

Sunday 14th June 2020

'Breath of God in a crisis of Suffocation'

Consider how breath is so essential to life and how, 'I can't breathe', has captured the suffocating experience of those who live under the oppression of racism and prejudice.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the effect of which is to deprive its victims of breath, what might God be saying to his Church in whom dwells the life-giving breath of His Spirit?

Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37 and reflect on the mission of the church, its life and witness and the hope it offers to a disjointed and fragmented world.

Their life together was:

1. **A place of learning Church (2:42)**. What new things are you learning about God, your faith, your purpose and what will help you to continue to learn more? Share how you are reading, studying, praying, listening?
2. **A place of unity (2:44, 4:32)**. There was a quality about their togetherness which had an impact on the community. In a time when we can't be physically together, what other ways can we express love (John 13:34) and unity?
3. **A place of worship (2:46)**. They were strengthened and equipped to meet the challenges of life because they had first met with God in worship in people's homes and in the Temple courts. Are you singing worship songs in your home whilst we can't meet for corporate worship? How important is worship in our Life Groups?
4. **A place of miracles (2:43)**. Signs and wonders were a regular feature. How might we see more of God's supernatural activity in our midst? Do you have a longing/expectation for this?
5. **A place of extravagant generosity (2:44, 4:32)**. They had an intense feeling of responsibility for one another which overflowed in a spirit of generosity. In what ways could we be described as a generous church and where might we increase in generosity? Are you precious about your possessions (car, home, things?) or are they available to be shared?
6. **A place of celebration (2:47)**. They worshipped with glad and sincere hearts praising God. By focussing on their life together, growth happened spontaneously. God, the evangelist added to their number DAILY!

Looking at these 6 characteristics, which one do you need to grow in?

Pray together that we might be inspired by the life of the Spirit changing and transforming the early followers of Jesus as the breath of God's life is breathed upon them. Pray that you may too have the breath of God filling you anew today.

Pray for the up coming Alpha on line course and who you might invite.