

## Songs

[Holy Spirit We Welcome You](#)

[The Potter's Hand](#)

[There Is None Like You](#)

Word for Weardale 30.05.21

## Acts Chapters 1 & 2

Good-morning church. It is my joy to share with you all today and despite the fact that it is a week after Pentecost, I have permission to bring some of my personal understandings about this amazing experience Jesus promised to us all. My heart's desire is that we will all know and understand what a beautiful relationship we can have with Holy Spirit when we have walked through this together today.

I was brought up an Anglican so much of my prayer life was by rote but at age 32 I was 'Born Again' in Bethshan, a Pentecostal Church, and my life was never the same again! Naturally much emphasis was placed upon us desiring to be 'filled with the Holy Spirit' after all, I was now in a Pentecostal Church and in 1975, we did not just call ourselves Pentecostal, unless we knew the Holy Spirit in our lives!

This actually made a lot of sense to me and I dutifully went along to all the meetings where we waited upon the Holy Spirit, however 5 months went by, still no infilling. This disappointed me but I was determined. That is, I WAS determined until two very well-meaning ladies cornered me in a park where I had taken our small children, and told me to '**Demand**' to be filled and not get up off my knees until I was filled! To say this scared me half to death is an understatement, so much so that I quickly sought to speak to Pastor Harrison's wife Mary who assured me that this was not so, and that Pastor Harrison would be bringing some specific teaching in two weeks, for those of us who wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. OK so now I am at peace about the whole thing but during the first week I had several experiences which both blessed and concerned me. I had the sense during that first week that everything I said had purpose, people would stop me and ask why I was always so happy, I felt carried along in God's arms somehow and a deep excitement was growing in my belly. Week nr. 2. I could hardly wait for the teaching from Pastor Harrison and IMMEDIATELY after we knelt down to pray, foreign words tumbled out of my mouth like a river, I was so exhilarated I ran out of the prayer room and hugged the first person I met telling him the Holy Spirit had filled me!! It was a Doctor who was very sceptical of 'spiritual things' but I was so enthused I was not daunted. When I left the prayer room Ken was knocking seven bells out of the armchair he was kneeling at, obviously wanting but not receiving. Selfishly I left them all there and went to join the rest of the church, I was full to overflowing and did not care what anyone thought of me.

Eventually Ken came upstairs, smiling and hugged me since he too had been blessed and filled. So, two very happy people went home and guess what I did when I got home? I knelt down straight away by the pouffe to see if I could still speak in that foreign language and I could! Needless to say, it was a very exciting week for me. Then I heard that my mum had lost the use of her legs and I needed to

go to help dad in their fish shop in Preston. I took the children and Ken drove me to mums as he needed the car for work. Let us look at **verse 8 in chapter 1** ***"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth"*** Boy did I need that anointing during my time with my parents. Dad especially taunted me and accused me of stupidity as I chose to read out of the Children's Bible when I put the children to bed instead of reading fairy tales which I was brought up on. Please don't misunderstand me. I have a great love of Aesop's Fables, Hans Christian Anderson, Grimm's Fairy Tales and so admire Walt Disney, so I had no problem with fairy tales and so many of them hold healthy moral lessons, but this was dad dictating what I should do with my children!! I went into the bathroom to have a good chat with Papa God in my new language and came out of there refreshed. Hurdle one over. Down in the shop there was much to do so I put the children into bed and went to help. I am not stupid, I knew how to serve people, understood the till etc. etc. I had done it all before, including peeling, eyeing and chopping the potatoes. Unfortunately, I was NOT prepared for my dad's reactions. He unscrewed the salt shakers so I tipped a whole bottle of salt on a client's serving, was reprimanded right in front of a shopful of customers and called some not very nice names. I ran crying upstairs to the bathroom and had another chat with Papa God in this foreign language and stayed there until I was able to go back down, having forgiven dad and able to work with him again. This is how the two weeks passed with daily antagonism, bathroom visits for a chat and peace again but it was not my favourite time. One thing I learned, Holy Spirit was just so willing to fill me, help me, comfort me and guide me.

That second weekend Ken came to collect me but not before I had forgotten to be a bit secretive and this time received a challenge from mum as she came from the bathroom, I was praying in tongues." Who are you talking to?" she asked sharply, and I replied, "just praying mum" to which she replied "Huh." So what am I saying here? **Holy Spirit will never let you down, He is always faithful, always willing to give inspiration and insight, always ready to stand with you in difficult circumstances.**

Unfortunately, I only knew **about** Holy Spirit and His work. It would be many years before I personally **KNEW AND LOVED HOLY SPIRIT**. Please, don't misunderstand me, I was aware daily that Holy Spirit was helping me live my Christian Life and I liken this to the times when Jesus breathed on His disciples for a specific time of ministry, when He sent them out in twos, then when He sent out the seventy-two. I honestly believed that was just how it should be! Then some six years afterwards, I read a book by Benny Hinn called "Good morning Holy Spirit" and this absolutely transformed my relationship with Holy Spirit. How could I have prayed and talked to God or Jesus ABOUT him, completely ignoring the fact that He was silently and patiently waiting for me to acknowledge Him. I wept with regret when I understood His reality and personality and that He has been with us on this earth for more than 2000 years since Jesus Ascended to the Father and sent Holy Spirit to be with us. He graciously forgave me for my ignorance, and a completely new relationship began. My awareness of His presence and work in my life was sharpened so that I did not want to do anything or go anywhere without Him and still to this day our relationship has developed over 45 years. He teaches me new things. He was the one who helped me learn the Romanian Language and encouraged me to speak it out! He helped Ken and me to fulfil God's plan over 20 years in Romania, without Holy Spirit nothing would have been accomplished. I cannot thank Him enough and I trust Him to complete God's work in me, as He has done in Ken who is now in Glory! Hallelujah!

He will remain with us until He receives instruction to return to Heaven and I believe with my whole heart that when He goes, we ALL go in the Rapture.

Let us look how Holy Spirit empowered the disciples. **In Chapter 1:14-26** He guided Peter and the disciples and women who were with them praying to sort out their differences so they could be **"in one accord"**, enabling the choosing of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot.

Again, in **Chapter 2:1-4** we see Holy Spirit descending as tongues of fire after blowing as a mighty wind through the upper room and filling all those there, so their prayers were in many different languages. This was not just a fun thing Holy Spirit did, it was filled with God's purpose because in verses **5-12** people from many nations and tongues heard about God in their own languages! What a huge work Holy Spirit had to do. Not only making sure those in the upper room spoke different languages BUT HE also had to make sure the hearers heard their own tongue, or it would have been cacophonous!! Small wonder **verse 12 records** their amazement and their question "**whatever could this mean?**" As we all know whenever Holy Spirit does something powerful or unusual there are those who mock **V 13**. We all know what it feels like to be mocked, don't we? Can we see how much difference Holy Spirit made in Peter? He did not get mad or shout, he stood up, raised his voice so he could be heard and spoke to them all. My guess is that Holy Spirit was busy translating into each ear in their own languages, Peter's Sermon **verses 14-36**. What power, what amazing work Holy Spirit did. **Verse 37-39** tells us they were all cut to the heart and asked, "What shall we do?" Peter made sure they understood their need of repentance for their sins, their need to be baptised and he promised they would receive Holy Spirit. **Verse 41** confirms about 3,000 souls were added to them! What an awesome problem to have!! If you read to the end of **chapter 2**, we see all the ways the disciples interacted with these brand new disciples and we would do well to imitate their pattern, whether we have **One** person turning to Jesus or more!

I do hope I have whetted your appetite to cultivate a deeper and more powerful relationship with Holy Spirit and as the Prophetess, Kathryn Kuhlman used to say in her meetings, "**Please don't grieve my precious friend, Holy Spirit.**" I echo her words because I love Him!

Let us pray together:

Holy Spirit, please forgive me for my ignorance concerning you. I would love a closer, more intimate relationship. Please take me as I am and teach me. Thank you for your faithfulness down the centuries. I welcome your presence daily in my life. Amen.

[Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here](#)