

Guided by a cloud 49 (Exodus 13:21-22)

Last week we looked at Matthew 4 where the first verse states that the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. This was the same spirit that rested on Him at his baptism, the spirit that hovered over the waters at the dawn of creation and the spirit that has filled and anointed many people throughout biblical history and given them the strength and guidance they needed to carry out God's plan. We have an opportunity during lent to engage with God through his spirit. His spirit enables us to build our relationship with God, to share love, to share service and to be disciples.



Worship time

[Who breaks the power \(This is amazing grace\)](#)

[Yet not I but through Christ in me](#)

[Here I stand forgiven](#)

John 16:13 *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.*

It is through the Holy Spirit that God and Jesus communicate with us, and being led by the spirit is an invitation to become part of the union between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit being poured out on us is the power that transforms us. As we are led more by the spirit we become more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit takes what we believe and puts it into action. So we need to be aware of the Holy Spirit and, to the best of our ability, be guided by Him. Even Jesus needed time alone with the Father, an active time of prayer and fasting, to be more fully equipped to be able to fulfil His earthly mission and it was the spirit that led Him to do this.

One thing to help us be more engaged or led by the spirit is to ask for more! A simple three word prayer, Come Holy Spirit can open the door to Jesus. Perhaps through the rest of lent we could decide to say 'Come Holy Spirit' every morning and invite Him to be part of our day. Reading the bible is another way of interacting with the spirit. Ephesians 6:17 says that the sword of the spirit is the word of God, by reading scripture we become more tuned in to the word of God. The spirit will often guide us or speak to us through somebody else so interacting with other spirit filled people will help us. Finally we need to be bold, not only to ask for the Holy Spirit but when we feel the spirit prompting us to do something we need to act on it.

Romans 8:14-17 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

As we take communion this morning we can reflect on what it means to be a child of God and spend time in the presence of His Holy Spirit.

Let's pray: Father God help us to be like Jesus, to make a difference in the world that you have shared with us. When we are in the wilderness, help us to experience your presence and know that we too are attended by angels. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide us so that we can make a difference in your name.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7