



Dear Church Family,

From Letting Go to Being Filled – A 10-Day Journey of Prayer

We would love to invite you into something more profound — a special 10-day journey of prayer and reflection from **Ascension Day (Thursday, 29 May)** to **Pentecost Sunday (8 June)**.

This is more than a devotional. It's a time to **pause, reflect, and realign** — letting go of what we expected, embracing what God has entrusted to us, and being filled afresh with His Spirit.

Brother Gil Lilly and I have prepared daily materials to guide you, whether you're on your own, with a friend, or meeting in a small group. We're calling this journey: **"From Letting Go to Being Filled."**

We encourage you to use this for your daily devotions or even gather with others and take this opportunity to deepen your prayer and fellowship.

Our nation needs an **Ascension moment** again — a moment when our hope, faith, and love are no longer tied to fleeting headlines or broken systems, but are grounded in the One who transcends time and space: **Jesus, the Alpha and Omega**. Our nation also needs a **Pentecost moment**—where fear transforms into courage, hiding gives way to boldness, confusion turns into clarity, and weakness is changed into Spirit-empowered strength.

Let's step into these ten days with **open hands and hearts — letting go, and being filled**.

To mark the beginning and end of this journey, we will meet for two special gatherings at the church:



Ascension Gathering – Thursday, 29 May at 8:00 pm



Pentecost Celebration – Sunday, 8 June at 7:30 pm

The devotional will be available: on the church website, via email, and also in printed form (on request)

With love and expectation, in Christ Jesus

Eder Ferraz & Gil Lilly

PBC 10-Day Devotional from Ascension to Pentecost

From Letting Go to Being Filled

Letting go, embracing what has been entrusted to us,
and actively seeking the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Day 1 – Letting Go of the Dream

Scripture: “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” — Acts 1:6

Reflection:

On the morning Jesus rose from the dead, he spoke about His ascension. He was talking to Mary Magdalene, who, when she recognised Him, called Him “*Rabboni*” (my Teacher), and apparently grabbed hold of Him. But Jesus said, “Don’t cling to me, for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father” (John 20:17, NLT). His resurrection didn’t mean Mary could go back to the life she had known as His student. She had to let go and move forward.

So did the eleven. They had invested three years of their lives following Jesus, recognising Him as the Messiah, and learning about His Kingdom. So you can understand their enthusiasm to see His Kingdom triumph now that Jesus had risen from the dead. But, despite all that Jesus had taught them, they still imagined a political and earthly kingdom. They had to let that go. Jesus’ plan was deeper and grander. We often hold onto our limited visions of how God ‘should’ work in our lives. The ascension of Jesus beckons us to release them and embrace His greater purposes.

Letting go means trusting that His plan is better than we could imagine.

Prayer:

Father, help me release my own limited expectations of You. Open my eyes to Your greater purposes, and give me the courage to trust Your will above my own. Amen.

Day 2 – The Kingdom is Bigger Than You Think

Scripture: “It is not for you to know the times or dates... But you will receive power...”
Acts 1:7-8

Reflection:

“*Hosanna*” – “Lord, save!” The people’s shouts on Palm Sunday were the expression of hope that the Jewish Messiah would come and set up His own Kingdom to remove the oppression and disgrace of Roman occupation. In the two thousand years since then, there have been moments – a new millennium, a significant political change, a natural disaster – that have caused people to wonder how long the world will last, and to speculate about Jesus coming back (as he promised he would).

Jesus dealt with that in advance when he said, “It is not for you to know the times or dates...” He redirected the disciples’ focus—and ours—from earthly expectations to divine empowerment. Our timelines (for the return of Christ) or plans (for how to make the Church prosper) do not define, control, limit, or engineer the kingdom of God. It is about His power being poured out into the lives of disciples to fulfil His mission, to reach beyond boundaries and borders. We must let go of our limitations and step into the expansive mission God has entrusted to us, filled with the power of His Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Lord, expand my heart to see the scope of Your kingdom. Fill me with Your power so I can participate in what You are doing beyond my understanding. Amen.

Day 3 – Ascension: He Is Not Gone, He Is Ruling

Scripture: “He was taken up before their very eyes...” — Acts 1:9

Reflection:

Luke uses the words “eyes” and “sight” in this verse to stress what the disciples saw. But what they saw doesn’t tell the whole story of what was happening. Jesus didn’t merely go “up” to sit on a cloud somewhere. He went beyond the earthbound existence he had shared with us for thirty years, returning to the unseen but very real heavenly dimension. Paul says God seated Jesus “at His right hand in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 1:20) ... it’s a place of authority where “God placed all things under his feet... for the church” (Ephesians 1:22) and God has “seated us with him in the heavenly realms”. (Ephesians 2:6)

So Jesus’s ascension isn’t about His absence but about His enthronement. Jesus has ascended to reign, and the Holy Spirit has been sent in His place. This means He is still present, ruling from heaven through His Spirit in us. We need to stop looking up and longing for His return, and instead look around to see His work in and through us. He is ruling now. He calls us to be part of that.

Prayer:

King Jesus, thank You for Your reign. Help me to live in the reality of Your present rule, knowing that You are with me by Your Spirit. Amen.

Day 4 – Stop Looking Up—Start Living Out

Scripture: “Why do you stand here looking into the sky?” — Acts 1:11

Reflection:

How many times did they need to be told? In the weeks since he rose from the dead, Jesus had talked about the challenges of following Him and engaging in His mission (Matthew 28:18-21; John 20:21-23; John 21:18-19). And still, when he ascended, they were staring after Him into heaven.

The angels rebuked the disciples for staring at the sky when they were called to action. Getting stuck looking for signs or waiting for God to reveal something new is easy, but we must live out the Great Commission. Jesus has ascended, but the mission remains. The Holy Spirit empowers us to move forward and engage in God’s work on earth. How many times do we need to be told?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, fill me with a sense of urgency and purpose. Help me stop looking for signs and start living out the mission You entrusted me with. Amen.

Day 5 – Waiting with Purpose

Scripture: “They all joined together constantly in prayer...” — Acts 1:14

Reflection:

In the context of the US Civil Rights movement, Martin Luther King wrote, “ ‘Wait’ has almost always meant ‘Never’ ”. The same thing could also be said about missions. It’s easy to delay doing things that take us out of our comfort zone. However, in following Jesus, waiting and action are a rhythm, like breathing in and out. They are both necessary, and both need purpose... Action without purpose leads to the squandering of energy and resources. Waiting without purpose amounts to mere procrastination.

The disciples waited with one purpose: to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Waiting is not passive; it’s an active pursuit of God. Prayer, worship, and unity prepared their hearts to receive God’s power. In the waiting seasons of life, we may be tempted to fill the void with distractions. However, faithful waiting focuses on God’s timing and trusts His provision of the Spirit.

We can’t avoid that waiting. Action needs both purpose and power. The power only comes through purposeful, prayerful waiting.

Prayer:

Lord, in my waiting, teach me to seek You with purpose. Help me to use this time to grow closer to You and prepare for the outpouring of Your Spirit. Amen.

Day 6 – From Loss to Leadership

Scripture: “Let another take his place of leadership.” — Acts 1:20

Reflection:

The story of Judas Iscariot is one of the most tragic stories in the Bible. This was a man called by Jesus, shown grace, given responsibility, and engaged in supernatural ministry, but ultimately destroyed by greed and deception. For the other eleven disciples, the sense of shock, sadness and disappointment must have been immense.

However, even in the loss of Judas, God’s plan remained unthwarted. The disciples had to let go of the betrayal and disappointment, trusting that God would raise leaders to continue His work. We may experience loss or disappointment in our lives, but from our struggles, God can birth new gifts and opportunities and raise new leaders.

Letting go of the past with its pain and its security makes room for God to do new things.

Prayer:

God, help me to trust You in times of loss and disappointment. Raise leaders within Your Church and use me to fulfil Your purposes, even in difficult seasons. Amen.

Day 7 – Room for the Unexpected

Scripture: “They cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias.” — Acts 1:26

Reflection:

It seems odd to us that such an essential decision as appointing a new Apostle should be made by something like the throw of a dice. But casting lots was a common way of discerning God’s will in the Old Testament. The mysterious *Urim* and *Thummim* that were part of the High Priest’s regalia seem to have been effectively a form of casting lots. This was a way in which God could reveal His will, and it was done along with prayer and the exercise of human discernment.

So choosing Matthias was an act of faith in God’s leading, not the disciples’ preferences. We often try to control or predict how God will work, but He chooses whom He will use in unexpected ways. We must relinquish our limited expectations of who God will use— and how. His ways are higher than ours, and His choices are always perfect.

This is the last mention of ‘Casting Lots’ in the Bible. On the other side of Pentecost, we should expect the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will through each one of us in community. For us as for Moses, God wants to speak to us “as a man speaks to his friends” (Exodus 33:11).

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust Your choices and not my own. I surrender my expectations to You, knowing that Your plans are always greater than mine. Amen.

Day 8 – When the Day Came

Scripture: “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”
Acts 2:1

Reflection:

The Jewish Passover began with the offering of a sheaf of barley, the first fruits of the promised land. Pentecost marked the end of the barley harvest, fifty days later. (The word ‘Pentecost’ comes from the Greek word for fifty.) The theme of ‘harvest’ links the Jewish festivals of Passover and Pentecost. So the coming of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost – fifty days after the death of Jesus – equips God’s people for the Kingdom Harvest that Jesus made possible by His death on the Cross.

So Pentecost wasn’t a random day—it was the fulfilment of God’s promise. The Holy Spirit came on a day that was already marked in the Jewish calendar, and it was God’s perfect timing.

When we are gathered together in unity, in expectation, and prayer, we create space for the Holy Spirit to move in us and through us. Pentecost reminds us that God works in His timing, not ours.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your perfect timing. Help me to wait in unity with others, expecting the outpouring of Your Spirit in our lives and communities. Amen.

Day 9 – The Wind and the Fire

Scripture: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” — Acts 2:4

Reflection:

The Holy Spirit came with wind and fire—symbols of power and transformation, signs of God being present and at work. But in the Old Testament, close encounters with the Wind and Fire of God were reserved for the few: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Ezekiel. However, when the Spirit came at Pentecost, they all heard the wind, they were all touched with the fire, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

So the Spirit comes to all of us. He doesn't come to leave us unchanged. He empowers us, refines us, and equips us for our mission. If we genuinely want the Spirit to fill us, we must be ready for change, transformation, and boldness. The Spirit's power is not merely a passive influence; when He comes, He ignites us to act—everyone of us.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your wind and fire. Ignite my heart for Your mission and empower me to live out Your calling boldly. Amen.

Day 10 – This Promise is for You

Scripture: “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off...” Acts 2:39

Reflection:

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not just for a few – for ‘them’ and for ‘then’. It is for all believers, across generations, and for all time. That's the baseline, the drumbeat: Good News going to the ends of the earth (Luke 24:47); Jesus with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20); people hearing and responding to a transforming, saving message in their own languages. Even the leaders of this new movement were remarkable for their ordinariness.

God's Spirit is available to every follower of Christ. Letting go of our need to control the outcomes in our lives allows us to embrace the limitless power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's work through us. The promise is for you, today.

Prayer:

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for Your promise to fill all believers. I receive Your presence in my life and ask that You empower me to fulfil Your mission. Amen.