



Session Two

Introduction

Four separate accounts from personal journals that highlight the need for our dependence upon the Holy Spirit:

- a) John Wimber's account of his first encounter with his local church
- b) John Wesley's journal, May 24th 1739
- c) Aileen's story
- d) Acts 2:14-21

There has been a tragedy played out in the Christian church over the last 2000 years: that is the loss in the church of divine power. And it's through no deficit on God's side. Appropriating what Jesus has done for us through the cross, burial, resurrection, ascension and especially Pentecost, has made heavenly resources available to us. We mustn't entertain theologies that try to make allowances for our lack of power. We must stay faithful to the biblical witness.

"I'm not impressed with anyone's life unless they have integrity. But I'm not happy with their life until they are dangerous. As much as I have the ability to do so, I'll not let those around me get away with just being nice people" (Bill Johnson, Pastor, Bethel Church)

A vision for a dangerous church

- Full of outrageous acts of kindness
- Passionate about justice and righteousness
- Welcoming because of our counter-cultural forgiveness and grace
- Signs and wonders as a normal and usual occurrence
- In a nutshell – faith, hope and love coursing through our veins

For all this stuff and more, we need to be totally reliant on God the Holy Spirit. Our assignment on planet Earth is to 'rock our world', not just be nice people.

Stories of Andy Stone and Father Lawrence Jones

Controversy: So, if the Holy Spirit is so badly needed in our lives, why is there so much fear and controversy surrounding the doctrine of the Holy Spirit?

"Satan has opposed the doctrine of the Spirit-filled life about as bitterly as any doctrine there is. He has confused it, opposed it, surrounded it with false notions and fears. He has blocked every effort of the Church of Christ to receive from the Father her divine and blood-bought patrimony. The church has tragically neglected this great liberating truth – that there is now for the child of God a full and wonderful and completely

satisfying anointing with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people".
(A.W.Tozer, 'How to be filled with the Holy Spirit')
John 20:19-22

ME 14/09/08

Words given at the end of last week's service:

"Like the church at Ephesus, encourage my friends to a new place of confidence in, and dependence upon, God the Holy Spirit".

Magic eye picture, some people can see the 3D pictures and others can't. God is saying trust him to see the 'spiritual picture' with the eyes of your heart.

Picture of climbing up a mountain side – hard work, but Jesus is holding us, helping us as we travel onwards, in case we slip.

God is saying, "Don't be afraid to taste and see because I am good. I might bring new things, they might be different but they are good."

"There's a heart of love for His people, just pouring out his love for us. All He wants us to do is to receive. As scared children we struggle to receive from our Father. But He says I love you, I want to restore to you your first love, the love you used to feel for me. I want to burn that passion in you again. I want you to know that love."

"I saw a picture of God's tenderness. He is tender and compassionate. Even though I am God I don't want you to be afraid of who I am, but receive my tenderness and know it in a way you haven't done before".

I feel like God is saying "I am reigning".

"I felt the heaviness of God's presence and that He wants us to submit to Him... in a good way, He will lift us all up in His power rather than our own".