

“Jesus Promises The Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2: 1 – 21; Romans 8: 14 – 17; John 14: 8 – 17 & 25 – 27 (Sermon)

Today is Pentecost.

The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek word for “the 50th day”.

Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter.

Pentecost was the Jewish Festival of Weeks (Exodus 34:22 and Deuteronomy 16:9-11) and is sometimes referred to as the Feast of Harvest or the Day of First Fruits.

So, it is no coincidence that God selected Pentecost to pour out His Holy Spirit.

Jews from all over the world had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Harvest.

Today Pentecost is important to us because Pentecost is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit to believers.

In our lesson from the Gospel according to John we read Jesus’ promise; ***“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor know him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*** (John 14:16)

We also read that Jesus told His disciples that He was going to leave them, however Jesus also told The 12 Disciples that He would remain with them.

This seemed like a paradox to The 12 Disciples but we know that the Holy Spirit would come and be with all of Jesus’ disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven.

The Holy Spirit not only has the same qualities as God, The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is a the 3rd person in the Trinity.

The word translated “*Counselor*” in verse 16 could also be translated comforter, encourager, or advocate.

Chapters 14-17 in John’s Gospel teach the truth, the work, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

I will briefly point out the ministry of The Holy Spirit as listed in John 14, 15, & 16.

The Holy Spirit will be with us forever (14:16);

the world at large cannot accept The Holy Spirit (14:17);

The Holy Spirit lives with us and in us (14:17);

The Holy Spirit teaches us (14:26);

The Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit reminds us of Jesus’ words (14:26; 15:26);

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, The Holy Spirit shows us God's righteousness;

The Holy Spirit announces God's judgment on evil (16:8);

The Holy Spirit guides us into truth and The Holy Spirit gives insight into future events (16:13);

The Holy Spirit brings glory to Christ (16:14).

I believe that the easiest way to understand the ministry of The Holy Spirit is remember Jesus' ministry to The 12 Disciples while Jesus was on earth.

Jesus was with the 12 Disciples 24 / 7.

Jesus taught them, Jesus encouraged them, and Jesus rebuked them.

Jesus protected them and Jesus provided for all of their needs.

Jesus prayed for them and Jesus revealed His plans to them.

Today The Holy Spirit ministers to all believers who invite Him to be a part of their daily life.

Before Pentecost The Holy Spirit was with God's people for a specific purpose and for a specific time.

But after Pentecost The Holy Spirit resides in God's people.

At Pentecost the believers were baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

After Pentecost believers have experienced many more fillings of The Holy Spirit.

Today believers are baptized by The Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation and we are commanded to continually seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18).

Pentecost was a once in history event.

Pentecost is not to be repeated each year, but rather Pentecost is to be remembered and Pentecost is to be celebrated each year.

We need to learn and apply the meaning of Pentecost to our lives today.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon individuals for a specific time to enable them to perform specific tasks for God.

At Pentecost The Holy Spirit was given to all believers assembled on that day.

Today God gives His indwelling Holy Spirit to every person who asks Jesus to be their Savior and put their trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

In Peter's Pentecost sermon, recorded in Acts 2, Peter told the crowd what had happened (verses 14-21), how it happened (verses 22-35), and the reason why Pentecost happened (verses 36-40).

In Acts 2:17 Peter quoted from the Book of Joel when He said, ***“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.”***

Pentecost is **not** a fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy.

Joel’s prophecy was to the nation of Israel and Peter clearly stated ***“the last days....”***

Peter was simply stating that the Day of Pentecost was like the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will take place in the last days.

Pentecost is a fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to His disciples that we read about in John 14.

Throughout scripture we are given different pictures or symbols of the Holy Spirit.

These pictures or symbols of The Holy Spirit are important because they help us to have a better understanding of who The Holy Spirit is and the work of The Holy Spirit.

This morning we will briefly look at three of these pictures or symbols.

These three signs of The Holy Spirit were given by God to validate what happened at the first Pentecost.

Almighty God was assuring believers that Jesus was faithful in delivering His promise of The Holy Spirit to His disciples.

First there was the miracle of sound.

In verse 1 we read that that The Holy Spirit came with the sound like the blowing of a violent wind.

In John 3:8 Jesus told Nicodemus that ***“The wind blows wherever it pleases, you hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”***

We cannot see the wind but we only see the effects of the wind.

We cannot control the wind; we just know the wind is real and we know how powerful a hurricane or a tornado is.

The wind comes from the heavens but it affects people on earth.

This is like the Holy Spirit.

We do not see the Holy Spirit but we can see the changes that The Holy Spirit makes in people and we can see the power of The Holy Spirit working through believers.

Next there was the miracle of sight.

Verse 3 tells us ***“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...”***

We should also remember John the Baptist's words, ***"I baptize you with water for repentance, but after me will come one who is more powerful than I whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with The Holy Spirit and with fire."*** (Matthew 3:11)

Fire has several qualities that relate to the Holy Spirit. Fire consumes and God referred to Himself as a ***"consuming fire"***.

The consuming fire is a fire of judgment, burning and destroying sin.

But fire also purifies.

In Isaiah 6:7 we read, ***"An angel flew to me with a burning coal from the altar and touched it to my lips and said 'see this has touched your lips; your guilt has been taken away and your sin atoned for.'"***

Fire also softens things so they can be molded or reshaped.

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit works in our lives He softens the hardness of our hearts so our lives can be reshaped to be more Christ-like.

Fire also provides comfort and warmth.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit provides warmth, encouragement, and companionship to us when we are faced with the cold harshness of life.

Then there was the miracle of speech.

Verse 4 tells us all of the disciples ***"began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."***

Verses 5 and 6 say, ***"Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken."***

Pentecost reversed what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Because of sin God instituted different languages and caused confusion among people at the Tower of Babel.

At Pentecost the believers did not speak in their own native language but rather The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in foreign languages that they did not know so that everyone present at Pentecost could understand the good news of Jesus Christ.

At Pentecost the disciples spoke in a known language so that the people assembled could hear the Good News of Jesus in their native tongue.

God brought unity because Christianity is based on inclusion, not exclusion.

It is God's desire that people from every nation be saved.

It does not matter where a person comes from or what language they speak.

What is important is where we will spend eternity and that we tell other people about Jesus Christ.

I trust you noticed that verse 4 says that *“all of the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

Think of the wonderful impact Mt. Paran would have on our community if every member of Mt. Paran were filled with The Holy Spirit every day and if every member was declaring *“the wonders of God”* to the people around them.

In verse 41 we read about the fourth miracle of Pentecost.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

You see, the purpose of Pentecost was to give believers power over sin so that we can live the abundant victorious life that Jesus promised (John 10:10) and so that every one of us can easily and clearly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people around us by everything that we do and by every thing we say.

Pentecost is significant because it proves we can believe God’s promises.

Pentecost is significant because God demonstrated His unlimited power.

Pentecost is significant because it unites believers.

Pentecost is significant because The Indwelling Holy Spirit gives us power over sin so we can live the victorious life God planned for us.

Pentecost is significant because the indwelling Holy Spirit gives us power to boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people around us.

Pentecost is significant because Jesus established His church on Pentecost.

Pentecost is the birthday of the church.

With the out pouring of the Holy Spirit the church was given the power to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

On that first Pentecost timid disciples were transformed into fearless bold witnesses.

Today that same power, the power of The Holy Spirit, transforms us and enables ordinary people like me and like you to effectively carry out the Great Commission that Jesus Christ gave to all of His disciples.

The gift of tongues enabled the disciples to communicate The Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of a different language.

With the out pouring of the Holy Spirit the church was given the power to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

I started this morning by saying that Pentecost was a once in history event.

Pentecost is not to be repeated each year, but rather Pentecost is to be remembered and celebrated each year so that we will apply the purpose and meaning of Pentecost to our lives today.

If we put the messages in verses 2, 6, and 12 in our lesson from Acts together we will clearly see the purpose of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit gave all of the disciples the ability to clearly communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unbelievers around them.

On the Day of Pentecost The Holy Spirit came in a loud sound to awaken the disciples and in a wind to move the disciples into action.

The Holy Spirit came in fire to enlighten and to warm the disciples.

The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in known languages so that the disciples could clearly communicate the good news of Jesus Christ.

This morning we all need to ask ourselves, *"Am I awake?"*

"Am I on the move for Christ?"

"Am I on fire for the Lord?"

"Am I able to clearly communicate The Good News of Jesus to the unsaved people around me?"

"Am I experiencing power over temptation and sin in my daily life?"

Remember Acts 1:8 says, ***"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."***

AMEN