Sermon Sunday 5th May 2024 Who is the Holy Spirit?

Life Group Notes

This is the first of a three-week mini-series on the Holy Spirit, based on the Alpha talks prepared by Nicky Gumble which can be found in his book*: Alpha, Questions of Life.* This sermon looks at the person of the Holy Spirit as seen in the Old Testament and based primarily on texts in Genesis 1 & 2, Jeremiah 31.31-34, Ezekiel 36.26-27, and Joel 2.28-29.

* The Holy Spirit has been described as “the forgotten person of the Trinity.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
* “May the force be with you!” was a recurring catchphrase in the *Star Wars* film series. How accurate is this as a description of the Holy Spirit as depicted in Scripture?
* In the first two chapters of Genesis, the Holy Spirit is described as being present at creation. What pictures does this bring to mind?
* Bishop Graham Dow said that often people experience the Holy Spirit through creation without realising it. How could this insight be helpful in bringing people to faith and deepening the faith of believers? Are there any dangers in this? Have you experienced the Holy Spirit through creation? Do you allow the Spirit to draw you into a moment of wonder, praise, thanksgiving, worship?
* Although there are examples in the Old Testament of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon individuals, it is always “particular people at particular times for particular tasks.” But in the later prophets, we see God promising to do something new. Read Jeremiah 31.31-34. Why is it necessary for God to do this? What difference could it make?
* Read Ezekiel 36.26-27. How could God’s promises in Jeremiah and Ezekiel be accomplished?
* Ezekiel was given a vision (Ezekiel 47) of a river flowing from the Temple, bringing new life to all it touched. How have you experienced the Spirit in your life?
* Read Joel 2.28-29. Is this reflected in our church?
* As Jesus is about to return to his heavenly Father, he instructs his followers to preach the Good News of forgiveness to all the world – but first they must wait to receive “what my Father has promised” See Luke 24.47-49. What relevance does this have for Jesus’ followers today?

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