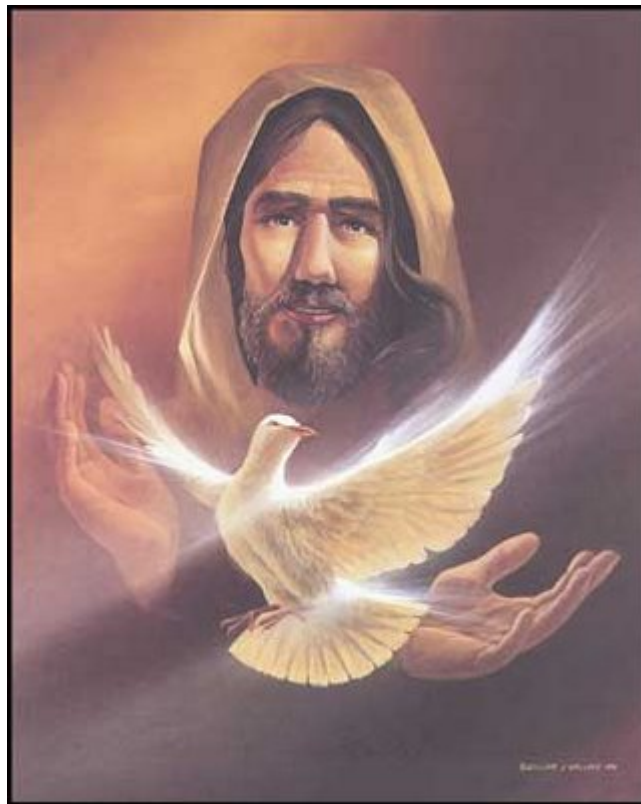


Sermon notes
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Pentecost 2009



The Spirit – the Breath of God

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20.19-23 NIV

- **Jesus is able to reach you wherever you may be v19**

Whereas Jesus prior to his death and resurrection was restricted where he could physically be; he can now be wherever he chooses.

Which also means that he is able to reach you wherever you may be.

- **Jesus wants to bless you with his peace (shalom) v19, 21.**

"Shalom is the presence of the goodness of God. It's the presence of wholeness, completeness" Rob Bell *Velvet Elvis* p107 .

When Jesus uses the customary greeting, he fills it with the full force of its meaning.

- **Jesus wants you to know that you are sent v21**

The very pattern of the Father sending his Son is repeated as Jesus sends out his disciples. It is plain to see that being a missionary a sent one; applies to every Christian, to every disciple.

- **Jesus wants you to receive the Holy Spirit v22**

i. The Holy Spirit comes from Jesus and is referred to as the Spirit of Jesus - Acts 16.17

ii. Jesus in breathing upon his disciples is breathing new life into his disciples. They become new creations 2 Cor 5.17. This reminds us of God breathing into Adam and giving life 2.7.

iii. The Holy Spirit is indispensable for being sent, it provides the power or the resources to enable us to fulfill our mission. John 20.21-23.

- **Jesus wants you to be forgiven and to forgive v23**

We have the power to forgive. This is not based on our own decisions but rather it is governed by what the Bible teaches. Forgiveness is indeed a most precious gift and it is forgiveness that establishes the means for us to enter into a relationship with the Father, which is through the Son (Jesus) and made possible by the Holy Spirit.

For Small Groups John 20.19-23

These are staggering words. Allow time to reflect upon them and then invite people to share about them.

i. Jesus can get into rooms with locked doors. Can you think of unexpected places where you have discovered God is already there.

Are there areas of our lives that are locked away, Jesus can certainly reach them- do we want him to?

Allow time to pray and invite Jesus into those places if you feel able.

ii. Jesus says Shalom – peace, a common Jewish greeting. It could mean Hi. Yet in the context of these verses it is raised to new heights. Jesus brings a deep peace and ultimately we will totally receive that healing and wholeness. In the context of those first disciples can you think why these words would have been so welcome?

iii. Do you think of yourself as one who is sent? Share in what way you understand this statement of Jesus.

iv. What is this all about when Jesus breathes on the disciples? How does John's account at the end of the gospel, compare with Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's, thinking of Acts also.

v. Can we really forgive sins?

Vi. Pray for one another in a way that you feel comfortable. Ask Jesus for the fresh breath of His Spirit to fill our lives.