

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 31st May 2020
Sermon Title: A Prayer for Pentecost
Bible Passage: Acts 2: 1 - 4, Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Introduction

- What do you understand by the phrase, 'filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:4)?
- Make a list of the different aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a believer?
What passages of Scripture would you turn to show the work of the Spirit in the life of a believer?

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the passage again, perhaps read it a few times from different versions:

- How would you summarise the key message of the passage?
- Is there anything in this passage that surprised you?
- Was there anything in the passage or preach that you found yourself resisting, pulling away from or wrestling with what is being said?

Stu began by reflecting on two ideas. First, that awe of God, physical phenomena, deep condition and regular conversions, should be a part of the normal experience of church life, rather than reserved solely for times of revival. Second that it is impossible to live the Christian life as God intended it, without the power of the Spirit in our lives. There were several examples given of the Holy Spirits work in our lives.

- Taking each statement in turn, do you agree / disagree? Why?
- How would you describe being 'filled by the Spirit' from your own experience?
- When the believers were filled with the Spirit, they were given the gift of tongues, among other gifts. Do you know what your gifts are (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)?

Stu then moved to using Ephesians 3:14-21 as a prayer for the church on the day of Pentecost. there were five pointers to pray for, they were: may you be strengthened, may Christ dwell and rule in your heart, may you be rooted and established in love, may you grasp Christ's ungraspable love and may you be filled with the fullness of God. All are important and all are connected to the Spirit's work in our life.

- It will be difficult, but place these five pointers in order of importance for you, at the moment. Take time to share your thoughts about this?
- What do you understand by the phrase, 'rooted and established in love'?
- What do you understand by the phrase, 'filled to the measure of all the fullness of God'?
- How would you summarise (or paraphrase) the doxology in vs.20-21?
- What does the doxology in vs.20-21 reveal as the goal of Paul's prayer?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit
- Are there gifts of the Spirit that people would like to pray for? Share these thoughts and pray for one another.

- Pray that we would be a Spirit filled church, earnestly seeking His empowering in everything that we do.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>