

# “Sometimes we need a Poke!”

Sometimes we need ‘a poke’, the sort that is intended when we hear the words ‘come on’, ‘get on with it’, ‘just do it’. Was this what Paul had in mind when in 2 Timothy 1:6 he says, “*I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands?*” The Message says, “*Keep that gift ablaze*” and the NIV, “*Fan into flame the gift of God*”

It is so easy to become passive and dull, for our zeal and love to die down, for the fire to be almost out. Paul is reminding Timothy of when he received the gifts of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands, challenging him to be bold, not timid, to apply the power and activity of the Holy Spirit in situations that need supernatural rather than human resources.

Are we doing this or do we need a prod? I hear of believers who are allowing fear and the circumstances of life to overwhelm them. Romans 8:35 - 37 states that in spite of trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness and danger, we are more than conquerors through Christ and nothing can separate us from the His love. If God is for us, in us, with us, who can be against us?

Joseph of Arimathea demonstrates his courage and willingness to act, when in Mark 15:43 he steps away from his colleagues in the Jewish Council, and goes to the already irate Pilate and asks for the body of Jesus. Not easy to be a lone voice among the angry and baying crowd. He is asking for the body of a criminal, a traitor, who has received capital punishment; he is not even a relative and has no claim. In the Message it suggests that he has already purchased the linen burial cloth in the anticipation and faith that his request will be granted. He acts with integrity, boldness and faith when others have cowered in fear and hopelessness.

So, let me stir you to faith and good works - to get the ‘fire of God’ burning in you, causing you to rise out of passivity into action. (Hebrews 10:24)



## Joyce writes:

### How?

- By making sure that your connection with Father and Son by the Holy Spirit’s enabling is firmly in place.
- By not leaning on human resources - expect heaven to act on your requests.
- Ask yourself questions e.g ‘What does the Lord want in this situation?’
- Choose to receive wisdom from the Holy Spirit and expect God to do what His Word declares.

Proverbs 1:23-24 in The Message says, “*Look, I’m ready to pour out my Spirit on you; I’m ready to tell you all I know....but you have turned a deaf ear!*”

The enemy’s strategy is to cut you off from your heavenly resources, sometimes through shame, condemnation and lies; sometimes through self sufficiency, pride and independence. Once isolated, you become vulnerable - so check your connection and ask God to ignite you into flame and then watch Him work through you.

## FROM THE DIARY ~ key dates in the coming months

Sunday 1st April - Charles preaching at Wrington URC

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th April - with the leadership and church at Highway Christian Church, Marsh Gibbon, Oxfordshire

April 29th April - Joyce preaching at Wrington URC

Friday 11th May to Sunday 14th May - Souls Weekend with Beth Barone in Frankfurt, Germany

Monday 28th May - Day with Gbile and Sade Akanni

Sunday 3rd June - Don Double preaching at Living Waters Church

Wednesday 4th July to Friday 6th July - Joyce at Ladies Retreat in Worcester

Friday 28th Sept to Sunday 30th Sept - Souls Weekend in Frankfurt, Germany