

TITLE: When the Day of Pentecost Came

TEXT: Acts 2:1-13

In the last few weeks AS WE HAVE STUDIED ACTS THE MESSAGE DRAWN FROM THE TEXT has developed into a case for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in the believers life

In that time we have seen the following premises arise

PREMISE 1.

The Power promised the church in acts 1:8 and Luke 24:49 is an experience of power beyond salvation.

PREMISE 2. The promise that the disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8) and that they would be clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49) was a promise given for a purpose, namely to sustain the completion of world evangelization,

PREMISE 3. The task of world evangelization is not yet complete.

MY CONCLUSION:.

God's promise is for us today

Available today

Needed today

And essential if we are ever going to see the world won for Jesus Christ

ILLUS:

The late Dr. A. W. Tozer, author and pastor, said,

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference.

If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

You see

The church of the New Testament was a

Spirit Filled,
Spirit Empowered,
Spirit Baptized Church

It is a Given

I contend that

**The modern Church cannot afford to be anything less than a
Spirit Filled,
Spirit Empowered,
and Spirit Baptized Church**

The Bottom Line is this

**Jesus would not let His disciples go out into the world until they were all
filled with the Holy Spirit,**

**so how could we even think to do His work today without being full of
the Holy Spirit too?**

SO let me ask you...

Have you been seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit since you believed?

Have you been asking God for the promise to be fulfilled in your life?

Have you desired to be endued with power from on High?

He wants you to have it

But you must WANT

PRAYER

There is a view of History that suggests

That from time to time, God has moved in extraordinary ways

Bringing decisive breakthroughs for the gospel

Each time these events occurred it was in conjunction with people
Opening their hearts to the Lord and receiving power from on high

Jonathan Edwards, the leader of the Great Awakening in this country
put it like this: 200 years ago

From the fall of man to our day,
The work of redemption in its effect has mainly been carried on by
extraordinary communications of the Spirit of God.
The way in which the greatest things have been done towards carrying on
this work, always have been by remarkable effusions (i.e. outpourings), at
special seasons of mercy.
(A History of Redemption, Works, Vol 1, p 539)

These times have been called times of revival
or awakening
or reformation.

It is as though God arbitrarily moved here and there through History pouring
out his mercy and revival

And causing us to wish that he would do so again in our day

I have a problem with this perspective though

You see I contend that the Day of Pentecost was the great outpouring
And that revival was poured out on that day has not stopped

You see, I believe the Holy Spirit remains outpoured, even now

So that All the power we need was provided on that day

I believe that there is a river of revival flowing and that ...

What happened in history, when the church had revival, is that they
awakened to this reality and became empowered by receiving what was
waiting for them all along

As we come to our text this morning

I want to make some observations and view some examples of what God
desires to do here, and through you

Acts 2:1

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

Let's begin with the word

1. "PENTECOST":

Why did Jesus choose PENTECOST as the day when he would pour out his Spirit on the disciples?

There are **two possible reasons**,

ONE MAY BE that it was a Jewish holiday and there would be a lot of pilgrims in Jerusalem from across the known world.

Pentecost was one of the three Jewish feasts that called for a pilgrimage to the Holy City.

It got its name, Pentecost (fiftieth), from the fact that it took place 50 days after Passover.

SECONDLY HE MAY have chosen PENTECOST because It was a feast of harvest.

That's what it is called in Exodus 23:16

Exodus 23:16

"Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field.

In other words there may have been a symbolic significance

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is an extraordinary power meant for witness and world evangelization.

And that is exactly what happened

It was **a feast of harvest in Jerusalem**, and on this very day, Jesus poured out the Spirit

and 3,000 people are harvested from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.

Either answer suits me

PENTECOST

I identify with this word Pentecost
I even call myself a Pentecostal

Why do I call myself a Pentecostal? – Is it Because I speak in tongues...NO!

It is because I desire God in such a way as to expect every gift and every grace that was present in the first century
To be present in the church now..

It is because I live in, long for, and expect the power of God in my life and this church every time we meet for services.

Why do I call myself a Pentecostal

Because I expect the moving of the Holy Spirit in the giving of Spiritual gifts Like

TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION
PROPHECY
HEALING
MIRACLES
KNOWLEDGE
WISDOM AND
DISCERNMENT

For me being a Pentecostal is to regularly respond to the word of God at the alter and to Permit the spirit access to the deepest recesses of my being
THAT I MIGHT BE CHANGED

To be a Pentecostal Christian
Should mean that we are hungry and thirsty for nothing less then a full-fledged experience with God.

And Because I know and experience Christ I can effectively

- Oppose worldliness
- Suppress the flesh
- Rebuke the devil
- Defeat the enemy's strongholds
- Bring the gospel to the ends of the earth

And live a holy life in the strength of his Holy Presence in ME....

To be a Pentecostal Christian

Is to be willing to be expanded by God

To daily submit my will to his that I might bear the fruit of the spirit in my life toward all mankind

LIKE: LOVE JOY PEACE PATIENCE KINDNESS TEMPERANCE
MEEKNESS SELF CONTROL

To be a Pentecostal Christian Is to worship God in spirit and in truth in Known and unknown languages.

Bottom Line

Some people confuse the word Pentecostal /

with Tongues.

The truth is Pentecostal is really Identified with POWER

I thank God today That I am a Pentecostal Christian

And I hope and pray that you will receive this power also...

Lets Move to verse 2

I want you to notice the word "suddenly":

2. SUDDENLY

Acts 2:2

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

I focus on this word to drive home the point that the Holy Spirit **is free and sovereign** and not bound to anyone's **timing or technique** for how to get his power.

We seek after,
His Indwelling Presence

Pray continually to be filled.

But we cannot make the Spirit come.

He loves
And he serves.
But he keeps his own hours.
He knows what is best for us.

The word Suddenly is *afno* which means unexpectedly or not when you expect it.

I have known people to seek for some time before they are filled

That's why, If you have not received and you know it, then I want you to start seeking – and keep seeking

You need power and God wants you to have it

MANY PEOPLE PRAY ONCE AND THEN GIVE UP – THAT'S A MISTAKE

There is a wonderful Christian pastor named Bill Hybels – who sought for the Baptism for some time, then he went to soul Korea to the great AG church there and when he had David Yongi Cho pray for Him he expected to receive but he did not so he said to himself “I guess God does not want me to have this gift” and stopped seeking...

History records the life of Smith Wigglesworth one of the great Pentecostal Preachers of the last century.

Wigglesworth was a hungry man who desired to be filled with all God had for Him, so when he heard about Pentecostal Happenings in England He decided to Go and receive what ever God had for Him.

While Wigglesworth was on his way he heard reports that what was occurring was demonic, but nothing could deter him from receiving power especially the experience of speaking in other tongues.

When he arrived he pressed members of the revival for a demonstration of tongues, he was told that he needed the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This offended Wigglesworth, because he believed he had already received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as an act of sanctification.

He spent 4 days seeking God and packed to leave disappointed that he had not received tongues.

Before he left, the evangelist's wife asked if she could pray for him to receive the Holy Spirit.

Wigglesworth agreed - He reported " The power of God fell upon my Body with such ecstasy of joy that I could not satisfy the joy within with my natural tongue, then I found the Spirit speaking through me in other tongues."

Wigglesworth left the revival a changed man,

AS HE PUT IT, 'One time I thought I had the Holy Ghost. Now I know the Holy Ghost has me.'

He prayed and he sought.

But he did not make the Spirit come.

The Spirit came in his own good time to a heart that was ready

To a heart that was open

To a heart that was seeking

Next, notice the wind and the fire in verses 2 and 3:

3. WIND and FIRE

Acts 2:2-3

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

At times the Holy Spirit makes himself known with visible, audible, touchable manifestations.

In the Old Testament there was the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

At Jesus' baptism there was the dove.
In Acts 4 the building shakes.

In chapter six Stephen's face was like the face of an angel.

In chapter 16 there is an earthquake.

VIDEO.....

At times the Spirit gives us visible, audible, touchable demonstrations of his presence and power.

Why he does this for some and not others,
and at some times and not other times is part of his sovereign wisdom.

We can say this

He is not fire.
He is not wind.
He is not a dove.
He is not a warm glow.

So he will not use these manifestations in a way that allows us to confuse him with them.

He is free.

But when he pleases,

THERE MAY BE FIRE AND THERE MAY BE SOUND.

But I do believe that there is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit that accompanies the Baptism in the Holy Spirit every time he is poured out into the life of the believer

John White, a missionary and author, tells us of his experience of the Spirit's manifestation:

On one occasion it was as I prayed with the elders and deacons in my home. I had tried to teach them what worship was . . . We then turned to prayer. Perhaps partly to be a model to them I began to express worship, conscious of the poverty of my words.

Then suddenly (note the word!) I saw in front of me a column of flame of about two feet in width. It seemed to arise from beneath the floor and to pass through the ceiling of the room. I knew -- without being told -- knew by some infallible kind of knowing that transcended the use of my intellect that I was in the presence of the God of holiness.

In stunned amazement I watched a rising column of flames in our own living room, while my brothers remained with their heads quietly bowed and their eyes closed. . .

I felt that I was in the presence of reality and that my brothers were asleep. For years afterward I never spoke of the incident. The others who were present could not have perceived the blend of stark terror and joy that threatened to sweep me away. How could I live and see what I saw?

Garbled words of love and of worship tumbled out of my mouth as I struggled to hang on to my self-control. I was no longer trying to worship; worship was undoing me, pulling me apart. And to be pulled apart was both terrifying and full of glory.

(When the Spirit Comes with Power, p. 87-88)

This is what happened to the disciples in Acts 2

**AND I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHENEVER
SOMEONE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM HOLY SPIRIT**

They were filled with an overwhelming sense of the presence of God.

Until that moment we can imagine them praying and rejoicing that God was with them -- he was right there in that very room.

How did they know it?

The Bible told them so. Just the way we know so many wonderful things:
"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Then suddenly something happens that utterly transforms their knowledge of God's presence into the experience of God's presence.

They see fire on each other's heads and they hear a loud wind.

And they are filled not merely with a **deductive certainty** of God's present reality,

but with an experiential certainty based on the extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The fire begins to burn in their hearts

Just as it had on the Emmaus Road
Luke 24:32

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

And the sound of the wind surrounds them and envelops them with the tokens of God's power.

And they are simply overwhelmed with the greatness of God.

And it begins to spill out in praise.

Like John White, "Garbled words of love and of worship tumbled out of my mouth"

It was such a powerful experience that some people said they are drunk (v. 13).

The flames on their heads had set fire to the knowledge of God, and turned it into passion.

And the violence and loudness of the wind had drowned out all the puny voices of doubt and uncertainty.

And so every remnant of timidity and hesitancy and weakness is swallowed up in the experience of God's greatness.

And a tremendous boldness and courage and zeal was unleashed as they gave witness to the greatness of God.

That's the essence of the fullness (or the baptism in 1:4-5) that they received -- an overwhelming experience of the greatness of God and a spilling over in courageous, passionate praise and witness.

I have one last observation from the text.

And it is a caution to us.

In verse 12 the demonstration of God's power caused amazement and perplexity among everyone.

4. AMAZEMENT AND PERPLEXITY

The perplexity gave way to two very different responses.

Some seriously asked, "**What does this mean?**" Others (in verse 13) mocked and leaped to a naturalistic explanation: "They are filled with new wine."

This is the caution: whenever revival comes –

Whenever the Holy Spirit is poured out in extraordinary power –

This division happens in the Christian community.

Some genuinely inquire as to what this is, and test all things, and hold fast to what is good.

Others stand outside and mock and write off the enthusiasm as merely human, "They are filled with new wine."

ORIt is just emotionalism

As I look around I see people in the first stages of a genuine, widespread awakening in our community

There is a desire to pray

There is a desire that the heavens would open

That the Spirit would come

and revive his church

The Day of Pentecost Came 2000 years ago and it is here right now this morning

We are moving ever closer to God's will

Join in

Dive in

The water is fine