



X2

The other week, Avril, Martin and I took ourselves off on a dreary Friday night in Kettering up to the multiplex to see X2, the second instalment of the X-Men series... I'd just been watching the first one on Sky a couple of nights before, so the plot was fresh in my mind, and I was fairly hyped up, expecting loads of proper action scenes with a nice bit of plot development. Avril and Martin weren't especially overawed by the film, and I have to confess that in parts it left me feeling a bit robbed of my £6.50, but it was, in general, a decent enough night out...

The plot extends from the first film (although you don't have to have seen the first one to understand most of it) - set sometime in the near future, human development has progressed to the next level, causing a new breed of 'mutants', with special (and sometimes devastating) powers. Whilst the first X-Adventure focussed on in-fighting between 'good' and 'evil' tribes of mutants, X2 switches its attention to the ongoing misunderstanding between humans and mutants.

What kinda buzzed me, though, about the film was the idea of special gifting that these 'mutants' had. In the car on the way home, we started comparing which mutants we would most like to have the powers of and it got me thinking about some of

the gifts that the X-Men have... am I diggin' the mind-exploring Xavier, or am I a bit more of a fire-starting Pyro?

Sorry to keep on bashing everyone over the head about Pentecost, but it also got me thinking about the way in which each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit - I started thinking about the gifts that the Spirit bears in my life and in the lives of those around me. What cool talents and 'humble' gifts do my friends have that I could ask the Holy Spirit for more of in my life? A bit more tidiness? More time to listen? More generosity with my money?

And what hardcore gifts do I need more of? At the time of my

Confirmation, I really focussed on 'Wisdom', but since then, life's become a little more crazy, and I could well do with some 'Right Judgment', mixed in with some 'Courage' to have the guts to make difficult decisions. And let's not forget all those other mental gifts that Paul talks about in his first letter to the Corinthians (chapter 12) - how excellent would it be to be able to be a channel for miracles in my mates' lives, so that they might experience the Love of God that I know?

The awesome thing about the plot of X2, though, is that our heroes need to use all of their gifts together, in order to overcome the challenges that



befall them. In the same way, we read in the New Testament over and over again that together, we're like a 'body', which needs all its parts to work properly. So next time I'm whining about people who are far too sensible or tidy or organised, or whatever, maybe I should remember that we need all these different gifts to work our way together through life!

So... the long and the short of it is that it's gifting time here. And unlike our mutated friends of X2, we don't have to suffer massive radiation or surgery to claim these gifts. The Holy Spirit's longing to pour out gifts on each one of us, and we simply need to ask, wait and to push on through. So, c'mon then... you getting in on this or what? It's really simple...

Holy Spirit, thank you for that Pentecost day when you came down to bless those who believe in Jesus. And thanks that you're still blessing those who believe in Jesus. I invite you now to come and bring all your gifts more and more into my life, so that I can continue to believe in Jesus and share your love with all my mates. Help me to recognise your gifts in other people, and to want to spend more time with you. Amen.