

May 31st 2020 The Day Of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-20

The Title Of The Message: The Power Of The Church

The Key Word: Filled

The Thought: Without the Spirit we have no power to do the work we have been called to do.

The Break Down:

Verses 1-4 Baptized In Power

Verses 5-11 Witnesses Of Power

Verses 12-21 The Explanation Of That Power

Verses 1-4 Baptized In Power

Acts 2:1 NKJV - When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

When the Day of Pentecost... It was J.S. Baxter who said, “What God chooses, He cleanses. What God cleanses, He molds. What God molds, He fills. What God fills, He uses.” -J. S. Baxter

The day of Pentecost was one of three celebrations that required all Jewish men to make the trek to Jerusalem according to Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

R. Kent Hughes has this insight... “**It was the best-attended of the great feasts because traveling conditions were at their best. There was never a more cosmopolitan gathering in Jerusalem than this one.**” -R. Kent Hughes

David Guzick has this to add... **Jewish tradition also taught that Pentecost marked the day when the Law was given to Israel. The Jews sometimes called Pentecost shimchath torah, or “Joy of the Law.” On the Old Testament Day of Pentecost Israel received the Law; on the New Testament Day of Pentecost the Church received the Spirit of Grace in fullness.** -David Guzick

Charles Spurgeon has this interesting thought... **Leviticus 23:15-22 gives the original instructions for the celebration of Pentecost. It says that two loaves of leavened bread were to be waved before the Lord by the priest as part of the celebration. “Were there not two loaves? Not only shall Israel be saved, but the multitude of the Gentiles shall be turned unto the Lord Jesus Christ.”** -Charles Spurgeon

The first feast celebration was the Passover this was the shadow of Christ death, in Exodus the children of Israel were to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood over the doorway and on the post so that the angel of death would pass by, but for those who did not believe they would lose their first born to death.

Hebrews 11:28 (NKJV) By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

In the same way when we place our faith in Jesus the angel of death passes over us and we have passed from death to life.

The second feast was the feast of First Fruits it is the shadow of Christ resurrection. He is the promise of everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 15:20–23 (NKJV) 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

The third celebration comes fifty days after the first fruits celebration it is the feast of Pentecost at the feast of Pentecost they celebrate the giving of the law but for us as Christians we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. The contrast of the Old Covenant compared to the New, is pretty astonishing, with the Old, when the law of Moses was given 3000 people died according to **Exodus 32:28**, but with New, the Spirit was given and 3000 people were saved according to **Acts 2:41**, this day is the day that the apostles waited for after they had been filled with the Spirit, they were told to wait in Jerusalem for the power on high. That is the baptism of the Spirit that was spoken of by John the Baptist...

John 20:21–22 (NKJV) 21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 (NKJV) “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Why did they have to wait? Because they needed the power of God the Holy Spirit, because of the hard work of ministry that would be set before them, before you can be a laborer you have to be a believer, before you can be a harvester of souls, you have to have the heart of Jesus and His perspective.

Matthew 9:36–38 (NKJV) 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

When you see lost souls are you moved with compassion? Can you see how tired and scattered they are? Our English word for scattered means distracted or disorganized, the Greek word has the idea of being jerked, or thrown down, that is they are chained down by the burden of sin, the laborer must have this insight if he will continue to put his hand to the work of the harvest.

Pentecost means a new way of doing things, it's the day that Jesus would bring us together as a new institution called the church, made up of both Jew and Gentile, it means a new way of living.

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

They were all with one accord in one place... Notice also that they were all with one accord in one place, they were told to wait and so they did, they waited in prayer, and they waited together in unity, with one thing in mind, Jesus Christ, and the instruction He gave, why? Because they recognized how empty they truly were, they understood that they could not do this in their own power but had to rely on the work of the Lord, by gathering together in prayer they humbled themselves in obedience to Christ.

Acts 2:2-4 NKJV - And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 NKJV - Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 NKJV - And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And suddenly... There is no formula for what happened they waited for in prayer together for ten days before they heard this sound from heaven and it sounded like a tornado that filled the whole house, it wasn't a wind but it sounded like a mighty rushing wind, it had to sound like that because the Spirit was seeking to get the attention of the people that were outside. The word wind here is the same word used for breath found in **Genesis 2:7** where God forms man from the dust and breathes into his nostrils the breath of life, when we are filled with the Spirit we are given new life and a new way of living.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Suddenly there came a sound from heaven... Notice how the Spirit works, He works suddenly, even though He can't be touched He makes Himself heard, The works He does are not of this world, they are not created or manipulated here, He came in full force like a mighty wind.

The church needs the baptism of the Spirit, when we operate by the Spirit we can be a fresh breath of air, that brings life to those around us, but when we operate by the flesh we can be like a tornado destroying everything in our path.

Then there appeared to them divided tongues... Not only did they hear the Spirit but they saw the evidence of His work, notice there appeared divided tongues that looked like fire sitting on each of them, we should remember that this is a house full of people, it wasn't just the apostles in the house, but many were there, so the Spirit was sitting on all who were there. These divided tongues looked like fire when the Lord uses it, it is to purify, just as He did with Isaiah...

Isaiah 6:5–7 (NKJV) 5 So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.” 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”

Verses 5-11 Witnesses Of Power

Acts 2:5-7 NKJV - And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 NKJV - And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 NKJV - Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

And there were dwelling... Notice this was the melting pot devout Jews from every nation under heaven were living there and when they heard the sound they all came together to see what had happened, they had probably never heard anything like it, and when they see all of those who had been baptized with the Spirit speaking in their own language they were blown away, because they recognized them as Galileans.

Acts 2:8-11 NKJV - "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 NKJV - "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 NKJV - "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 NKJV - "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

How is it that we hear... all of these people were in wonder at the power of Spirit even though they didn't know who the Spirit was but they were amazed that they were hearing their own native language, this is the power of the Spirit, He can cause you to speak in a language you don't even know, but we should remember that this is given according to the will of the Spirit and not our own, Paul tells us to seek all the gifts but most especially that we would prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV) I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more than you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

Verses 12-21 The Explanation Of That Power

Acts 2:12-14 NKJV - So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 NKJV - Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." 14 NKJV - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 NKJV - "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

So they were all amazed and perplexed... There were those who were amazed and perplexed and there were those who were making and accessing them of being drunk, but Peter makes a stand, this was the same who couldn't stand before but not by God's grace is able to.

Acts 2:16-20 NKJV - "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 NKJV - 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 NKJV - And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 NKJV - I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 NKJV - The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

But this is what was spoken... Notice this most important thing the Spirit makes Himself known through gifting the believers causing others to wonder and then has Peter answer the question that is in their minds, and He goes back to scripture to show why this was happening, having an individual experience is one thing but to make that the experience every one should have when it isn't based in scripture is wrong, we should never make some experience a practice for the whole church when its not based in scripture.

That brings us to this place it is pentecost and I believe that the main thing the church needs today is the power of the Spirit, I believe He wants to do something fresh, with the church, but most especially with our church here in landers, in our hearts today and so we are going to take the time to pray and ask the Lord to fill us anew to give us fresh filling, so that we can produce fresh fruit. For those of you here this morning or who have joined us on Facebook, you should know this can only happen for those who are repentant believers, and so we have verse 21 that says

Acts 2:21 (NKJV) And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'

If that's you this morning then you need to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and if your hearing me this morning and your living in sin your not being repentant then its time for you to get back to the place you left behind, its time to repent, and follow the Lord once again.