1. The Spirit had been promised. We see that in Peter’s quoting from the prophecy in Joel and we heard it just before Jesus went to be with his Father at the Ascension, which we looked at last weekend. A gift was promised, a guide, a counsellor, a friend, and God delivered on that promise. God delivers on His promises. He promises new life, forgiveness, mercy, that we will be loved and given power to show his love to other people and when God promises he always delivers. It’s not like human promises which sometimes get kept and sometimes broken. This is our loving Heavenly Father We can trust Him.
2. When the mighty rushing wind went through the house, they saw tongues of fire over each other’s heads (that must have been a mad few moments) and they began being understandable in the languages of the people of various nationalities who were visiting Jerusalem it might have looked rather silly, but Peter seems very quickly to have recognised what was happening and been able to call to mind the prophecy from Joel. So he puts the people who are mocking the disciples straight and goes on to preach one of the most powerful sermons ever preached. 3000 people turned to God that day. And why? Because Peter preached a powerful word? Perhaps. But also because those who became followers of Jesus that day saw evidence of the love and power of God before their eyes. Remember, this is Peter who only recently had been restored by Jesus and told ‘you’re the rock I’ll build my family on’. During the years Jesus had been teaching and preparing the disciples to be his witnesses in the whole of the world, Peter had obviously been listening. When the Spirit was ‘poured out on all flesh’ and everyone began to prophesy, he knew what was going on and stood up and boldly spoke the truth to those listening. We say we want to see God moving and changing lives now, in this generation. We need to spend time listening and learning, understanding who God is, how he speaks and what he does. God is always doing things, the Spirit has been poured out on all flesh. We need to have opened eyes and ask Him to set our hearts on fire and learn to recognise God at work, point people to Him and leave him and I truly believe we will see many people added to our number.
3. The question that is asked later in Acts 2 remains just as meaningful today as it was on the first Pentecost: **37**When the people heard [all of] this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

**38**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” This is it, the whole deal. In the moments of uncertainty and desperation we all face at one point or another and many of us are facing even now, when we come to the point of asking ‘what shall we do’ the answer is the same for us as it has been for more than two thousand years. Turn away from sin, turn away from the past with all its failures and turn to Jesus Christ. There is power in the name of Jesus to forgive us and free us, to forgive you and free you. If we turn to Jesus and are baptised we will receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Not might. Will. It is for us, those who we teach and who follow us and ‘all who are far off’. Some of us have done this, but we’ve maybe forgotten God’s promise to be with us, that the Spirit is the seal of His promise of eternal life. Don’t be discouraged, remember God is with you, for you and He will lead you home.

So many are ‘far off’ but there is a way back for them, and us. There is a route home into God for all who turn to Him. It’s our job to show God to others, to point to Him. When we do it’s not our own strength or power that we need, it is the power and the grace of God.

As we’ve prayed this weekend, I bet there has been at least one person who has come in to your mind. Someone maybe who isn’t a Christian, or someone who is struggling. I believe God is putting that person on your heart. Pray for them and watch what God does.

Anyone watching this morning; God knows what you need. He hears you. He wants to be with you, to send the Spirit to be in your life and help and guide you, whether you’re living through good days or bad. Turn to Him, hold on to Him and trust Him, today. And just wait for what will happen next.

Amen