# Connect Study    Pentecost Sunday 31st May 2020   Ps Jonathan Mok

**The Outpouring of The Holy Spirit**

The book of Acts, the chronicle of the early church is also the story of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. It is also to record of the empowerment of the apostles and the early church by the Holy Spirit. It is the declaration of fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel quoted in Acts 2:17. Read it for yourself.

The New Testament from here on demonstrates the things done and taught by the apostles, by the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

There is a story in Acts 24 :24-25 about a conversation Paul had with Felix, the governor when he was a prisoner on his way to Rome. He reasoned with him about “*righteousness, and self-control and judgment to come”.*

Paul dealt in serious subjects, so the inclusion of “self-control” seems a strange one. The believers would have heard about the Fruit of the Spirit from Paul’s letter to the Galatians (5: 22), one fruit of which was “self-control”.

Paul’s second letter to the Timothy in 2 Tim. 1:6 and 7, urge him to both “*fan into* *flames the spiritual gift”* and a reminder that “*God has not given him a spirit of* *fear but of power, love and self-control.”* They seem inextricably linked.

The fruit are the character traits that the Holy Spirit grows in us.  They are the points in our character that will hold the gifts of the Spirit.

Self-control is one of the fruits. It is hard work to stay disciplined, but we are encouraged to do all things that God wants us to, and to use His precious gifts most effectively. This requires self-discipline. Paul said in Colossians 1:29 that he” works very hard at this as I depend on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.” (Or as another version says, to agonises with all his energy by the Holy Spirit, or in the ESV version,

***9****For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me*

So let the Holy Spirit grow this fruit in you.  Be fierce about pursuing it, as He wants to grow it in us. We need it. Receive it by faith as you do His great gift of salvation.

**Discuss how you could do this in your connect group. Take small steps. Break it down to something realistic and practical. (Suggest for Connect Pastor to read p.136 Mature Partners – “Facts about maturity)**

**If you are a disciplined type, share your secrets!**