

- **Read these two passages:**

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3: 16)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^{as} as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” (Acts 2: 1-13)

- **Stop – think – ponder – examine your own heart and mind**

As you think about these two passage are you filled up, amazed, on fire or just plain luke warm – where are you ? Try to be honest with one another!

- **Imagine yourself in that room as the H.S came to the disciples. How do you feel? Do you want to be a part of it, or withdraw? Why?**
- **What is your experience of the gifts of the Spirit, tongues, prophecy, dreams? Have you been ‘put off’ by experiences of people speaking in tongues or prophesying? Why do you think this has happened?**
- **Why do you think that some Christians think that those gifts are no longer given in the modern day church, when St Paul says, ‘Earnestly desire the spiritual gifts’.**
- **Discuss the quote from the neuro-surgeon who spoke to Dennis Bennett (recorded in his book, ‘Nine O’clock in the Morning’)**

‘You see, the speech centres dominate the brain. If they were yielded to God, then every other area would be affected too. He also said: Why shouldn’t God give me some additional words to use when I run out of words?’

- **Do we find it difficult to be passionate about our faith? Is it just not British?**
- **Passionate faith is not the same as extremism. What is the key for you to maintain your faith over the years and not become lukewarm?**

‘The work of the Spirit, then, is one of refinement and discernment. It is often willed acts of moderation or self-control that emerge out of passionate convictions, grace and love.’ See Galatians 5:22 on the fruits

‘The marks of the Spirit’s presence have always been the same: a new reality of God, a love for Jesus Christ, a hunger for the Scriptures, spontaneous joy and praise and witness, generous giving...’ (David Watson)

- **Finish by reading and praying through Luke 11: 9 -13**