

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 3.9.2025

## PART 5 - THE PROMISE FULFILLED

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Acts 2 describes a day that changed everything.
- The disciples were doing exactly what Jesus commanded them to do prior to his ascension.
- They stayed in Jerusalem, they were united together in prayer, the apostles had selected Judas' replacement.
- They were waiting on the promise.
- During the 40 days Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection, he told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father; they would soon be “baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4-5)
- On the day he was taken up to heaven, he declares to them how his kingdom will be restored through Spirit-empowered witnesses.
- He says to them, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...*”
- And now the day that Jesus told them to wait for had come—the day that changed everything.
- Main Point: The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost inaugurated the church age where all believers are filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to be Christ’s witnesses.

#### **Acts 2:1-4**

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### II. THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

#### 1. THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- In the OT, the Holy Spirit was at work among God’s people. But the scope of his ministry was limited.
- The prophets of the Lord knew that there would be a time when the Lord would pour out his Spirit in great measure and fullness on all his people.
- God would establish a new covenant, he would cleanse his people, forgive their sins, dwell among them, and they would be enabled to obey the Lord from the heart and declare his name to all the nations.

- The Day of Pentecost is the fulfillment of what the prophets had hoped and longed for.
- Moses desired that all of God's people were prophets and wished that the Lord would put his Spirit in them. (Numbers 11:29)
- Isaiah prophesied that the pouring out of God's Spirit from on high brings Judah's desolation to an end ushering in a new era of righteousness and peace. (Isaiah 32:15)
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward (last days), that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
- It is important to understand that the Spirit coming at Pentecost was promised.
- And the fulfillment of that promise is evidence that the kingdom of God has been inaugurated because Jesus has risen and ascended—the Holy Spirit has come!

## 2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PENTECOST

- When the day of Pentecost arrived...
- Pentecost, is also known as the Feast of Weeks in the OT. It was one of Israel's three major feasts. (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:9-11)
- The feast began the day after Passover.
- Pentecost means fiftieth, Pentecost occurs fifty days after Passover.
- Pentecost celebrated the first fruits of the grain harvest. It was a celebration and acknowledgment of God's abundant provision on the earth.
- Jewish tradition and hints from the Old Testament link Pentecost to the giving of the law at Sinai.
- The Israelites left Egypt the day after the Passover and Exodus 19 mentions that they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai in the third month after they had left.
- From the middle of the first month which is Passover, fifty days would fall within the third month.
- Why is it significant that the outpouring of the Spirit happened at Pentecost?
- There are many parallels between Sinai and the Day of Pentecost.
- At Sinai, the law was given to Moses, the law was written on two stone tablets.
- At Pentecost, the Spirit now writes the law of God on hearts, fulfilling the new covenant promises (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- There are parallels to the visible signs of God's presence at Sinai and the manifestation of the Spirit at Pentecost that we will see in this passage.
- Pentecost under the old covenant was a celebration of the harvest, the Spirit's arrival on this day marked a new covenant era of a harvest of souls for Christ's kingdom.
- In God's sovereign redemptive plan, he chose the arrival of this day in human history, to pour out His Spirit, to change everything.
- The events of the day of Pentecost as Luke describes are grounded in history. The Spirit was poured out on the Day of the celebration of the feast of Pentecost.

## 3. THE EXALTED CHRIST SENDS THE SPIRIT

- It is important to note that what happens on that day is "from heaven..."
- It is the exalted Christ who sends the Holy Spirit.

- He had to depart so that he could send the Helper.
- John 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
- Peter also acknowledges that it is the exalted Christ who has poured out the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 2:33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.
- The events of Pentecost demonstrate the reality of Christ's exaltation and supreme Authority.
- It is the work of Christ, not human effort, that initiates the Spirit's coming and work in believers.
- It is the glory of Christ that is magnified in the sending of the Spirit who empowers his people for witness and who transforms us.
- The Spirit is Christ's gift to the church.
- You cannot miss the trinitarian language all over chapter one and two.
- The sending of the Spirit is the plan and promise of the Father.
- The coming of the Spirit is made possible by the Son's work and subsequent exaltation.
- The third person of the triune Godhead is sent to empower all believers for Christ's mission.
- That is why Peter in his sermon concludes that this outpouring of the Spirit is indisputable evidence that Jesus is the Lord upon whom we must call in order to be saved.
- Are you confidently resting in the reality of the exalted and reigning Christ?

### III. THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

#### 1. THE DISCIPLES' READINESS

- They were all together in one place.
- The apostles, together with all of the disciples, approx. 120, were waiting together.
- They were in one place, united in anticipation of what Jesus promised.
- They were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait.
- They were trusting in what Jesus said.
- They were waiting to be clothed with power from the Holy Spirit.
- Are you trusting in God's promises?
- Do you trust in God's promises waiting expectantly for God to do what he said he would do?

#### 2. THE EVENT DESCRIBED

- And suddenly there came from heaven...
- "Suddenly," without warning, they are caught by surprise.
- The day had arrived.
- What takes place is breathtakingly supernatural.
- Pentecost is the act of a sovereign God working out his redemptive plan.
- Luke describes the events surrounding the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit using natural, human descriptors for what is clearly of divine origin.
- Three Accompanying Signs
- 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of

them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- A Sound
- A Sight
- And Strange Speech
- The signs “came from heaven.”
- The sound was not actually the sound of hurricane force winds, it sounded like that.
- The sight of many flames of fire was not actually flames of fire but it appeared to them this way.
- The speech was not their normal speech but described as “other tongues.”
- All of those gathered that Day had their hearing and seeing and speaking affected.
- They heard the sound, they saw the fire-like apparition, they spoke in “other tongues.”
  
- As mentioned earlier, there are many parallels to Sinai.
- At Sinai, the people were gathered to receive the law on tablets of stone.
- At Pentecost, the disciples were gathered to receive the law written on their hearts.
- At Sinai, the people hear the sounds of the Lord descending, they see the fire and the billowing smoke, they see the mountain tremble violently, Moses speaks and the voice of God answers him. (Exodus 19)
- At Pentecost, the disciples hear the sound from heaven, see what appears to be fire, their speech is affected as the Spirit gives them the ability.
- These signs are the visible manifestations of the Spirit’s presence and power.
- Wind is an emblem of the Spirit’s power and mysteriousness.
- He is the creative breath of God hovering over the waters of the unformed world giving it life.
- The Hebrew word translated "Spirit" is also translated as “wind.”
- Fire was associated with God’s presence, holiness, and judgment in the OT.
- He appeared as a smoking firepot (Gen. 15)
- In the burning bush to Moses (Ex. 3).
- In a pillar of fire at night leading the wilderness generation (Ex. 13).
- As fire and smoke on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19).
- In the fire coming down and the glory of God filling Solomon’s temple (2 Chr. 7).
- The disciples heard wind but saw fire. “Divided tongues as of fire”.
- The fire, however, is personal, it divides over each of them and rests on each one of them.

### 3. THEY WERE ALL FILLED

- The Spirit of God comes like a storm. The fire symbolizing God’s presence and holiness and power is present.
- In the OT, the fire of God consumed.
- But here at Pentecost, the fire symbolizing God’s presence comes upon each one of them, and they are not consumed.
- The Holy Spirit personally indwells them.
- And Luke tells us the result.
- They are filled with God’s presence—individually and corporately.
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit—each one of them.
- This points to the new reality, this is the Day that changed everything, it was a new era.
- In the OT, the Spirit of God would only come upon some individuals for a purpose.

- In the OT, the presence of God was not upon the people, it was in the temple.
- Ezekiel saw God's presence depart from the temple. (Ezekiel 10)
- And when the temple was rebuilt under Ezra, God's presence did not return visibly as it had before.
- In Herod's reconstructed temple, there was no presence of God.
- There was no visible sign of God's presence in the temple for almost 600 hundred years—until now!
- Now—a new temple is established.
- But it's not a place—it's a people!
- The sound filled a house, not the temple.
- God's presence came down as fire but did not rest on a mountain or in the holy place, but on people.
- This new community of Christ followers are the new lampstands in the temple of the Lord.
- Christ's followers are portable temples sent out into the world to be God's prophetic voice heralding the good news.

#### 4. THE PROPHETIC COMMUNITY

- The evidence of this new reality on the day that changed everything is that they began to speak in other tongues.
- In the OT, we see the regular pattern of the Spirit coming upon a person and the consequence was that they would begin to prophesy.
- The seventy elders that Moses appoints (Numbers 11).
- When Saul was anointed King by Samuel (1 Samuel 10)
- Ezekiel said the Spirit came upon him and he heard what he was to say to the people. (Ezekiel 2)
- And now we have the reconstituted people of God, the new temple, and they would further Christ's message as prophetic heralds announcing his kingdom.
- Nothing more is said about the phenomena of wind and fire; Luke concentrates on the languages as God's people engage in Christ's mission as his Spirit-empowered witnesses.
- Peter's first message after Pentecost, when asked by the crowd, "What does this mean?", he explains the coming of the Spirit by preaching Christ!
- He has received the power that Jesus promised.
- He has received the requisite equipment to be his witness.

#### 5. SHOULD WE SEEK A PENTECOST EXPERIENCE?

- God's promise to put his Spirit within his people has been fulfilled.
- All of those present in the house waiting on the promise, were filled with the Spirit.
- It wasn't just the twelve apostles who were filled, but all of them were filled with the Spirit, without exception.
- But it didn't stop there. The newly filled disciples burst out of the house and onto the streets, where after Peter's powerful testifying to Christ, 3,000 were added to the church.
- Acts 2:38-39 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."
- That's the promise Pentecost brings. The Spirit is for all who turn to Christ for salvation.
- I want to dispel a teaching that is prominent in many pentecostal and charismatic churches.
- And that teaching is that the baptism of the Spirit is a secondary experience to salvation.

- I do not believe that teaching is consistent with Scripture and what we will see in Acts.
  - The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not some reward for the saint, it is the gift promised to every sinner who comes to Christ.
  - Every single believer who has come to genuine saving faith in Christ has received or been baptized in the Holy Spirit.
  - It happens at conversion not after seeking some pentecost-like experience.
  - The Day of Pentecost was a unique, one-of-a-kind, never to be reproduced event.
  - It is unwise for us to use what is described there as the pattern for us today.
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- The good news is that the Holy Spirit is now here in a way that he wasn't prior to Pentecost.
  - To receive the gift of the Spirit you need only to receive Christ and believe upon him.
  - Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.
  - When do you receive the Holy Spirit? The moment you are saved by the grace of God.
  - Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
  - How do you know if the Holy Spirit dwells in you?
  - His presence in your life is unmistakable.
  - You will have a love for God and His Word.
  - You will have a desire to obey him from the heart.
  - You will have a boldness in sharing your faith.
  - You will bear the fruit of the Spirit working in your life.
  - Your character, behavior, desires, affections are all transformed by the power of God's Spirit at work in your life.
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- If you don't see that, I implore you today, to turn to Christ for forgiveness and salvation.
  - Trust in his life, death, and resurrection.
  - Believe that he is the only way to salvation, that only through his perfect record of obedience that you can obtain a right standing before God.
  - Believe that his sacrificial death and through the shedding of his blood is the only way you can have your sins forgiven.
  - Believe that he rose from the dead, triumphing over death, and that he is now presently reigning and has authority over all things.
  - It is not the Holy Spirit that we seek, it is Christ that we must seek and turn to, he is the one who sends the Holy Spirit to indwell those who belong to him.
  - The Holy Spirit applies all that Christ has done for us, he gives us a new heart, he sanctifies us, he changes us.
  - And it is the life-giving Spirit working in you and transforming you to live for Christ who empower you to be Christ's witness in the world.

## **APPLICATION AND REFLECTION**

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?