

## **AS ONE AT 10** - 17 June 2020 - Welcome

Good Morning Everyone.

I wonder if any of you have discovered new hobbies over the last few months, or taken time to learn new skills.

In our household, Adrian has discovered that gardening is not something he detests (as he has throughout our married life), but something that has become surprisingly enjoyable.



He has built a raised bed, and planted a selection of veggies which he has been checking on daily. As the first shoots of onions, carrots, and one lonely beetroot have pushed through the earth he has celebrated his success (so far) and continued to care daily for all that is growing.

The first thing Adrian did after he had built his raised bed was to order a book of instructions to help him get the best out of his baby plants and he has been dipping in and out of it ever since trying to work out how to enable his veggies to flourish. But the book alone has not been enough. Every day, Adrian has watered his plants, giving them a good soaking to encourage their roots to grow deep and strong and their shoots to be drawn towards the sun.

I have heard the Word of God described as God's instruction book for the Christian. Frankly, I believe it is far more than that, but there is no doubt that if we want to grow in maturity, in Christ likeness we need to not just dip in and out of it, but to immerse ourselves in it, to discover Jesus in its pages and take guidance from Him as to how to grow and flourish as his people. But that alone is not enough – As we choose to imbed ourselves in God's living and active word we need His powerful Holy Spirit to reveal to us more of Jesus, teach us about Him, convict us of our need of Him and grow us in confidence to reach others for Him.

Just as Adrian need his book on growing veg and to water his plants, so we need to immerse ourselves in the Word of God and allow His spirit to regularly douse us and enable us to grow and flourish. We won't mature and grow without both His word and his spirit.

This morning Tim is going to begin another series of talks which begin to look at the values of our church, beginning with the centrality of keeping God's Word and the life of His Spirit as central to all we are and all we do as a church family.

Let's pray this morning that as we worship, pray and open God's word together we would grow in maturity as His spirit filled children.

PRAY:

Jesus says to his disciples in John's Gospel that "The Words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life."

Father God. We thank you that Your Word and the words of Jesus Himself are life giving, and are full your spirit. As we meet with you this morning, please grow us in maturity that we might become more like your son and know that life that you offer as we grow up in our salvation and serve you wholeheartedly in the days and weeks ahead. Amen