

## ☞ *POWER for Living* ☜

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have just had an exciting first Sunday of June. Not only was June 3<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two, but it was also a Sunday when we held a Baptism service for five individuals and extended the right hand of fellowship to a total of nine people. Praise God! His Spirit is working through his church at Pawtuxet, touching the lives of people who are responding to the calling to follow His Son, Jesus Christ.

You may remember the story of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. It was the birth of Christ's church. The disciples were all gathered together in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them like a rushing wind and rested upon each one of them in the form of tongues of fire.

What happened next was that this group of frightened, unmotivated, post-resurrection disciples were filled with power from the Holy Spirit and it displayed itself in their lives in mighty ways. Some of those ways were:

- *The Spirit emboldened them to share their faith. (Acts 2:14-41)*
- *The Spirit unified a diverse group of people into a true family of believers. (Acts 2:42-47)*
- *The Spirit led them into an understanding of God's Word. (Acts 2:42, John 16:13)*
- *The Spirit worked miraculous signs and wonders in their midst. (Acts 2:43)*

This was quite a different group of people after the Spirit of God showed up! ***Basically, the Holy Spirit radically changed them. And that same Spirit wants to change us today as well.*** A group of people this past Sunday bore witness to the fact that they have not only accepted Jesus as their Savior but they also have opened their lives to this change. They have accepted Jesus as their Lord. When we ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives we invite his Spirit to direct us, to transform us, to shape in us this "new life" that the Scriptures promise. This new life is a critical part of the Christian walk that unfortunately many church-goers miss.

You see the Spirit promises to produce fruit in our lives that is in line with the Christ-like lifestyle that God calls each of us to live. This doesn't mean that we are to live boring lives by any means! Actually, its quite the opposite. ***Jesus promises us in John 10:10, "I came so they can have real and eternal life,***

***more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” Does that sound good to you?***

The great news is that we don't have to try to live our lives on our own anymore! The Holy Spirit brings us a power for living that helps our lives become all that God has intended them to be.

We're going to focus on this "Power for Living" throughout the summer and right into the Fall season. ***By pursuing this series I hope that we can all see how the Holy Spirit practically aids us with a power for living that doesn't leave us to pick through the minefields of life alone. We've been given a power to change our lives, to transform our relationships, and to impact our world for Christ!***

As we walk in step with Christ's Spirit, we'll find our very selves and our relationships with others taking on a distinctively Christ-like flavor.

Come to think of it, isn't that what being a Christian is all about?

Blessings,

*PASTOR SCOTT*