



Growing Faith

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Pentecost: What does that mean for us today?

Written by Katie Minnis of Brave Church

We see in Acts 2 the day of Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit is poured out for the first time ('they were all filled with the Holy Spirit' Acts 2:4).

I think many people can overlook the day of Pentecost as having any significance for us now, given that it was so long ago! However, let's be reminded that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is completely relevant today.

In this passage the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit, came down to earth and filled people, enabling them to speak in other languages. This breached what was possible, acceptable, normal, and within human capabilities. People who spoke entirely different languages could understand and communicate together, **Acts 2:5-11**. This is not irrelevant to us today. The Holy Spirit is our helper **'The helper, the Holy Spirit' John 14:26**. When you come to the end of what you can do and you reach limits in your humanity, the Holy Spirit can take you past that. This is because **'What is impossible for man, is possible with God' Luke 18:27**. This could be a situation where you need energy, you need wisdom, you need patience, you need provision, or something else that could only come from God. Impossible situations are not impossible with God. We know this is hard to see sometimes- even back in **Acts 2:5-11**, the people were **'amazed', 'marvelled', and 'perplexed'**! This makes sense because speaking in different languages could not have happened without the Holy Spirit. So let your faith be built to see that just like at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fills you God can do the impossible. Maybe give it a go- ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Pentecost is a fulfilment of prophecy, of God's promises to His people. We see in **Acts 1:5**, that Jesus promised the day of Pentecost. The old testament also references that God will place His Spirit in us, for example, **Ezekiel 36:27, 'I will put my Spirit within you'**. Reflecting on this passage highlighted to me just how unshakable and trustworthy God's promises are. I would imagine that when old testament prophets spoke about the Holy Spirit it might have seemed strange or even unlikely that God's Spirit would dwell in us. But God always sees His promises through, and will never let us down. Just like the day of Pentecost came, God's promises to us will happen too. Jesus will return and wipe every tear- there is hope. God will never leave or forsake you- you are not alone. God will judge- perfect justice will come. God will hear your prayers- you are seen and heard. God was faithful to His word back then with Pentecost, and He is faithful to us now.

Finally, the relevance of Pentecost is undeniable, when we realise that in relationship with Christ, the Holy Spirit is in us today. The same Holy Spirit that came on the day of Pentecost, is in us today. No matter how this year has been so far, we can look up and set our hearts and minds on things above, knowing that the same Spirit at Pentecost, the same Spirit that brought life to dry bones, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, the Holy Spirit, is living in us today. This changes everything! **'The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you' Romans 8:11**. It is okay to need the help of the Holy Spirit! **'His power is made perfect in weakness' 2 Corinthians 12:9**. We can live by the Holy Spirit, not just by our strength alone. So if you are weary, then pray 'Spirit renew my strength'. If you are hopeless 'Spirit give my heart hope, in you'. If you are confused 'Spirit guide me'. If you are stressed 'Spirit give me your peace to guard my heart and mind'. Because that same Spirit at Pentecost lives in us.

Maybe challenge yourself today- don't live a life that would be no different without the Holy Spirit in it. What a blessing. How graceful is our God?

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:16



Youth Church Reflection

by Daniel Ley (Y11)

Now that summer is well under way, many gardens will be full of blossoms and bright flowers.

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.”

Matthew 6:28-29

The Bible uses the flowers as an example of how God provides for his creation. Most flowers only bloom for a season, and the Tan Hua flower only blooms for a few hours on one night a year, and wilts before dawn. This doesn't mean God made it any less beautiful though. If God wants to look after even flowers that only bloom for a few hours a year, how much more must he want to look after and care for us? The flowers don't worry about their next steps or the coming winter, and we too can follow this example and try to trust God with our futures, whether that involves choosing colleges or a sixth form, or just uncertainty around the coming years. It can be hard to not worry but the Bible says to:

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness... Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:33-34

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](#)

A Song for Reflection



A Prayer

by Daniel Barnes, past pupil:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of the holy spirit.


Help us to rely on His strength when we are going through tough times and feel weak. May we shine your light through our lives and be grateful for the many blessings we receive each day.

Help us to leave all our worries at your feet and experience the peace in our hearts that only you can offer.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



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