

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-41

PW Emerson – 06/09/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

Today is an incredible day in the history of Christianity. We call it Pentecost. It's when the Holy Spirit came down to be with Jesus' disciples.

After Jesus had risen from the dead, he told them that God would send the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Another place where Jesus alludes to the coming of the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

And Jesus goes on to say what would happen when the Holy Spirit comes

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

He is talking to his disciples.

If you and I are disciples of Christ, then he is talking to us too!

The Holy Spirit is meant for us too!

Before we look at Pentecost, we should ask ourselves ...

What was the mood prior to the arrival to the Holy Spirit?

What were the disciples doing?

Luke 24:50-53

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

They were joyful, praising God at the temple.

I want to read you the piece that talks about when the Holy Spirit came.

It may be a little long, but it's important to get the feel of what happened.

Acts 2:1-41

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

²²"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you

through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

³⁵until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.'"

³⁶"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Holy Spirit came and immediately the disciples start boldly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, that salvation comes through Jesus.

And it was so powerful that 3000 became believers that day!

Remember ... the guy preaching, Peter, was the one who denied Jesus 3 times the night before he was killed.

What brought about such a powerful change? THE HOLY SPIRIT!

We need to notice a few things

FIRST ...

Verse 1

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

They were all together. There was UNITY

King David wrote ...

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

UNITY is good

The Apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament

Romans 15:5-6

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to **be of the same mind with one another** according to Christ Jesus, so that **with one accord you may with one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People accomplish so much more when they work together!

The story is told that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, changed his view about church division after a dream in which he was first transported to the gates of Hell. He asked, "Are there any Presbyterians here?" "Yes," was the reply. "Any Roman Catholics?" "Yes." "Any Congregationalists?" "Yes." He hesitated, and then said, "Not any Methodists, I hope!" To his dismay the answer was "Yes." Suddenly in his dream he stood at the gate of Heaven. Once again he asked, "Are there any Presbyterians here?" "No," was the reply. "Any Roman Catholics?" "No." "Any Congregationalists?" "No." Then he asked the question which most interested him: "Are there any Methodists here?" He was shocked to receive the same stern reply, "No!" "Well then," he asked in surprise, "please tell me who IS in Heaven?" "CHRISTIANS!" was the jubilant answer.

From that dream Wesley determined that unity was essential to the church's success in her mission.

Something else we see with the Holy Spirit is BOLDNESS

In Acts 2 it is clear that Peter is speaking with BOLDNESS!

Many wonder why they experience so little in the Christian life. It's because they haven't been filled with the Spirit.

Most churches are only doing what they can do. They don't experience anything that cannot be explained or attributed to their effort.

God's work is evident because it is so beyond our ability.

That's why we when set goals for outreach events, we're not setting goals that seem

- A little better than last time ... so we can see growth and be happy

We pray and ask God. We want to set God sized goals!

And we expect them to happen!

- Oil change outreach
- Thanksgiving Baskets

With everything!

Image a spirit filled church

- Reaching out to more and more people
- Putting beliefs into action CARING for people
- Bring people, friends, to church
- Seeing more and more baptisms

THAT's what it takes to grow the church!

There's one more important thought I want to highlight

The Holy Spirit Is meant for ALL OF US

The direction in Pentecost is meant for ALL OF US

Acts 2:37-39

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children **and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.**"

The promise of the Holy Spirit us for YOU!

Earlier when I said to image a spirit filled church ... - that means you and me being spirit filled and responding to God's call!

I read about a preacher who wanted to impact South Korea for Jesus Christ. So he started a church in his friend's living room. One of the parishioners was paralyzed. And so one Sunday, the pastor went over to her, laid hands on her and prayed fervently. And she was healed! This got people in the community excited. And they started flocking to the new church in droves. Pretty soon, they outgrew the living room. So they put up a tent in the front lawn and had services out there. But soon enough, that got too crowded. And they built a church. By the mid 1960s, they had 3000 people. But one day, as the pastor was baptizing several hundred people, he collapsed to the ground in exhaustion. He was rushed to the hospital where he had major surgery. And while he was sitting in bed reading the Bible, he came across a verse that moved his heart:

Exodus 18:18

You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

The next day, the pastor called the elders and deacons. And put each one in charge of a certain number of people. After the pastor did this, the church exploded with growth! Thousands of people gave their lives to Christ. By 1972, there were 10,000 members. By 1979, there were 100,000; by 1984, 400,000; and today, there are almost 800,000 members of the Yoido Full Gospel Church making it the largest congregation on planet earth. They support 85 missionaries from their own church. And they have planted new churches in 39 countries. This is truly one of the most incredible stories in church history.

Something equally incredible happened 2000 years ago. On the day of Pentecost a small group gathered for prayer. The power of the Holy Spirit was present. They praised the Lord. Peter preached the word. Thousands got saved. And the church was born.

You want to do something great for God?

- Don't wait for Zack to come to you about the oil change, go to Zack and ask what you can do to help!
- We've got a rummage sale & bake sale this coming Saturday. Sign up to help!
- Pray to God on what he want you to do for the kingdom!
- Be bold!
- Go out on a limb for God!
- Ask God – what do you want me to do for you?

Conclusion

Because of what happened at the first Pentecost roughly 2000 years ago, it is regarded as the birth of the Christian church.

But one thing to remember is that we are LIVING in this era now!

- Christ rose & ascended into heaven
- The Holy Spirit came down to be with the people
- Christ has not yet returned

We're still living in that season today.

Romans 8:5

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Being filled with the Spirit is not just an experience for the Apostles, the early church or a select few. It is for anyone who desires God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength and loves their neighbor as themselves.

There is a church in our country that celebrates Pentecost by the ushers handing each person a bright red carnation as they enter church;

The carnations symbolizing the festive spirit of the day.

- The people listened attentively to the reading of the Pentecost story from the Acts of the Apostles
- About how the disciples had heard “what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven”;
- About how the Holy Spirit had appeared “like tongues of fire.”

Then came the sermon:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,” the preacher began. “Like the powerful wind from heaven!” shouted a woman sitting in the first pew. Then she threw one of the red carnations toward the altar.

The preacher began again: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.” The same woman’s voice rang out again, “Like the tongues of fire, the tongues of fire!” Again, she threw a red carnation toward the altar.

The preacher looked straight at her and said, “Now throw your purse.”

To which the woman replied, “Preacher, you have just calmed the wind and put out the fire.”

The Spirit of God is within us.

How far are we willing to go;

Are we willing to go where the Spirit of God leads us?