

PENTECOST

Our reading today is Acts 1:5-8, however, I'll be heavily focusing on 1 Corinthians 12, so if you have your bible and want to follow along then please open to 1st Corinthians.

1) ACTS 1:5-8

⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Now before I begin, I think there's an important

2) birthday today.

As God filled the Disciples with the Holy Spirit, He really stapled the beginning of the modern church, so we're going to sing Happy Birthday. But before we do, I need 2 volunteers. 1 to light a candle for me and one to blow out please.

Happy Birthday to church (angel cake with candles that can't be blown out)

Just like this candle here, The Holy Spirit of God, just cannot be blown out. Once you're taken by his flame, He fills you with a passion and desire to Worship and to serve Him!

3) As we read in Acts 1:8 “You will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

4) So, for those of you who don't yet know what happened on that incredible day, let's take a look at this short video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpgarfCe88g>

5) Now, I love Pentecost because it means so much for ALL of us. It isn't simply a historical lesson of days gone, now confined to the books.

No. It is so much more.

6) It lives on with us here in the today and now. It helps us understand our experiences in life, the power God has shared with us and what we ourselves can expect to do to this very day.

We hear from Peter as he quotes Joel 2

7) Your sons and daughters will prophesy

8) your old men will dream dreams

9) your young men will see visions

Later in the Bible we learn of more that we are gifted by the Holy Spirit when we read 1 Corinthians 12.

we see...

10) ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

11) Get big fan and ask what effect it had and what things the wind does.

So, yes. We see the wind

12) move the tree's,

13) it dries our clothes

14) it cools us on a hot day

15) provides fun and entertainment with kites

16) and sailing boat

17) has provided sustenance through the grounding of wheat to make flour

18) and in more modern times, even provides electricity when it is harnessed to power wind farms.

All these wonderful things from a force that we can't actually
19) see.

Just like the wind, we can feel The Holy Spirit, we can see the effects that it has, but we cannot physically see it moving. But also like the wind, just because we can't physically see it, doesn't mean that it isn't real.

20) The Holy Spirit is very real and like the wind, the effects can be felt both gently and heavily.
(Hallelujah!)

21) As we continue on in 1 Corinthians 12, we see that there are so many different ways in which we are called and gifted. To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
Some receive

- A message of wisdom
some
- A message of knowledge
some
- Faith
some
- Gifts of healing
some
- Speaking of different tongues
And others
- the interpretation of these different tongues

¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as HE determines.

All of these gifts are given for the common good and to build us together as one body of Christ.

22) Hand out slices of cake. Now I bet you thought with Andy away on sabbatical, you wouldn't be tortured again like we were with those jelly babies. Well... you were wrong. Don't eat your cake yet...

So, now let us continue with 1 Corinthians 12

23) ¹²Just as a body, though it is one, it comprises of many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Before we jump into this next bit, I hope you've not been reading it literally. If your foot has actually been physically saying things to you. You probably need to be seeking some prayer. Either that or call the doctor.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it too would not stop being part of the body.

24) ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? (Could you imagine trying to smell your Sunday roast through your ear? Eating would be super boring. 80-90% of your taste actually comes through smell. Everything you ate would taste like whoever you’re sat next to (not that any of you smell bad on this lovely Sunday morning).

25) ¹⁸ in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

As we jump to verse 27, it goes on and says...

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

26) YOU. Yes, you are a part of that body. The Body of Christ.

(Turn and tell the person sitting next to you. “He’s talking to you”)

27) So God has given each and every one of you a purpose.

28) GOOD NEWS! It’s almost time for cake!!!

I’d like you to hold up your cake...

Think about it... God has given you:

29) eyes to see the delicious cake

30) hands, one to hold up the delicious cake and another to hover below to save Cathy from having too many crumbs to clean up on a Wednesday.

31) A jaw and teeth to chew the delicious cake (you can eat)

neck muscles to... (This one’s here for you Norman)

32) swallow it

33) a gut to digest it...

34) yeah, I’ll stop there or that cake might come back up if we continue to talk about the process.

35) All of it has a very deliberate process. Because God created it to work perfectly. The same is true for the body of Christ.

Let us just read from verse 27 again and continue into 28.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

We see a great assembly that God has put before us here. Everyone where he wants them and that is whether they accept it or not.

There is someone I know who is building something that is going to be incredible for the kingdom, but they won't accept that they are where God wants them to be. They are still grieving where they previously were and I think that until this great project that requires 110% of their heart is up and running, they won't see the bigger picture.

When they do see the bigger picture, I don't doubt that it'll be a palm to the forehead and a "how could I have been so blind".

Boy, isn't that the story for so many of us. We go through what feels like a real rough patch and feel downtrodden only to come out the other side and see the strength that God has given us through what we have faced.

I choose this verse not for names sake but for the strength of the words from our Lord God Almighty.

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Now, a few months ago in my first welcome that I did, I spoke from 1st peter. I spoke of us all being living stones. And it is true, we are all just that.

Each of us filled with His Holy Spirit and being guided in His way and building the Kingdom.

We see it in many different ways.

Some sharing in hospitality, putting on various clubs and lunches. Evangelising and telling others of the goodness of God as we go about day-to-day life.

We Feel the power of The Holy Spirit in our work, pushing us to take leaps of faith. Feeling the weight of a message on our hearts and prophesying to others. Being called into prayer for healing and seeing miracles unfold before our eyes.

So many things to be thankful for and God only gets bigger and bigger, better and better, stronger and stronger.

Hallelujah!

We all have a place that God has planned for us. Be bold, strong and courageous in the gift you have been given and Glorify the Lord in all you do.

(Time of thoughtful prayer as the band play breath on my breath of God)

Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved
and do as you would do.