



# Growing Faith

05 - Pentecost | 27 May 2021

## Message for Pentecost

Written by Ian, Minister of Ernest Street

This is a great painting, by Cassie Sears... even though it may look like a creature sprouting 7 arms. It was painted to represent someone filled with the Holy Spirit. To me, the painting is someone full of God given life and energy. When God's Spirit is in you two things happen; you have a deeper understanding that you are fully loved by God (the heart in the middle) and that love then bursts out into all the rest of your life (the 7 arms!).



Pentecost is a Jewish celebration. When the Holy Spirit first came to Jesus's friends, it was during Pentecost, and people from different countries had come to Jerusalem to celebrate. It was a few weeks after Jesus had died, been raised back to life, and then gone to heaven. The resurrected Jesus had told his followers to wait in Jerusalem... so they did - they hid, in fear of those in charge, and waited. When the Holy Spirit first came He appeared like fire descending on their heads. They lost their fear and knew what they had to do. They went outside and began telling everyone who would listen about God. When the Holy Spirit is with us, in our life, he can guide us too. The Holy Spirit guiding us can be like:

- a passion that won't go away
- a direction in life that we feel we have to take
- a desire to do something that we can't shake.

I asked people at my church to describe how the Holy Spirit helps them, they said: a Guide, Facilitator, Prompter, Peace giver, Strength at difficult times, Corrector, Comforter. The letters in the New Testament give us some long lists of ways that the Holy Spirit can help us; the gift of giving, teaching, administration, prophecy, service, hospitality... and more. I don't think this was a complete list but just a start on the list of gifts and abilities the Holy Spirit would give to Jesus' followers, then and now.

To each person who exists and has ever existed God has given gifts and abilities. That includes YOU! By accepting God into our lives we are given the Holy Spirit to help us grow and develop the gifts we have been given. God, through the Holy Spirit, wants to be active in our lives, using the gifts and passions we are given; to care for others, to speak out about injustice, to change the world for good.

Find some time to stop today. Use that time to ask God, **"what are the gifts and abilities you have given me?"** and then ask God to help you use them.

## Teenager's Tip

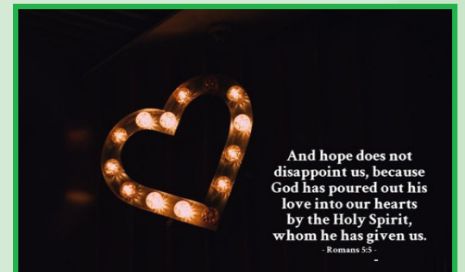
### Stop and Hear

By Macy and Laila, Year 9

I understand times are tough and hard especially with covid-19 and school it's hard to keep track of things and you may be feeling sad and lonely but just know you're not alone and we will get through this together.

Sometimes things happen that you can't control or predict. Anxiety happens when you spend time stressing out over them. Whether you're anxious about a deadline or constantly worrying for no reason, you're not alone.

Even if you can't imagine it, God has an overflow of hope stored up for those who, in the midst of chaos, stop long enough to hear his voice.



## A Song for Worship

Why not sing along to 'Breathe on Me Breath of God' as we worship together.



# Prayer for Pentecost

By Drew, from Pais Burnley

Lord, thank you for being at work in our lives.

Thank you for being a present, personal, real  
God who cares for us and sees all of our baggage  
and faults yet loves us anyway.

I pray that you would open our eyes to your mercies  
that are new every morning.

Please show us the work you have been doing in the  
world around us, help us grow in our love for you  
through any present trials we face. We set our eyes  
on you and the future that you have prepared for us,  
knowing that your love will never fail.

We trust in you Lord, thank you for being a steadfast  
refuge of peace.

Amen

# Song for the Reflection



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23



## Church Support

### Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when  
their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

## Church Support


### Tech Opportunity




There is an opportunity for anyone interested in tech who  
might want to get involved with All Saint's Clayton's team in  
streaming of their services.

They are looking to train additional volunteers and this could be  
a great opportunity for someone with these interests to serve  
and develop their skills.

If interested please send an email to:  
[tobywebber@btinternet.com](mailto:tobywebber@btinternet.com)



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