



A NEW THING

Talk summary:

God prepares His people with His empowering presence [Acts 2:1-21]

1. The pouring out of God's Spirit was the sign and preparation for God's New Age [Acts 2:17-18]
 - a. The coming of the Spirit after Jesus's death and resurrection wasn't just the next 'phase' of a plan, but the bringing about a whole 'new age'; a new period of time called the 'last days' which we live in now. A time where the Spirit is available to all who call on the Lord, not just a select few.
2. The Holy Spirit empowers us for:
 - a. Unity [Acts 2:5-7]
 - i. At the dawning of this New Age of the Spirit we see a picture of unity – by His God united the crowd through the disciples speaking the native language of other nations. This unity is an import work of the Spirit.
 - b. Boldness [Acts 2:13-14]
 - i. When the Spirit comes in power it can lead to slightly odd behaviour – but Peter responds to the accusations with boldness. Are we open to the Spirit making us bold even if we look silly in the process?
 - c. Revealing Jesus [Acts 2:22-25]
 - i. Peter's message tells of the crucified and risen Jesus. The Spirit will always lead us to boldly reveal Jesus and will not lead us away from the truth of who Jesus is.
 - d. Disruption [Acts 2:37]
 - i. The Crowd responded, 'what shall we do?'. They faced a disruption. Billy Graham is credited with saying, "95% of today's church activities would continue if the Holy Spirit were removed from us. In the early Church, 95% of all her activities would have stopped if the Holy Spirit were removed." In what ways have we become overly self-sufficient?
3. God wants us to hunger for His Spirit which manifests differently to all of us
 - a. The Spirit came as wind, Wind, fire, tongues, boldness to speak, conviction of the heart. Have we learnt how we experience the Spirit to be more attentive to God's leading in our lives?

Questions:

Conversation Starter

How often do we experience the overflow of the Spirit in our lives? How dependent are we upon the Spirit for our day to day living? In point 2, which of these areas would you like to flow more in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do we agree with the Billy Graham quote? How do we want to respond?

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

How am I going to put it into practice?