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IN NEED OF A MAKEOVER

We were made in the image of God, so that we might reflect the moral character of God. We were created to know him, to love him and to show who he is to others. But it hasn't always worked out like that. Deep down most of us are aware that we have lost our first innocence. The mirror has darkened; the once clear pool is dirtied; the fine vase now has a crack in it. We recognise that we are not what we could or should be. We are in need of a makeover and it is the mission of God to do just that.

Who is God? We might say he is the great giver. He has given his Son on our behalf. He has given his Spirit so that we might be made whole again. His ultimate purpose for us is nothing less than to restore the divine image of his son in us.

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2Cor3:18)

That he would pour out his Spirit on his people is the great promise of God. No wonder there was such indescribable joy when the Spirit came down on the praying disciples at Pentecost.

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people...
And everyone who callson the name of the Lord will be saved. (Acts2:17,21)*

What are the marks of the Spirit? Among them are love, joy, power, re-orientating our mind, softening our heart, a hunger for God's word, a conviction of our wrong-doing. In short, the Spirit makes us to be like Jesus in all sorts of ways.

Do we have to strive to receive the Spirit? No, the Spirit is given through faith in the gospel. It comes as we call on his name.

Like the tax collector we need do no more than pray: 'Lord be merciful to me a sinner'. Like the prodigal son we need to make the simple choice to get up and go home to our Father.

Our prayer might be: 'empower me to live for you, for I am too weak in myself. Heal me for I am sick in my inner being. Bless me for I dare not go forward without your blessing. Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me. Lord Jesus, conquer this well-defended heart and make me yours. Spirit of God, fill me with life divine. I believe lord, help my unbelief.'

Even in a lockdown we may be blessed of God!