

I. 2010 Pentecost

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- II. (Acts 2 NIV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. {2} 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. {4} All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. {5} Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. {6} When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. {7} Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? {8} Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? {9} Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, {10} Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome {11} (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"
- III. Fred Craddock joined the faculty at Emory when I was I Seminary. He tells a funny story about a lecture he was giving on the West Coast speaking at a seminary. Just before the first lecture, one of the students stood up and said, "Before you speak, I need to know if you are Pentecostal." The room grew silent. Craddock said he looked around for the Dean of the seminary! He was nowhere to be found. The student continued with his quiz right in front of everybody. Craddock was taken aback, and so he said, "Do you mean do I belong to the Pentecostal Church?" He said, "No, I mean are you Pentecostal?" Craddock said, "Are you asking me if I am charismatic?" the student said, "I am asking you if you are Pentecostal." Craddock said, "Do you want to know if I speak in tongues?" He said, "I want to know if you are Pentecostal." Craddock said, "I don't know what your question is." The student said, "Obviously, you are not Pentecostal." He left.
- A. From time to time I am asked is CrossRoad Pentecostal, am I a Pentecostal.
- B. Pentecost means 50th. The Jews celebrated the Feast of Fruits and 50 days after that was Pentecost. The Feast of First Fruits started the day after Passover. It began on Sunday the day after the Jewish Sabbath.
- C. Keep in mind that Jesus rose from the dead on that Sunday after Passover.
- D. It was on Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred and what has become known as the day that the Church of Jesus Christ was actually birthed.
- E. Is the church supposed to use the word Pentecost only as a noun or can it be used as an adjective?
- F. There are denominations founded on the assumption that they are Pentecostal and some are founded on the fact that they are not.
- G. In spite of the division and misunderstandings, we should not settle for the word simply to be a noun, to represent a date, a place, an event in the history of the church, refuse for it to be simply a memory, an item, something back there somewhere.
- H. In spite of the misunderstandings and misuses we should insist that the word is an adjective; it describes the church. The word, then, is "Pentecostal."
- I. If the church is alive in the world it can't help but be Pentecostal. And you thought we were Methodist!
- J. It is strange that Christmas and Easter are the days that most people associate with Christianity. This event, however, is probably more important to the actual life of the individual believer and to the Church.
- K. How do we keep this aliveness, this fire burning, this spirit moving? What must exist in us, around us, and through us, if we are to be Pentecostal?
- L. Today I want to look at three things that happened on that Day
- IV. The Outpouring
- A. After Jesus' death and resurrection, he had appeared a few times to the disciples.
- B. About 120 had been gathering, and as we read at the beginning of the service (*Acts 2:1 NIV*) *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

- C. While they gathered the sound of wind filled the room, tongues of fire appeared above their heads, the Holy Spirit filled them and they began to speak in a variety of foreign languages.
- D. Jews from every nation had gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover.
- E. Apparently the room they were in was open enough to the public, perhaps the sound of the wind caught their attention or the tongues of flame, but whatever, those gathered came near enough to hear them "*declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!*"
- F. I think we have to be clear that the manifestation on the day of Pentecost was so that the people gathered that day could hear the Gospel in their own language.
- G. The New Testament describes another manifestation of Tongues that happens in a believer's life that is used for personal prayer and praise and when spoken publicly needs an interpretation.
- H. I like what Lloyd Ogilvie writes, "It is helpful to think of what happened on Pentecost as a miracle and what later happened to believers as a gift."

V. The Proclamation

- A. *{12} Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" {13} Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." {14} Then 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. {15} These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! I wonder what would have happened if the people hadn't started to make fun of what happened.*
- B. At any rate, Peter didn't think it was funny, nor was it logical. Frankly it was absurd. People didn't drink before 9 in the morning, we haven't even had breakfast.
- C. Whatever prompted Peter; he took the microphone and not only responded to the absurdity, but also began to tell the story of Jesus Christ.
- D. *{16} No, 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. {18} Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. {19} I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. {20} The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. {21} And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' {22} "Men of Israel, 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. {23} This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. {24} But 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. {25} David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. {26} Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, {27} because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. {28} You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' {29} "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. {30} But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. {31} Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. {32} God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. {33} Exalted 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. {34} For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand {35} until 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 Christ." Peter's extemporaneous sermon is probably a product of the Holy Spirit's outpouring.*
1. An uneducated former fisherman, without a lot of public speaking experience Rocks the House.

2. He ties in Prophecy, References Israel's first King David, and proclaims Jesus as the Eternal King and Lord of Lords.
3. He proclaims the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and connects it with the Manifestations of the Holy Spirit that they have just witnessed!

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

F.As a result of the preaching the people were as Acts records *CUT TO THE HEART*.

G.Seizing the moment {38} *Peter 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. {39} The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." {40} With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." {41} Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

H.Pretty amazing response to your first message. 3,000 repent and accept Jesus as the Son of God, Savior of the world.

I.I like how Ogilvie describes the message of the Gospel: Their sins were both spiritual and moral. The word for sin, *hamartia*, means to miss the mark, and it also is used to describe separation from God. The sins we perform are the result of this separation from the sovereignty and guidance of God. The thrust of Peter's challenge is, "You've missed God's offer of salvation in Christ; you are separated from Him, and you are missing the purpose for which you were born and made a part of God's chosen people. What can you do about it? Change your mind! Turn around. Admit your separation from the Lord. Confess the dissoluteness of the direction of your life!"

J.{39} *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

K.God allowed a group of people to speak to people from many nations to let them know that they are not *FAR*, but through Jesus they can be brought near to God.

VI. The Results

VII. {42} They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. {43} Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. {44} All the believers were together and had everything in common. {45} Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. {46} Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, {47} praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

A.I have heard of a few occasions where the Holy Spirit has empowered people to speak in other languages supernaturally to proclaim the Good News about Jesus Christ, but I am not sure that is to be the lasting evidence of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

B.Bill Hybels shares hearing Dr. Gilbert Bilezekian speak the following words that inspired him to start Willow Creek Community Church: There was once a community of believers who were so totally devoted to God that their life together was charged with the Spirit's power. In that band of Christ-followers, believers loved each other with a radical kind of love. They took off their masks and shared their lives with one another. They laughed and cried and prayed and sang and served together in authentic Christian fellowship. Those who had more shared freely with those who had less until socioeconomic barriers melted away. People related together in ways that bridged gender and racial chasms, and celebrated cultural differences."

"Acts 2 tells us that this community of believers, this church, offered unbelievers a vision of life that was so beautiful it took their breath away. It was so bold, so creative, so dynamic that they couldn't resist it. Verse 47 tells us that 'the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'"

C.Many of you have experienced a taste of Acts 2 Community during the 40 Days of Love Small Groups.

Today, I know many of you are going to eat lunch together. It is a step towards the kind of sharing that the Acts 2 Church experienced.

D.Recognizing Ramona and Keith Greene and Sharon and Fred Stone

1. These folks have helped CrossRoad cross cultural and socioeconomic lines to share the love of Jesus at Simpson Memorial UMC.
2. The Greene's have not been able to park cars in their garage for all the clothes that have been donated.
3. They are retiring from that ministry and we are in the process of evaluating how it will proceed.
4. We do want to thank them for showing the love of Jesus in such tangible ways.

E.After our tail gate, I hope you will make your way to Metro Park, and join in the Prayer and Praise, and be a part of this world wide celebration of the birth of the church, joining with people from every nation and tongue.

VIII. Invitation