and every other sin are to be confessed and repented of. If I have described you then you too should ask **what should I do?** Don't delay, it is a fearful thing to depart this world and fall into the hands of an angry God.

And the answer: **“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”** Acts 2:38-39 - is that you?

Paul declared to everyone **that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.** Acts 20:21 Not just ‘believe in God’ that's an almost meaningless phrase, No, you **must turn to God in repentance and** put your trust in the **Lord Jesus.** Anyone, anywhere, who does that - will be saved.

Don't delay. Give up any right to yourself – and have Jesus as your Lord - then he will give you His Spirit – and with him you will have everything. x2

You will be saved, You will know the power of sin defeated

Sin, my worst enemy before, Shall vex my eyes and ears no more

My inward foes shall all be slain, Nor Satan break my peace again

And you will be changed. Christ Spirit gives power, power for Godliness. Jesus will make anyone who comes to him willingly do what by nature you were not capable of doing. He takes out a stony heart - and he gives a heart of flesh. When that happens you will want to be saved more than anything in the world. That is God's work, the sign of the new birth.

Now the benefits of Christ's finished work on the cross 2000 years come to me by His Spirit. That is the grace of God in salvation declaring a person innocent in his sight, justified, put right with God for ever.

The Spirit confirms the adoption of that man or woman as a child of God. He confirms the election of those God has chosen, He brings regeneration and renewing, the power to repent, the gift of faith, His permanent place in my life assures me that having been chosen I will persevere to the end.

Christ calls you to holiness – and gives His Spirit that you live that holy life, not as a far off ideal but what is both possible and expected. This is sanctification, made possible by union with Christ, the One whom I am to be like, and will one day be like.

✚ Do you have His Spirit and know it in your experience?

That person knows power within to heal the heart of its pain and hurt, to be freed from those hooks of sin and victory over those recurring sinful thoughts. With the Spirit applying the healing power of Calvary I find I am brought to God and God is brought to me, His nature and love and power comes within me as a renewing life force. Without the Spirit there is nothing **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** Acts 1:8

As Peter said: **His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him** 2 Peter 1:3

✚ Power to say NO to all ungodliness – but YES to Godliness

The desire now is for the cause of Christ, gone are the thoughts and language of self, talking about my interests, my pains, my problems, No that is what the person without the Spirit does.

There is a desire for God. x2 That is the sign that the Spirit is in a person

I don't need to someone else trying to persuade me to come to church, or to bring worship, or my offering. When the Lord is in that person we don't have to try and persuade people to come to church who really don't want to be here. If the Spirit of Jesus is in them they will want to come – and come early not last minute, the seats at the front will fill first, and as in the day of revival there would be a great enthusiasm to come early and pray, and at the end people would stay on - for hours – **you could turn the hose on them and they still wouldn't go!**

There would be no-more lack of interest in coming to worship, no more indifference to the word of God. With Jesus in me I will want to!

✚ Jesus's enthusiasms becomes my enthusiasms if I have his Spirit in me.

And so - Jesus's love becomes my love if I have his Spirit in me.

There will be a genuine love from your heart for one another.

It doesn't matter whether that person is an easy person or not, or I like them or not, I will not give in, or give up or walk away, but stick with them even though the words or body language make it really hard. Did not Jesus love me?

He gives power to continue in demanding circumstances, demanding people Love is a sign of God's spirit in someone. There's the thoughtful comment, the gentle approach, the restrained tongue, the extra act in helping.

✚ Love for God will mean love for others. – and what a display of the beauty and grace of God that is!

Love for Christ will show in a desire to speak of him to others.

Acts 2:4 **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.** They **began to speak**

■ What's the first thing a baby does when it enters the world? Cry!

Crying is the first sign of life in this world. It looks at the world and cries.

What is the first thing a person born into the kingdom of God does?

✚ There are tears – yes but of Joy – and the mouth is opened - in praise!

To speak in praise is the first sign of this new life, and that is what they are doing - See Acts 2:11 **we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"**

That is the point – Jesus said: **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses"** Acts 1:8 the word is martyr

That is why Peter says the Spirit will make us like the prophets – prophets speak out. It is not surprising then that the first thing that happens when Christ comes to a person is that our tongue is loosed - and we speak out. How can I not speak when we have Jesus the **Word of God** in me!

Acts 4 shows Peter and the others were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke boldly and courageously, The elders were amazed these are ordinary people, **“ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”** Acts 4:13 Yes they had.

✚ Jesus's courage becomes my courage if I have his Spirit in me, And Jesus's joy becomes my joy if I have his Spirit in me.

✚ The Spirit brings Jesus to me. The Spirit was Promised, God's Presence, and God's Power. **Let us walk in step with the Spirit_ END**