

## **Bible Readings Week 230 - w/c 4/4/21**

**Monday: Acts 8:1-25.** When Peter and John laid hands on them to receive the Spirit, something obvious happened - "saw" something take place (v18). Pentecostals affirm that what probably occurred was that they spoke in tongues, but one thing is clear: you cannot be filled with the Spirit without an obvious outward experience that you and everyone else can see. Have you been filled with the Spirit? Ask God to fill you afresh today!

**Tuesday: Job 11:1-20.** Some of what Zophar says here is true. Where he goes wrong is to assume that Job's suffering is due to personal sin, and he becomes judgemental instead of supportive, directive instead of encouraging. Are you in danger of making wrong assumptions when people struggle spiritually or physically? Are you judgemental? Pray for those you know who are suffering today.

**Wednesday: Ezra 4:1-24.** Verse 24 reveals that the work on the temple was stopped until 520BC – a period of 15 years. No doubt the Jews in Jerusalem were praying for a change but it took 15 years to come about. How do you respond when prayer is not answered at all or not answered quickly? Do you see prayer as a way of getting things from God or as something else?

**Thursday: Proverbs 27:18-27.** Verse 21 really suggests that God uses praise (as well as criticism) as a way of refining our character. How do you respond to praise? Do you accept it gratefully, or dismiss it as untrue? Do you get your sense of value from what others say about you, or how much they recognise your efforts? Do you need to change your response?

**Friday: Micah 6:1-16.** Verse 8 is often quoted, and is an Old Testament paraphrase of the teaching of Jesus to love God and our neighbour. How well are you doing when it comes to humility before God? What about loving mercy and acting fairly towards others?

**Weekend: 1 John 4:1-21** Verse 20 is a real challenge to us that our love for God has to be demonstrated in a practical love for other people. Write down everything this chapter tells us about love and ask God to help you live it out in your life.