

SERMON: LESSONS FROM PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-8

Acts 2:40-41

Acts 2:1-8

(1) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. (6) Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. (7) And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? (8) And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Acts 2:40-41

(40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Introduction

Pentecost was one of the three great Jewish feasts and held the central place between Passover and the Feast of Tabernacle. To be more specific, Pentecost ended the Feast of Weeks. It came fifty days after Passover. At the Feast of Weeks, the first fruits of the harvest were presented to God as a wave offering in the tabernacle and then in the temple. (The relationship between Passover, Feast of Weeks, and Pentecost was modified overtime and can be a bit confusing when studied.)

At the first Pentecost celebration after the resurrection of Jesus, an astounding event occurred. The Spirit descended on the one hundred twenty persons gathered in one place. First, there came a sound like a mighty rushing wind. This sound filled the house where they were sitting. Secondly, tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each disciple. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit filled each of them and they began to speak in languages other than their native tongue. Luke, who penned Acts, made it clear that

they are speaking languages known in that day, but not known by the individual disciples who were speaking. Fourthly, the noise attracted a crowd of people. This crowd was multiethnic. They had come as far away as Rome from the west, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers from the east, and Egypt and Libya from the south. Peter, the foremost of the disciples preached to the crowd. His sermon summarized the good news of Jesus' saving work through His crucifixion on the cross and His resurrection on the third day. After Peter's sermon, three thousand souls repented and were added to the Christian fellowship.

Many consider this Pentecost as the birthday of the church as the spiritual body of Christ. Pentecost is to the Holy Spirit what Christmas is the Jesus. Let's exegete a few lessons from Pentecost.

Exposition

1. Waiting On The Lord Is Not Procrastination.

(Do All You Are Supposed To Do, Then Wait For God To Work.)

(Acts 1:4-5.)

2. There Is Great Power In Unity.

(Some People Think There Is Unity Only When They Get Their Selfish Way.)

(Acts 1:13-14; Matthew 16:19-20.)

3. Ordinary People Can Do Extraordinary Things Under The Leading Of The Holy Spirit.

(They Received Temporary Gifts.)

(They Witnessed In Foreign Languages.)

(Peter Preached Boldly.)

(A Multiethnic Multitude Was Saved – 3000.)

(Exponential Growth Was Achieved.)

4. God Is A Promise Keeper.

(Joel 2:28-29; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:27.)

Closing Thoughts

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." He was saying it is only through His saving work that we can know the other two members of the Godhead. We cannot have access to the Father nor to the Holy Spirit without first accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior. It is a bit ironic that before Pentecost the disciples were waiting on the Holy Spirit, now the Holy Spirit is waiting on us. To the unsaved, please don't keep the Holy Spirit waiting. Please accept Christ as your personal Savior and then He will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in you. Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

Related Scripture

Acts 1:1-26

Acts 2:1-47

End Notes

1. In John 16:7 the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Comforter. The actual Greek is *paraclete*. The word comes from two simple words: *para*, which means “alongside” and *kaleo*, which means to “call” or to “summon.” There were two uses. It could refer to a caregiver such as a nurse or it could refer to a lawyer who would be by your side to represent you in court. Either way, the individual would provide comfort.

2. Many theologians say the church was conceived by Jesus in Caesarea of Philippi and she was birthed on the Day of the New Testament Pentecost by the Holy Spirit. Please read Matthew 16:13-18.

3. Many theologians say the day of the New Testament Pentecost was a divine reversal of the confusion during the building of the Tower of Babel. Please read Genesis 11:1-9.

4. John 14:26 alludes to a custom common in the Greco-Roman empire for orators and actors in the theater. It was acceptable to have prompters in the background. If the speaker had a lapse of memory and was at a loss of what to say next and might say the wrong thing, the prompter would whisper a catchword or the beginning of his next line. For actors the prompter was there for rehearsal and for the actual performance. The prompter would even remind the actors of when to enter and to exit the stage. So, on the stage of life, if we forget our parts and can't remember what Christ told us through His Word, the Holy Spirit, the Prompter will whisper the correct parts. Let's be ready to hear His voice.

5. It is a great thing to quote Joel 2:28-29. This, however, was not the first promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul lets the cat out of the bag. This promise was originally made to Abraham for all of his believing posterity, whether Jew or Gentile. Please read Galatians 3:14.

6. The Holy Spirit is represented by a dove and by fire. A dove is a bird that nests on the ground but never gets its feathers dirty. The Holy Spirit can indwell us but never partake of our sins. Fire is among other things a great purifier. Please read Matthew 3:16.

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