

The Day of Pentecost ~ Sunday, May 15, 2016

“Living the Resurrection Life ~ A Life of Power”

Acts 2:1-21; 42-47

“Fellowship with Christ is participation in the divine life which finds its fullest expression in triumph over death. Life is a larger word than resurrection; but resurrection is, so to speak, the crucial quality of life.”
(William Temple)

“The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death, but that we are to be new here and now by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is _____ to the Christian life.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”
(Acts 1:8)

Without the Holy Spirit, the Christian life and faith is _____.

“Apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

The promised Spirit had come, and the disciples were _____
and _____.

“I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. (Joel 2:28-29)

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.... No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.” (John 14:15)

It’s through the _____ that Jesus, who has ascended to heaven, comes to us and lives in and through us.

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

God had a plan that day that would take ordinary people and make them do _____ things. A plan that would bring change, _____, and new life to the nations; a plan that would see the Name of Jesus known, _____, and obeyed, throughout the world.

As the Apostles gave the Holy Spirit complete _____, their community was changed and transformed and faith in Jesus began to grow and spread _____ the borders of Israel.

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US

#1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to better live the resurrection life by inspiring _____ to God’s Word.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” (Acts 2:42)

The authority of Scripture is central to the life and witness of the church—it provides the _____ on which we stand and the guiding _____ for everything we do.

THE 5 R’S OF ASSIMILATING GOD’S WORD

• _____ it.

“Happy is the one who reads this book.” (Revelation 1:3)

• _____ it.

“The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away.” (Luke 8:13)

• _____ it.

“I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways.” (Psalm 119:15)

• _____ it.

“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Ps 119:11)

• _____ it.

“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all of this.” (2 Timothy 2:7)

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth but meditate on it, day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8)

If we want to be spiritually healthy we need to find time every day to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God’s word; and then _____ it to our lives.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

**What guides your feet and lights your path?
What role does God's word play in your life?**

#2. The Holy Spirit empowers us to better live the resurrection life by inspiring _____ and _____.

“And they continued steadfastly in fellowship.” (Acts 2:42)

Fellowship = Koinonia =

Common participation in something either by giving _____ we have or _____ we are to another person.

Christian fellowship is built on _____ and mutual _____ in which everyone seeks to be vulnerable, open, and sacrificial, as lives are enriched and blessed.

The basis of Christian fellowship is _____ and _____.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

Unity in the church was so important that Jesus _____ for it the night He was betrayed.

“I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:23)

ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Accept one another (Rom 15:7); Bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2) Be concerned for one another (Heb 10:24); Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16); Forgive one another (Col 3:13); Encourage one another (Heb10:25); Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7); Honour one another (Rom 12:10); Live in harmony with one another (Rom 15:5); Love one another (Rom 12:10); (Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9) (Pray for one another (James 5: 16); Stir up one another to love and good works (Heb10:24); Be subject to one another (Eph 5:21); Teach and admonish one another (Col 3:16)

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

**What role do you play in nurturing fellowship in this place?
How do you express love and guard unity at St. John's?**

#3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to better live the resurrection life by inspiring heart-felt _____.

“And they continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart praising God.” (Acts 2:46)

True Worship is _____ in nature—we change as we come into God's presence and praise Him for who He is and what He's done in our lives.

“If worship doesn't change us, it hasn't been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change. Worship begins with holy expectancy; it ends in holy obedience.” (Richard Foster)

The problem is, we can make our worship all about _____, instead of God.

“You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said, ‘You people honour me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrine.’” (Mark 7:6-7)

God doesn't want our hymns, songs, prayers, or offerings—if He can't first, have our _____.

Glad = agalliasis =

“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.” (Psalm 96:9)

Do you offer God your heart in worship or do you honour Him with your lips only?

The experience of the early church shows us that when the Holy Spirit reigns, everything is different and _____ things can happen.

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**God wants to pour out His Spirit—God wants to give us His power.
The question is—do I want it?**

Am I willing to let the Holy Spirit reign in my heart, in my life, and in this church?