**Friday 28th August**

2 Corinthians 1: 21, 22

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

We’ve talked already over the past weeks about the need to stand firm in a world which is full of uncertainty. And here Paul reminds us that even for just standing, we are not left to do it in our own strength, but this ability is gifted to us by God – he makes us stand firm. In the verses prior, Paul has been reminding the Corinthians about the unshakeable promises of God. It’s not always easy to continue to hold on to God’s promises when our circumstances seem to be going in the opposite direction. We need His help to stand firm and trust that He will come through. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to persevere. The Holy Spirit resident in the heart of a believer acts a down payment, as a constant reminder of all that God has for us, of all the good that is to come. He also enables us to do the impossible! We are anointed! That means that we have been chosen, that we are equipped and that we have authority. Wow!

*Dear Father, we thank you so much that we can trust your promises, and that you enable us to stand firm. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, for your guarantee of all that is to come. And thank you for your anointing – help us to walk in the fullness of that anointing. Increase in us we pray. In Jesus Name. Amen*

