

Mid-week Reflection for week commencing 25th April 2021.

Alive in the Spirit

Romans 8:26-9:5, 11:1-12

This week's readings from Romans are full of strong confident statements about God and yet at the same time reflect Paul's inner turmoil as he wrestles with the different dimensions that the Spirit brings to the life of faith. That wonderful set of eight verses that run from 8:31-39, trumpeting that nothing, absolutely nothing separates us from the Love of God.

There is an unfaltering certainty in the mercy and compassion of God that extends to all. Within and without Israel, among Jew and Gentile, the Spirit is at work. No one is excluded. All will come together grafted by the Spirit into one people of God. Paul is not only bold but excited that God's Spirit is at work across all people. The activity of God is not confined!

Let us pray

Living Lord, your creative spirit made all that is from nothing.

Loving Lord, you came to this earth in Jesus that we might hear your word, feel your touch and be one with you and each other.

Lord Jesus you have conquered sin and death for all people. You have removed the barrier of sin that separates us from you and each other yet your church is divided and distracted. We speak of the church as a building forgetting it is the movement of your spirit. Forgive us. We act with timidity, but you have given us the spirit of power. Forgive us.

We remain divided when you bid us unite and be grafted into one. Forgive us.

Help us to be open to your spirit, sensitive to your prompting, confident in your leading. Strengthen us that we might display your power in our lives and your love be our hallmark. Enable us to draw strength from the history of faith and learn from those who have gone before us. Amen

Meditation

Paul speaks with anguish in his heart for the people of Israel. (Romans 9:1)

How would you describe your feelings towards those who don't know Jesus?

How can you reassure people that God's mercy is sufficient for the day?

Are there times when you feel alone? God wants to remind you his spirit and his power are within and without.

