



16th June 2019

Passionately Pursue the Holy Spirit

With 4 teenagers in our house, I've well and truly arrived at that point in life where I wonder about their futures. Thoughts about further education, careers, life choices and future partners all swim through my mind. I sometimes joke with my teenage daughters that I'm going to arrange their marriages for them. They're not so keen.

I know in some cultures arranged marriages are normal and perhaps they work well, but I don't think it will happen in our house. The thought that a marriage could be simply a business transaction is so foreign to our culture. I'm pretty sure if/when my girls get married, they want to be in a healthy and loving relationship rather than just a commercial arrangement.

Imagine if marriage was simply a list of things 2 people do for each other? You do these things and I'll do these things. You keep up your end of the contract and I'll keep mine. It really doesn't seem like a fulfilling and life giving arrangement. And that's because God's plan for marriage is more than a contract, it's a relationship! A relationship described in the Bible as a "one-flesh" relationship. Where two people become and live as one unified body.

Last Sunday I encouraged us to pursue a relationship with the Holy Spirit, which may have seemed like a new idea for some people. My worry is that I've seen many people in churches treat the person of the Holy Spirit as a thing to be used rather than a person to be known. Some see the Spirit as a *power* to turn on when needed, or a *force* to be manipulated, or even as a *feeling* or *experience* to be sought after. Sometimes we try and use the Holy Spirit more like a business arrangement rather than enter into relationship with Him.

As Christians, God has given us His Spirit to dwell in us and live through us as we allow Him to have His way in our lives. We talk about having a relationship with God but it is by His Spirit that this relationship happens. I wonder what might happen if, rather than just pursuing what the Spirit can DO for us, we passionately pursued a relationship WITH Him, walking with Him moment by moment, day by day. Imagine if we passionately pursued the person of the Spirit more than just the power or the gifts of the Spirit. The truth is when we have the relationship we will get the power, gifts, feelings and experiences that He brings.

"...because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:5

We acknowledge that the land we meet on is the traditional lands for the Kurna people.

CREATE - After School Activity Club

Tuesday's 3.30-5.30pm
@Playford Uniting Church
Call Nick : 0402 808 744

Chaplaincy Fundraiser

Toy Story 4 - Gawler Cinema
Monday June 24, 7pm for 7.30 start
Tickets: Adults & Kids \$13
Available from PUC Office

LIVE LIFE LOUD - UNTAMED

VIBE Youth - Yr 7-12

Friday June 21st

Travelling to SEEDS UC
Leaving from PUC @ 5.30pm
Returning to PUC @ 10.30pm

Bring \$\$ for Canteen

Food, games, face paint, worship
Guest Speaker : Sam Long

Contact Henry for details - 0434050360

UPCOMING SERIES

- JONAH -

"A Story of Passionate Pursuit"

Sunday June 16th: Pete Riggs

Jonah 1 - God Calls & Jonah Runs

Sunday June 23rd: Pete Riggs

Jonah 2 - Jonah Prays & God Hears

Sunday June 30th: Leanne Davis

Jonah 3 - Jonah Preaches & Nineveh Repents

Sunday July 7th: Ryan Windle

Jonah 4 - God Saves & Jonah Sulks

Last Weeks Sermon

- By Henry Rouse

"[Passionately Pursue the Holy Spirit](#)"

or go to <http://playford.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/>

Playford Uniting Church

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A people **Awakened** by the Spirit, **Moving** in our Communities, **Cultivating** Hope and **Transforming** Futures.