

“Pentecost Changed Everything” by E A Terry Preached 05 20 18
John 14:15 - 21; John 20: 19 – 23; Romans 8: 1 – 17; **Acts 2:1 – 21 & 36 – 41 (Sermon)**

Today is Pentecost Sunday.

On Pentecost we celebrate God’s gift of His indwelling Holy Spirit to all people who believe in Jesus Christ.

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

Pentecost always comes on the 50th day after The Feast Of the Passover.

The events of Pentecost recorded in the 2nd chapter of Acts transformed a Jewish holiday known as The Day of First Fruits into a Christian holiday that we know as Pentecost.

In verse 1 of our lesson from Acts we read, “***When the day of Pentecost came ...***”

That could be translated, “***When the day of Pentecost was fulfilled.***”

Pentecost was a fulfillment of prophecies of Joel (Joel 2:28-32) and the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to send The Holy Spirit to His disciples that we read about in our Gospel lesson from John.

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 remember and we celebrate Pentecost each year so that we will remember the events of Pentecost and to celebrate the power of The Holy Spirit in our lives today.

In Isaiah 61:1 – 11 we were also given a picture of the work of The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to preach the Good News. (verse 1)

The Holy Spirit ministers to broken hearts, delivers people from the bondage of Satan and sin, and The Holy Spirit comforts all those who mourn. (verse 2)

The Holy Spirit replaces grief, sorry, and despair with joy, peace, and praise. (verse 3)

The Holy Spirit rebuilds broken lives, broken relationships, and shattered dreams with righteousness (verse 4) so that we can minister to unbelievers. (verse 6)

The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance (verse 7)

We receive God’s blessings so that other people will see the benefits of being God’s children and they will want to come to God.

A spirit filled person brings praise and glory to God. (verses 9 – 11)

In the Old Testament we can read about the Holy Spirit empowering individuals.

Individuals like Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Gideon, Zechariah, Elijah, Elisha, and Sampson.

God sent His Spirit to empower those individuals for specific tasks and for limited periods of time.

But the good news of Pentecost is that God the Holy Spirit is a gift to all people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The good news of Pentecost is that God The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in all believers.

God The Holy Spirit indwells believers.

Pentecost also show us that God the Holy Spirit is not just for individuals with monumental tasks to accomplish.

God The Holy Spirit is not just for preachers, evangelists, Elders, and Deacons.

God the Holy Spirit is for every believer.

God the Holy Spirit is given to empower all believers to enable them to live a life pleasing to Almighty God.

When we stop and think about it, what task could be bigger or what task could be more important than every Christian living a life that models Jesus' life every day of their life.

So Pentecost is a time for all Christians to reaffirm their commitment to seek the transforming work of The Holy Spirit in our daily life.

Before Pentecost the disciples were afraid.

They stayed behind locked doors for fear of the Jewish leaders.

But after Pentecost the disciples boldly proclaimed their faith in Jesus Christ.

They took the good news of Jesus to the people around them.

Before Pentecost they had an intellectual knowledge of Jesus but after Pentecost they experienced the love, the joy and the peace of Jesus in all aspects of their lives.

Pentecost was the beginning of the disciples' experiencing the abundant life Jesus promised to all believers. (John 10:10)

At the Tower of Babel God frustrated man's evil plans by creating different languages and by scattering people all over the earth. (Genesis 11)

But on Pentecost God brought people together from all nations and they were all able to hear the good news of Jesus in their own language.

At Mt. Sinai God's Law was written on tablets of stone, but at Pentecost God's Law was written on peoples hearts.

In Acts 2:41 we read that after Peter preached on Pentecost about 3,000 were added to the number of the Jesus' disciples, thus forming the first church.

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost marks the completion of Jesus ministry on earth and Pentecost marks the beginning of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believers on earth.

The church is the body of Christ and it is made up of believers.

The church is not an organization or a business, but the church is the family of God.

The church was not conceived by man, but by God.

Christ called His church into being to be the visible demonstration of the new and abundant life that is available to all mankind in Jesus Christ.

The church and its members are to model the character and the teachings of Jesus.

As believers we are to be walking, talking examples of Jesus' forgiveness, love, compassion, kindness, hope, joy, holiness, devotion, and obedience to The Lord.

The church is not perfect because it is made up of imperfect humans like me.

But the church of Jesus Christ will never fail because Jesus is the head of the church.

In Matthew 16:18, we read that the gates of Hell will never prevail against the church.

God did not choose to display His wisdom or His plans through any government but rather through His church.

Jesus did not choose to proclaim His message through angels, but rather through His church.

Before Pentecost the disciples learned the lesson Jesus taught them, they were awed by Jesus' power, and they were captivated by Jesus' love.

After Pentecost the disciples boldly proclaimed Jesus' message so others could experience the love of God.

They knew Jesus was God in the flesh and they knew that spiritual life only comes from accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Pentecost changed everything.

God's indwelling Holy Spirit convicted Jesus' disciples, taught them, and empowered them.

God's Holy Spirit encouraged them and comforted them.

Jesus' disciples knew they were not alone.

They knew God was present right there with them

At Mt. Sinai God gave us His Law so that we would know Him and know how God wanted us to live.

God sent Jesus His Son to show us The Father and to show us how God wanted us to live.

Jesus came so that we would be forgiven of all of our misguided attempts to follow Him.

Then God gave us the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so that we would have the power, the courage, and the strength to follow Jesus and to live for Him.

When you claimed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you were born of The Spirit (John 3:5).

Christians are baptized by The Holy Spirit into the Body of Believers. (1st Corinthians 12:13)

1st Corinthians 6:19 and Ephesians 2:22 assure us that The Holy Spirit lives in each and every Christian.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of The Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own” (1st Corinthians 6:19). ***“And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit”*** (Ephesians 2:22).

And Ephesians 1:13 – 14 and Ephesians 4:30 assures us that The Holy Spirit seals all believers until The Day of Redemption

So as a Christian, you have been born of The Holy Spirit, you have The Indwelling Holy Spirit living in you, you have been baptized by The Holy Spirit, and you have been sealed by The Holy Spirit.

God has done all those things for all believers.

And then we come to our obligation to The Lord.

Ephesians 5:18 commands all believers to be; *“be filled with The Spirit.”*

The Greek word for ***“filled”*** used here is an ongoing action.

In other words, ***“be continually filled with the Spirit.”***

Spirit filling is not a one shot experience.

To be filled with The Spirit is a continuous choice that you make each day to think like Jesus, to talk like Jesus, and to act like Jesus.

We read about our choice to live by The Spirit in our lesson from Romans.

The sad thing all believers do not choose to be filled with The Holy Spirit every day.

That is why Ephesians 4: 30 says; ***“do not grieve The Holy Spirit.”***

“Do not grieve The Holy Spirit.” is a command for us not to resist The Holy Spirit’s power that enables us to live each day for the glory of God and the power for us to proclaim The Good News of Jesus to the unsaved people around us.

Although the Day of Pentecost is a completed historical event God continues to pour out His Spirit on all believers.

We can read about the Holy Spirit empowering the early Church in The Book of Acts (4:31-35; 8:15-17; 10:44-46; 19:6)

This should be a lesson for the Church today.

If we as a church want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit today we need to be obedient Christians, come together in the unity of Christ, pray continually, and we need to seek The Lord’s leading.

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

The key to living the victorious abundant life is being filled with The Holy Spirit.

So the real question for each of us today is; *are you continually asking The Holy Spirit to change you into a dynamic disciple?*

Will you ask The Holy Spirit to fill you each day so that you can live a life pleasing to The Lord?

In the Book of Acts the filling and refilling of The Holy Spirit was followed by people repenting, praying, and choosing to obey God’s commands.

And that is the message for us today.

If we want to become more like Jesus, if we want to enjoy a close personal relationship with The Lord, if we want to experience power and peace in our life, if we want to bring other people to Jesus we must repent, we must obey all of Jesus’ commandments, and we must seek the filling of The Holy Spirit every day.

You see Pentecost is really about The Holy Spirit changing peoples’ lives.

What about you?

Will you accept God’s challenge to let The Holy Spirit change you so that you will reflect God’s holy characteristics?

Will you accept God's challenge for you to boldly tell the unsaved people you know about Jesus?

Will you pray for God to use Mt. Paran to make a difference in our community?

Pentecost is about change and new beginnings.

So the question for each of us is *"Has the events of Pentecost changed you made a difference in your life?"*

What new beginnings are you experiencing?

Are you going to be satisfied with keeping your faith locked up inside of you?

God the Holy Spirit has the power to change us and make us into the people God wants us to be.

But the reason many Christians are afraid, selfish, and unwilling to forgive and to accept other people is because we are unwilling to let the Holy Spirit work in our lives to change us.

What about you?

Are you going to be satisfied with an intellectual knowledge of Jesus or do you want to experience the power of Almighty God working in your life every day and to feel The Almighty being your constant companion?"

Pentecost is about change and new beginnings.

God has done His part.

So will you allow The Holy Spirit to continually change you and to use you to advance God's Kingdom on earth?

AMEN