

# Wendy's June Prayer Thoughts

There is an extensive panorama to be seen from Beacon Hill Upholland, especially on a clear day. The Pennines form the backcloth to the east, the Welsh mountains to the west. Looking northward, the sun illuminates the River Mersey, as it meets the horizon. I sat on a form which was sheltered from the wind, and watched the tree branches gently swaying to and fro. Remembering what I had learned in physics, wind comes from the power of the sun's heat on the land. Air in the warm region rises, and air from the cooler regions rushes in to replace it, becoming air currents - wind. Strange, although there are signs of the presence and pressure of the wind, it is invisible to the eye.

Musing over this, I looked straight ahead. Fiddlers Ferry Power Station at Widnes with its eight concrete cooling towers was dominating the low lying ground. It is one of the last coal fired plants in our country, and had been made redundant in March 2020. Its higher chimney, standing idle, was no longer belching pollution out into the atmosphere. Plans for demolition must have been held up with the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. Rising nearer the hill is a giant wind turbine plant, standing on farm land, harvesting wind for energy. It is producing electricity as the three white blades spin up to 200mph on a giant shaft, connected to the generator.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He promised His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and it did whilst they were praying. Acts 2. "Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force - no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building" MSG. Moreover, more importantly, it filled the soul of each disciple with its energising power. "And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit. Amp V. The Holy Spirit lives in us. Paul wanted the Corinthians to be aware of this when he wrote, "Don't you realise that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit?" 1 Cor: 6:19. **One of the most important functions of the Holy Spirit is to give prayer power, winging our prayers to the very throne of God.** That is why it is good to invoke the Holy Spirit in three hallowed words, as we prepare to pray. **"Come Holy Spirit."** Then, before we pour out any other words, allow the Spirit to still our hearts and our minds.

Come Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes God personal to us, by reminding us as we pray, of our special relationship with Him through the sacrificial death of Christ. We are His sons and daughters. Paul gives us the proof of this by saying, "You can all be sure that you are really adopted as his own children, because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out 'Papa (Abba) Father.'" Galatians 4:6.MSG. Amazing! We have the privilege of intimate conversation with God, and can access Him in utter dependence, just as Jesus did saying, 'Father.' The Holy Spirit gives us confidence to approach God in His holiness, His wisdom, and His love. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to empower us. He is able to help us, for he has the mind of God. Look carefully at what Paul said when he was speaking about the present hard times and the glory to come. "God's Spirit is right alongside us helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us better than we know ourselves." Romans 8:26-27. MSG. How we need the Holy Spirit to speak prayers through us, to guide us in what we should be concentrating on, be it adoration, confession, supplication, intercession.

The presence of the Holy Spirit with his energising power in our lives actually strengthens our faith, through our praying. That is why prayer is vital to our spiritual well being. Martin Luther, the great Reformer, said, "If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith." The same fire was experienced when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples at Pentecost. "Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." Acts 2:3. NRSV. Jude in verses 20-21 writes, "But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in the most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying at the centre of God's love." MSG. The Holy Spirit builds up our faith by keeping us in God's love, ensuring we seek His will. **Come Holy Spirit.**

Many of St Augustine's prayers can inspire us today. I quote one which he prayed to the Holy Spirit.

Breathe on me, O, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may be holy.  
Act in me, O, Holy Spirit, that  
my work too, may be holy.  
Strengthen me, O, Holy Spirit,  
to defend all that is holy.  
Guard me,  
O, Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.  
Amen