

**Sermon Topic:** Amazed & Perplexed by Ps David Ho  
**Scripture Text:** Acts 2:1-13

On the day of Pentecost, the people reacted with:

- Bewilderment
- Utterly Amazed
- Amazed & Perplexed
  - What does this mean for us?

### **Define Charismatic?**

Charis – means grace, kindness and life

Charismata (plural) – Someone endowed with the gifts (God wants to give us gifts to serve him and serve the people)

The people of God are all charismatic, people endowed with the gifts and grace of God to serve Him, through the spirit of God.

In the Old Testament, when people worship God they dance, clap, jump, cry – This is the traditional way of worship.

All Christians are charismatic, to move with God in the gifts of God.

### **Define Aldersgate?**

- A street in London where John Wesley attended a group meeting reluctantly. But when he was at the meeting, his heart was strangely warmed, while listening to Luther's Preface to Book of Romans.
- A place of encounter.

### **John Wesley's Charismatic Encounters**

Many people were offended at the cries of those whom the power of God came. Among those was a physician, who was much afraid there might be fraud or imposture in the case.

- John Wesley saw someone he knew breaking out into strong tears and other outward expression.
- While we can only see the outward expressions, we don't know the inward work that God does inside the person.

### **Amazed and Perplexed!**

Question: Why are we perplexed?

1. Ignorance
  - a. Never seen before
  - b. Don't understand, not familiar
  - c. Confused
  - d. Not in control, not within your understanding. The natural reaction is fear and to be perplexed
  
2. Bad experience
  - a. Wrong association – Eg. Taoist people when they practise they are shaking, for new Christians when they come to church and see people being manifested by the Holy Spirit and their bodies shake that wrong association creates uncertainty and anxiety.

- i. We are body and soul, our mind and body are intertwined. When we encounter God and the Spirit visits us, we react and our body reacts with our soul too. We shake, cry, laugh that is our natural reaction.
  - ii. What we see is the external manifestation, but what we don't see is God's work inside of us.
3. Wrong teaching
  - a Not biblical
  - b From both sides – eg. If you don't speak in tongues you are not a Christian

### **What are we Missing?**

Many Christians are missing out on the gift that the Holy Spirit wants to give us to be servant of God, to serve others. How many of us look through the bible to see what the Holy Spirit is to gift us. But what we do is to continue our usual ways, *biscuit and water*.

- The more gifted we are, the more servant we have to be.

### **The Holy Spirit Helps Believers**

1. To bring us to salvation
  - a. He brings conviction
  - b. He produces conversion and regeneration – your conversion can only be by the Holy Spirit, from the inside out.
  - c. He liberates us from the power of sin and death
  - d. He gives us an inward assurance of salvation
2. To give us power to live a holy life
  - a. He guides us into all truth – When you read the bible, the Holy Spirit speaks to you.
  - b. He teaches us all things
  - c. To give us power for service
  - d. He empowers our prayers – sometimes you are so desperate and you don't know how to pray. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us to help us pray and communicate to God.
  - e. He inspires praise and worship – we are free to worship the Lord when we are soaked in the presence of God.
  - f. He produces in us the fruit of the Spirit. – He makes us different. Only the Spirit of God can transform us and gift us the fruits of the Spirit.

### **Conclusion**

Should we be amazed: YES! The works of God and the journey with God should constantly amazes us.

Should we be perplexed: NO! We need to ask God for more of Him, for more of His presence in our life (Luke 11: 9-13)

