

SERMON H & R September 2021

“Receiving and being renewed by the Holy Spirit.”

Have you met the Holy Spirit?

Does he figure in your lives?

What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit?

In Acts 1, Jesus is with his disciples and he commands 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.

Do the words of Jesus speak to you? do you feel they are at all relevant to you?

Jesus goes on to say “it is not for us to know the times or dates for the future of the world, but we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us and we will be God’s witnesses to the ends of the earth”.

Never have we needed the power of God in our lives as now, to be able to witness and share our love for Jesus in a kind practical and caring way.

Life for so many is in ruins through loss, loss takes many forms, loss through death, loss through broken relationships, through loss of employment, loss of hope and the ability to enjoy life.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples about his leaving them, he told them they would receive comfort .... The Holy Spirit (John 14 v 16). Jesus said “I will ask the Father and he will give you another counsellor who will be with you forever.... The Holy Spirit, and that same Holy Spirit is here for you for me ..... he is the power in your lives, think for a moment about an lamp and electricity, the lamp has a bulb in it. But until it is plugged in and switched on it is of no use unable to give out light, the light only comes on when everything is connected.

The Holy Spirit is our power, he is ready and waiting to fill us anew every day, to be our guide, to comfort us, to

encourage us, to help us to live our lives as God's forgiven people. To be bold and able to speak and do far more than we ever imagined we could.

Remember the disciples hiding away after Jesus was killed, they were so frightened and then when Jesus came back he told them, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth" After this He was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Then when Pentecost came, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled the whole house where the disciples were sitting, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. Many people were staying in Jerusalem from other nations and they were amazed that the disciples were speaking to them in their own languages. Peter stood up and addressed the crowd (Acts 2 v 14 - 39), we are told about 3000 came to faith and were baptized ... this was Peter, Peter who was always getting things wrong, saying and doing things without thinking about what he was saying and doing ..... and through his being filled with the Holy Spirit he was anointed and empowered to speak as he did.

This same Holy Spirit is here for you ..... when we accept Jesus,  
We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Will you let the Holy Spirit be an active part of your lives, to comfort you, to empower you, to guide you?

The choice is yours.