

Abbey International Baptist Church, Reading
Worship Service 10:30AM 26 October 2025
Selina Chan leading & Jill Bird preaching

www.abbeybaptistchurch.org.uk

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**We welcome you
today Holy Spirit**



Dear brothers and sisters, a moment of quiet and stillness before our Holy God – our Lord God Almighty

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come before our Lord with hearts open to His Spirit,
to recognise our unique callings, to rekindle the gifts within us,
and to offer our talents for His glory.

We come, O Lord, ready to be renewed and used by You.

Let us worship God together,

You are the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Song MP 18

All over the world the Spirit is moving,
All over the world as the prophet said it would be.
All over the world there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

All over His church God's Spirit is moving,
All over His church as the prophet said it would be;
All over His church there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Right here in this place the Spirit is moving,
Right here in this place as the prophet said it would be.
Right here in this place there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

ROY TURNER © 1984 KINGSWAY'S THANKYOU MUSIC.

FAMILY TIME: Have you opened all your presents?

*(*An offering will be taken during the following song, after which our young people will leave for their groups)*

HYMN MP 142

Father, we love You; We worship and adore You.

Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name

Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You; We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You; We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

DONNA WHOBREY ADKINS 1976

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Almighty Lord, we praise You,
You've formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
You have given us skills, passions and abilities, for the building up of Your Kingdom.
We thank You for the Spirit who stirs in our hearts, who inspires creativity, compassion and courage,
And who unites us as one body with many parts.
May our lives be a witness to Your abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that too often we forget that every gift comes from You.
We rely on our own strength and judgement, and we hesitate to use our talents for Your purpose.
Forgive us for neglecting the calling of Your Spirit.
Renew in us the fire of Your Spirit, O Lord, Help us to use all that we are and all that we have,
for the good of others and the glory of Your name. Amen.

Hymn BP&W 282

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew;
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

EDWIN HATCH (1835-89)

BIBLE READING 1: Luke 11:1 & 5-13

BIBLE READING 2: 1 Corinthians 12:1-6; 2 Timothy 1:1-7

HYMN

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Move among us with holy fire, As we lay aside all earthly desires,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Let the breeze of Your presence blow,
That Your children here might truly know, how to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Please accomplish in us today Some new work of loving grace, we pray -
Unreservedly - have Your way. Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

CHRIS BOWATER © 1986 SOVEREIGN LIFESTYLE MUSIC.

Sermon 2 on the Holy Spirit Recap from week one

1. Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?

- He is the Third person of the Trinity – coequal with God the Father and God the son
- In the Old Testament he came upon people to give them power for a specific task
- In the New Testament He comes to live within us and empower us – a much deeper experience

2. The work of the Holy Spirit can be seen in three areas in our lives

- To bring us salvation, new birth, joining God's family – the start.
- To change us day by day to become more like Jesus, so the fruit of the Spirit can be seen more and more in our lives
- To equip us for service in the church and the world, through giving us His gifts, ministries and activities, as he chooses.

Today we are going to explore further the third area – how do we understand the gifts and ministries the spirit gives us.

We are from varied backgrounds and experience in our understanding of this – where are you?

- a. We live in a very materialistic world where science, technology etc have tended to push out any need or expectancy for the spiritual intervention of God. We can do it without him!
- b. We may have come from churches where the teaching we received denied any miraculous occurrences of the Spirit since the time of the first century – there was fear that any expression of spiritual gifts could be from a satanic source
- c. Or we may have come from a definite charismatic background where we have experienced the outward use of the gifts of the Spirit in our own lives and find it hard to understand those who are wary of such encounters

So how can we move together on our journey at Abbey Baptist church

1. Who is the giver of the gifts? If we know the giver we can trust the gift!

Luke 11.1 and 5-13 Math 7.7-11 The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray – after he has taught them what we know as the Lord's prayer he goes on to teach them through the story of the man who wouldn't give up asking his neighbour for bread at midnight. We are to do likewise- keep asking, seeking and knocking . Our heavenly Father will certainly give the Holy Spirit and good gifts to those who ask in such a way.

2. How do we know if the gift comes from God? 1 Corinthians 12. 1-6

Paul first says he does not want us to be ignorant about the way the Holy Spirit longs to equip us. His check on the source of the gift is whether, in the context of the gift, the person can truly say Jesus is LORD – does the expression of the gift give glory to Jesus – does it bring people to greater love and service for Jesus.

The passage carries on to describe three categories There are different kinds of **gift** – e.g. tongues, prophecy but the same Spirit, different kinds of **service** e.g. pastor, evangelist but the same Lord Jesus, different kinds of **working** e.g. administrator, helper but the same God. Here is the Trinity working in total harmony – none seeking glory for themselves but honouring each other.

Let's move on to look at a practical outworking of this teaching in the life of Timothy

Who was Timothy?

He lived in Asia Minor, at Lystra, where Paul visited in his first missionary journey. He returned there on his 2nd journey and found the young man Timothy well established in his faith. Paul asked him to come with him on his onward journey so he could train him in church planting. Timothy accompanied Paul on his remaining journeys and ended up leading the large group of churches around Ephesus, while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. It was from here that Paul wrote the two encouraging letters to Timothy we know as 1 and 2 Timothy.

But he also had some things to correct Timothy in his ministry.

1. He was instructed to rekindle his gifting or fan it into flame. What happens to a burning coal – it either dies down and goes out or it gets fanned and bursts into flame

Maybe you need to rekindle your gift or get your new gift on fire?

Is this passive waiting or active seeking and finding?? How do we keep our gift ablaze?

Use it!! But make sure you are developing a godly character

Learn to hear the Holy Spirit speaking and keep in step with his instructions

Don't grieve or quench the Spirit by disobedience or sin.

3. For you did not receive a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control

A spirit of fear What do we fear in this area? – rejection and misunderstanding – not being good enough -being used by satan - failure and looking a fool – having to do public speaking?

Paul calls it a spirit of fear – does it feel like a wheel-clamp – how can we get rid of it?

It is driven out as we look to Jesus and ask for the following.

A spirit of power – You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you Acts 1.8 You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear but the spirit of sonship Romans 8. 15

A spirit of love – perfect love casts out fear – 1 John 5 God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us Romans 5.5. We will learn much more about this outpouring of love.

A spirit of self-control – self-discipline – one of the fruits of the spirit - having the character that matches the gift. Becoming a stable mature believer – God calls us oaks of righteousness

So what have we learnt – God wants **all of us** to receive an outworking of the Holy Spirit for the blessing and upbuilding of the church. It is not about us but all for the glory of JESUS as we become his spotless bride ready for his return.

What is your gifting? Are you in full flame – the Spirit living in you like a living blazing fire?

Or **do you need to rekindle your gift** – the coals have died right down?

Or have you never known your gifting and are hungry today to ask God for that good gift he is longing to give you?

Let's stand and spend some time in God's presence reaching out for the Holy Spirit to speak to us and come upon us.

HYMN DANIEL IVERSON, 1929

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, Mould me, fill me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, Take control of me. Spirit of the living God, Take control of me.
Break me, melt me, Mould me, fill me. Spirit of the living God, Take control of me.

David Iverson

Intercession – Selina and Lam

HY Dear Father God,

We come before You with all our hearts to pray. We thank You for keeping us safe in the past week, and for calling us by Your Spirit to serve You willingly with the different gifts You have given us.

Lord, we pray for our country and our community here in Reading. Protect us from all kinds of burglaries, and anti-social behaviour. Inspire us to be peacemakers who contribute to the well-being of our neighbourhood. Please safeguard our Church in the town centre and strengthen our desire to reach out to those who are lost.

Holy Spirit, ignite our hearts with Your fire. Amen.

Lord, we pray for our church. Please send more people to hear Your Word—not only to listen, but to receive it deeply in their hearts. Teach us to care for one another, regardless of age, race, background, or status. Let true love and joy flow among us, and may no one feel forgotten or alone.

Holy Spirit, mould us into Your likeness. Amen.

Lord, we pray for peace and order in this troubled world. Wars and conflicts continue in many places. May Gaza find lasting peace; may the people of Ukraine live again without fear or attack. Grant wisdom and compassion to world leaders, that they may serve their people with justice and mercy rather than selfish ambition.

Holy Spirit, speak to world leaders. Amen.

We remember the Lam family today who visited us back in August – Ray and Emily, Micah, Talitha and Jonah, church planting in Hong Kong amongst the poor and also serving the poor worldwide with the organisation Crossroads.

Holy Spirit renew their strength today and fill them with joy in serving you. AMEN

MN MP 488

O Breath of GOD, come sweeping through us,
Revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of GOD, come, heal, renew us,
Prepare our hearts to meet this hour.

O Breath of love, come breathe within,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;

Then in Your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

Revive us, God! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, God, the world is waiting,
Help us go forth to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann Porter Head

BLESSING

Today, Lord, we dedicate ourselves to You.
Fill us anew with Your Spirit.
Use us as vessels of Your grace and instruments of Your peace.
Let us serve courageously and joyfully our Church.
May every act of service we offer,
Bring **Light** where there is darkness,
Hope where there is despair,
And **Love** where there is need.
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE GRACE

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore, Amen.



Events to highlight next week:

Wednesday 29th 10.30 Renew Wellbeing
Code for Financial Offering:

QR

12.15 Bible Study
2.00 iCaf 6

Thursday 30th 10.30 Toddlers
10.30 Bible Study
7.30 Men's Bible Study

Friday 31st 5.00 Table Tennis Club
7.00 Iranians Meal and Bible Study



Sunday 2nd Nov 10.30 **Worship with Communion**
From the miraculous to the mundane
(Examples of the gifts of the Spirit)
1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-16
Followed by Connect Groups and Coffee

Don't forget to book in for Saturday Nov 8th
– 9.30 – 1.00 Prayer ministry training
Book in with QR code or contact Simon



