

SERMON PENTECOST 2016

We are spending this service saying: 'Come Holy Spirit', asking for his anointing and empowering, I am praying that we really believe that he will come, I am praying that we will be open to receive him, to allow him to change us, strengthen us and fire us up. Because if we do really believe in this third person of the Trinity, if we are willing to let him take over our lives, if we are willing to accept his powers and use them what a different church we would be, what different people we would be.

God's Holy Spirit, living in our whole being opens up the possibility of us becoming the people God intended us to become. We will become at one with him, our Creator.

The force of the Spirit came with great power into the place where the Apostles were waiting, wind and fire, examples of raw natural energy, drenching them in waves of God's energising love, showing us a physical expression of his presence and power.

If we are not expectant we can miss things; if we don't expect to hear God's voice we can miss the whisper, if we don't expect him to act we can miss the outpouring of the Spirit in our lives.

Are we waiting expectantly for him now? We need him now, the Church needs him now, the world needs him now. We need the drenching that the disciples received.

Over and over again, God chooses as his messengers those who seem totally inadequate and wholly unsuited for their great task. Those who have no illusions of their own power, abilities and strengths, those who can only rely on God. The power of God has nothing to do with self-glorification, riches or earthly power. Because the power of the Spirit points to the Son and through the Son to the Father. All we do in the power of the Spirit is to God's glory. We may feel unsuited to this work that the Spirit is firing us up for, it may feel well out of our comfort zone, but we're not doing it on our own. Think of those disciples in that upper room, they were ordinary working men who

suddenly, through supernatural power, could speak so that they were understood by foreigners, they had the ability to speak powerfully and motivationally to crowds of people, it was impossible for them to think they were doing this themselves, and they went on to do great things that would have been impossible before.

Can we accept the changes that the Holy Spirit offers us if we let him into our lives? Today we remember what happened two thousand years ago; but it is still happening, the Holy Spirit is as powerful as he ever was to those who let him in.

The Holy Spirit taking over our lives may seem frightening, but remember it is only for the glory of God, for the benefit of his people and his Church, the powers of that the Holy Spirit gives us is so that the whole world may be reconciled with the Creator, God the Father, who loves them so much.

God gave his only Son for us, the Son who told us we would be able to do more than he did, people of God what are we waiting for?