

Thought for the day 31<sup>st</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Acts 2: 1 – 5**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

The disciples had been fearful and hiding away in Jerusalem but after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost they were changed men. They became bold and courageous and went out onto the streets of Jerusalem telling the people about Jesus.

Before they were filled with the Holy Spirit they didn't have the strength or the power to do what Jesus asked them to do. The Spirit gave them all the strength and power that they needed

Praise God for the strength and power which He gives us through His Holy Spirit.

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### **Genesis 1 :2**

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Both Old and New Testaments testify to the divinity of the Holy Spirit, that He is not merely a force of God but God Himself.

In Old Testament times the Spirit of God was active and selectively filled people to accomplish the task in hand. God's Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the universe and He is involved in the redemption, salvation, transformation and glorification of humanity. When we understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our redemption we are able to access the Holy Spirit's vast power.

Thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit in our world today.

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### **John 14: 25 – 26**

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

The Holy Spirit is distinct from the Son and the Father and yet they are unified in purpose and plan. These distinctions are clear in the Gospel of John. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father sent by Jesus. The Holy Spirit executes God's will in our life, sent from the Father because we are redeemed by the Son.

Without redemption we cannot receive the Holy Spirit.

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### **Romans 8: 8 – 9**

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Before we can be redeemed we have to realise that we need redemption. We often have a false sense of security believing that what we do is good. We do not realise that we are lost to sin. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin and who then leads us to repentance and salvation. The Holy Spirit then lives in our bodies because we are "born again" of the Spirit. Now with God dwelling within our earthly bodies we have the power of the Holy Spirit and no longer need to rely on our own power. We now have victory over the flesh because the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Without the Holy Spirit we are outside Christ, we do not have His redemption we only have our own works. With the Spirit God transforms our lives.

Thank God for His work of transformation through the Holy Spirit.

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## **2 Corinthians 3:18**

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We are to reflect Christ and we can only do this when we yield to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We can live a "Spirit filled" life or one of spiritual stagnation. We have the choice to yield to God's Spirit or our own. When we are led by the Spirit we display the fruits of the Spirit no matter what our circumstances may be. Remember that Paul who had been whipped and flogged and put in prison sang at midnight in praise of God. His fellow prisoners and the jailer were converted and although there was an earthquake no-one escaped and the jailer's life was spared.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5: 22 – 23)

Thank God that through His Spirit we can praise Him in all situations.

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## **1 Corinthians 12:3 – 5**

Therefore I tell you that no-one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no-one can say "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Each one of us is a unique individual and we all have a part and purpose in God's eternal plan. The Holy Spirit gives each of us our own gifts to enable us to accomplish the Lord's work allowing us to accomplish more that we ever could alone.

The world looks at status and titles but the Spirit looks at the heart. When we are sincere and pure before the Lord we can walk in the power of the Lord.

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## **Luke 4: 18 – 19**

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

We do not have the power, on our own, to follow Jesus and do all the things He has told us to do. We cannot change the world without God's help through the Holy Spirit.

The good news is that Jesus promised us a very special and powerful gift before He returned to heaven. Manifested in the disciples at Pentecost and at work today in the lives of those that follow Jesus.

Praise God for the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. Surrender to God and let Him fill you with the Spirit and be transformed.

Shine for Jesus every day and in every situation that others may come to know the redemption, salvation, transformation and glorification that God has for them through the power of His Holy Spirit.