



## Knox Presbyterian Church

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*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

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Greetings and Blessings,

Little by little Jesus was revealing himself. From the shepherds, to the wisemen, to the disciples at the wedding in Cana, and now in Galilee. Luke reports in chapter 4 how after his wilderness time of testing he returned to Galilee, 'powerful in the Spirit.' He came to Nazareth and on the Sabbath went to the meeting place where he was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to read. "God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, 'This is God's year to act!'"

These are not the usual ways we think of powerful action. Preaching, announcing, speaking. The power of the Spirit is not a violent, aggressive kind of power. Indeed it comes in forms that we might not usually think of as powerful at all. In Galatians 5 (22-23) we read that it also described as "the fruit of the Spirit" suggesting aspects seldom seen in the usual sense of power. These include such traits as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, goodness and self control." Because God has real authority and real power, he can afford to be gentle. Human power on the other hand is often tainted with uncertainty, even fear. As a result all patience and gentleness cease to exist.

Because Jesus was totally "in the power of the Spirit," his teaching was new and different from any other teacher, before, during or since his time. Indeed as he continued his teaching in Capernaum it is reported that the people were "surprised and impressed – his teaching was so forthright, so confident, so authoritative, not the quibbling and quoting they were used to." And that teaching is available to us. The gospels are filled with Jesus' teaching. How great is that! All we need to do is to open our bibles to find the most unique and important teachings of all time.

Teachings bathed in love.

Teachings preparing us for kingdom living.

Teachings that open the door to all eternity.

Teachings straight from God. Jesus opened the way, the truth and the life.

Amen

(Rev.) John McGurrin

