

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Core Convictions: Spirit Empowered

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5

Date: 24th November 2024 (AM)

Introduction

For the next three weeks we will be looking at three of the six Core Convictions taken from the words of the Lord Jesus that we considered at our APCM in April 2024; in the new year we will consider the final three. These are convictions – discussed and shaped by the PCC and staff team – that characterise a healthy, biblical church and that we believe God is calling us to take to heart. They may be found on our church website at: <https://www.allsaintslindfield.org/about-us/core-convictions/> and are also on a display board under the tower at the west end of All Saints.

Spirit Empowered: We humbly depend on God's Spirit in His life-giving power in all we do.

Jesus said, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...' (Acts 1:8)

Read Isaiah 11:1-5

1. The 20th century Christian writer AW Tozer once suggested, 'If the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference'. What do you think about this? Is it possible to detect the evidence of the Spirit's presence in our lives and actions?
2. How is Christ a model for us in His dependence on the Holy Spirit? (See for example, Lk. 1:35; 3:21-22; 4:1-2; 4:16-21; 5:17; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 3:18).
3. In practical terms, what does it mean for us to depend on the Holy Spirit in all we do? Why do we so often depend on ourselves, not Him? How can we grow in our dependence on Him?
4. Have a go at learning **John 15:5** as a memory verse. What is (a) the warning and (b) the promise in this verse? During the week try to think and pray about this verse yourself and pray for your group members.

Pray for:

- A greater dependence on the Holy Spirit in all we do day to day individually at home or work, and as a church family
- Parliament as it votes on the Assisted Dying Bill on Friday
- Continue to remember in your prayers the growing tensions surrounding the war in Ukraine