

Pentecost

Hello Everyone,

Well I don't know what the weather is like as you're reading this but I can tell you that as I sit here writing it the sun is blazing in through the window and I'm getting an excitement that the summer is nearly here. It's been quite an exciting week of looking forward to the summer for me; Roy Hodgson has announced his World Cup squad and somehow I've allowed myself once again to be sucked into believing we can actually win it (I know the disappointment will inevitably come with this). I've been able to get in the garden on a couple of evenings and am starting to dream of a summer holiday too. Don't you just love the summer? It's made me think how quickly Easter came and went by. It was special as we celebrated Easter as a church together. We had a great Maundy Thursday meal, and finished off with the celebration of Easter Sunday and a baptism which brought alive the meaning of new life in Christ.

It wasn't long after Easter that Jesus ascended to Heaven and left his disciples on here on earth to carry on his business of sharing the message of new life in Christ. It was much easier for the disciples to carry out God's work and to have faith when Jesus was actually there with them, but how would they cope now on their own without him close by? It must have been tough and the doubt would have started to creep in. People say seeing is believing and the disciples did see Jesus, but now he's gone and they can't see him anymore. They needed to rely upon faith that God would still be with them. Fortunately we see in the early stages of Acts that God did come to be with the disciples in the form of his Holy Spirit. When they were filled with God's Holy Spirit the doubt left them, their faith was rejuvenated and the fiery passion came. God started to do amazing things because they really got it, need to be filled with God's Holy Spirit. This is just like what God was all about. This is all because the disciples were filled with God's Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

I've popped into Birmingham today to pick something up and I thought while I was here I'd come into the café at the museum for a cuppa and to write this article. As I walked to the café I came through the Christian section in the museum. The room was full with pews, stain glass windows, communion accessories, ancient theological books and all

sorts of other pretty bits and pieces. However nice and pretty these bits and pieces are, it makes me think; “is this all that Christianity is about?” I wonder; do some of us get trapped up in all this kind of man-made religious stuff. Out Christian culture which suggests that going to church on a Sunday makes us a good little Christian. Do we struggle to really see God in all of life, and do we sometimes doubt God even though we might find it hard to admit it too? What I’m really asking is, “have we got what God is really about, like the disciples did on the day of Pentecost?”

Pentecost Sunday is fast approaching on 8th June and this might be time to start to think about the question I’ve just mentioned. If you’ve been a Christian for a long time but fell like you’ve never really “got it”, I strongly suggest that you need to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. This is just like what happened for the disciples on Pentecost in the book of Acts. As I’ve said already, “When I was filled with God’s Holy Spirit, it was as though what I’d known and believed in my head finally came alive within my heart. God became real to me and I believed he could use me for amazing things.

I want to leave you by strongly suggesting to come to God over this Pentecost season, ask him to fill you a fresh with his Holy Spirit. God will really start to move in power when we “get it, what he’s all about”.

I hope you have a great summer and God Bless you all. “COME ON ENGLAND IN THE WORLD CUP TOO.”

Mike