

Sermon Notes – Sunday 31st May – Pentecost Sunday

‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth’ Acts 1:8

Word: Read Acts 2:1-21 and the Coming of the Spirit on the disciples.

There are 4 important reasons why we all need **the power of the Holy Spirit:**

Power to become. The work of the Holy Spirit is to change us, to mould and shape us, to deal with our ‘rough edges’ and make us more like Jesus by growing his fruit within our lives (Galatians 5:22).

- Can you identify which of these fruit have grown in your own life in recent weeks during lockdown and which ones still need particular attention?

Power to be. ‘Those who live in accordance with the Spirit, have their minds set on what the Spirit desires’ (Romans 8:5-10). Share stories from every day life of how your mind and thoughts are directed by the Spirit.

Power to overcome. Every Christian lives in a war zone. The warfare we experience with the enemy, who uses subtle and not so subtle tactics to tempt us and undermine our confidence in God and our relationship to Him, is much more intense *after* we give our lives to Jesus than before. God makes His power available *within us*, so that we have the strength and the know how to defeat the devil (1 John 4:4)

- Are you aware that you are in a daily battle? How has the Holy Spirit helped you to make good choices and keep on track with God?

Power to share. The word used for power here (Acts 1:8) is ‘dunamis’ which is where we get our word ‘dynamite’. God wants us to be filled with the same power so we can witness to the life of Jesus. This means not only to be able to *speak* about Jesus but also to *become* like Jesus to other people so that it will be like Jesus reaching out and touching them through us (Jn14:12).

- What opportunities do you have to share Jesus or be Jesus to others and so witness to his love? (if not physically at this time, then in other ways).
- The essence of the Spirit filled life is not how much of the Spirit do I have, because I have all of Him, but how much does he have of me!
- What areas in your life do you need to yield to the Holy Spirit in order to become a more effective disciple of Jesus?

Pray for one another to be filled or re-filled with the Holy Spirit. Don’t put it off. Ask and receive from your heavenly Father (Luke 11:13).