

The Holy Spirit

God in Action!

At the beginning of 2015 we updated the Forefront values:

Seek God

Love Generously

Expect Transformation

But how can we fulfil them? Only with the help of God himself through his Holy Spirit, the person Jesus told us about before he ascended to heaven.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14.16-18

Jesus said he and the Father would send another person just like him to walk alongside us, to be our friend, helper, counsellor, comforter and advocate.

As we seek to be filled with him, we seek God in our lives. As the Spirit fills us, he gives us the fruit and gifts we need to love generously and to serve God through others. As we learn from him, the Spirit of Truth, we will see transformation in our lives and in others around us.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”

John 16.13-14



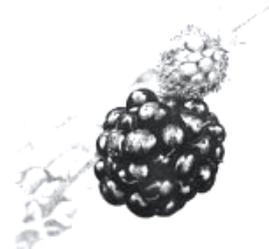
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Life by the Spirit

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8. 10-11



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Love	Joy
Peace	Forbearance
Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Gentleness
Self-control	

Seek God — Be filled with the Spirit!

In both the Old and New Testaments, we find passages which tell us the Holy Spirit changed people's lives.

From the creators of the Tabernacle, through Moses and David to the prophets; then from Jesus himself to the different apostles, we see God at work through his Spirit.

Sometimes the effect is wild and strange, as with David dancing and the Day of Pentecost.

At other times it is very sobering, as with Ezekiel, or Peter speaking to Ananias and Sapphira.

Then, in Ephesians, we are instructed to be 'filled with the Spirit'. But what does that mean?

Can we be filled with

God? If so, what will he do? What will be the results for us?

For the past 100 years, churches have often differed about the filling, baptism and gifts of the Spirit. Often, teaching has centred on personal experience, personality and culture.

Yet does the Triune God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, have greater purposes in mind?

Does he intend more than just our personal assurance and effectiveness?

By looking at the topic more widely, we may be able to see what they are, and how we may fit in.

Sunday 24th May

Keith Barnard

"Does God intend more than just our personal assurance and effectiveness?"

To prepare for this talk, please read:

Acts 2. 1-4;

Acts 4. 24-36;

Acts 13.49-52;

Ephesians 5.18-20



I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26,27

Love generously — The fruit of the Spirit

There are several ways to identify a tree: through its shape, its bark and its leaves, but the most convincing is from the fruit it bears.

Sunday 31st May
David Burfield

The same is true of the Christian. In John 13:35 Jesus identifies love as the distinguishing mark of the Christian.

It is not actually something we do, however, but rather something we are.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings us to Christ (John 3:5-8) and continues to live in us (Romans 8:5-11).

The consequence of the Spirit's life in us is that we bear fruit (Gal 5:22, 23).

In his first letter, John makes quite clear that the source of love is God because this is his essential nature; God is love (1 John 4:8, 16).

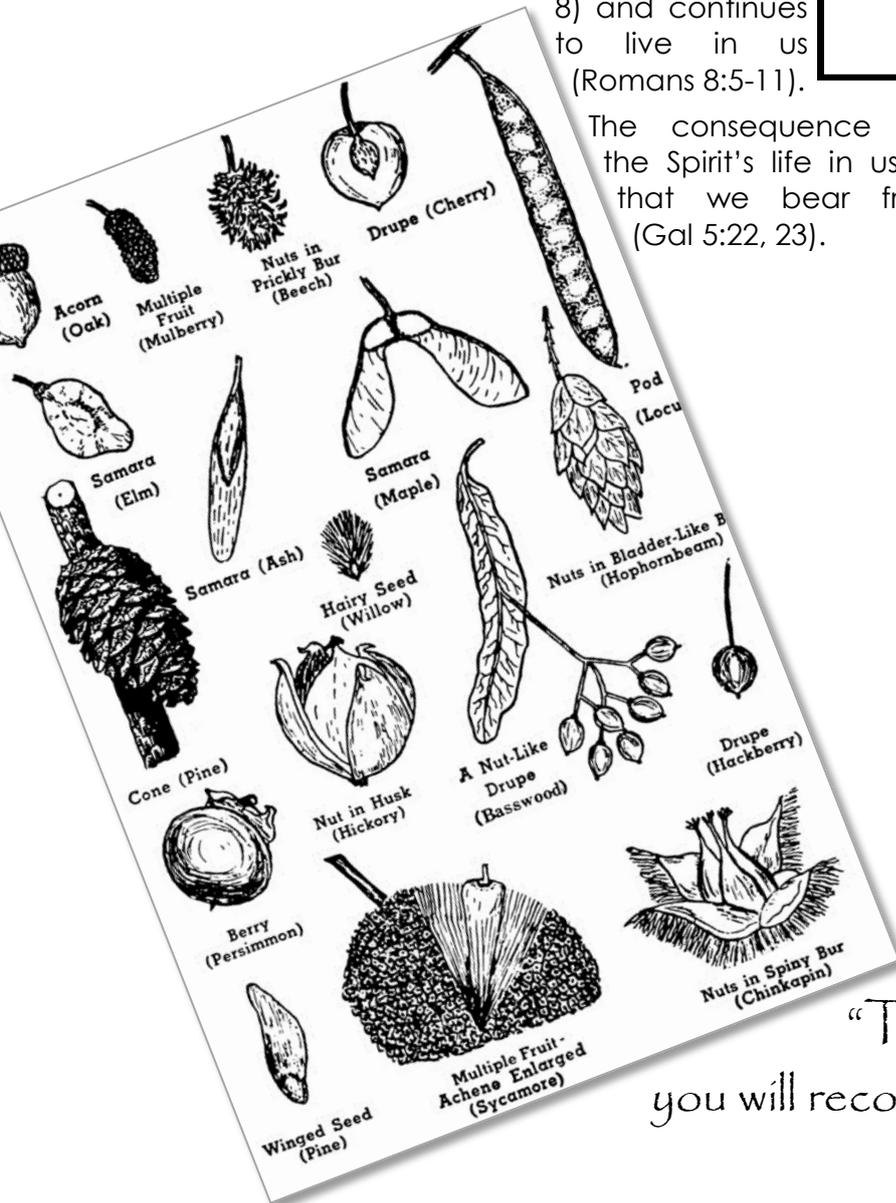
Our motivation to love comes from the Father's example of love (4:10, 11) but it is empowered by God (the Spirit) living in us (4:16).

"The consequence of the Spirit's life in us is that we bear fruit"

Consider: To love generously means to know God fully.

To prepare for this talk, please read:

1 John 4:1-21;
John 13:34,35;
Galatians 5:16-26



"Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them."

Matthew 7:20

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

Seek God – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

Love Generously – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

Expect transformation – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you feel moved to act on the things mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to pray with you. Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Community Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

Expect transformation— The Spirit of Truth

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

In his book *Renovation of the Heart* Dallas Willard says "Genuine transformation of the whole person into the goodness and power seen in Jesus remains the necessary goal of human life."

This is an incredibly challenging statement. How many of us struggle to see such a transformation as a reality in our day to day lives?

As we look at the process of transformation, we will consider why growing into Christlikeness is both essential and possible, regardless of how long we have been a Christian. We will consider some hindrances and some positive steps we can take to become more like Jesus.

In all of this we will focus on the vital role the Holy Spirit has in transforming us, our church and our community. Genuine transformation will never take place by human effort alone - it is always Christ at work in us. In this way, God gets the glory and not us!

Consider: What area of your life would you most like to see transformed? Commit it to the Holy Spirit and invite Him to work in you.

To prepare for this talk, please read:

John 16:5-15;

Romans 12:1,2;

2Corinthians 3:16-18

Sunday 7th June

Dave Sutcliffe

“Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.”

N T Wright, *Simply Christian*

“It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.”

Billy Graham

“There is no better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit.”

D L Moody

“The Holy Spirit is not a blessing from God. He is God.”

Colin Urquhart

“Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.”

Corrie Ten Boom

