

THE CHURCH EMPOWERED

ACTS 2:1-8

Text:

Introduction:

“Pentecost” means “fiftieth” and refers to Jewish feast held fifty days after second day of Passover. Pentecost was a day of thanksgiving to mark the end of the grain harvest. Two loaves of bread made from the new wheat and two yearling lambs were waved before the Lord as a thank offering, praising God for His grace in giving them a good harvest. People were expected to attend this feast, and required to offer a free will offering to the Lord.

III. The “day of Pentecost”

Acts 1:3 - Jesus was with them for 40 days, and then ascended back to Heaven. Ten days after His ascension and 50 days after His resurrection, the words of Joel (Joel 3:18) and John the Baptist (Matt. 3:11) were fulfilled.

Joel 3:18

¹⁸ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall

come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

On this day, the church was changed forever.

Amazing things took place that day. Charismatic's zero in on the miracle of tongues. Tongues were not the primary miracle that day. Tongues were never given as a sign to the church; tongues came for the Jews, 1 Cor. 14:22.

1 Corinthians 14:22

²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Tongues are mentioned in the book of Acts when a new people group is brought into the church.

Jews – Act 2

Samaritans – Acts 8

Gentiles – Acts 10

The Disciples of John – Act 19

The events that took place on the Day of Pentecost cannot be duplicated today.

We cannot go to Jerusalem, enter the upper room and wait to be filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has already come, and indwells every person who is saved.

We cannot duplicate the miracles of that day. The miracles are God's doing and we are foolish if we spend our time seeking the spectacular.

While we cannot duplicate the events of that day, we can duplicate the conditions that existed among the people of God on that day.

We can see the Lord move in our midst in power and glory in these days, just as He moved in those days. When we have His power and create an atmosphere like the one that existed in the church on that day, we will see God move in power among us in these days.

One of the striking characteristics of the early church in the day of Pentecost was that they were together "with one accord".

The word "accord" means "to have one mind." These early disciples, all 120, were united in their desire to seek the face of the Lord. (Acts 1:14)

Acts 1:14

¹⁴These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,

with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Unity was the calling card of the early church, and it should mark us as well. If we want the Lord's presence and power in these days, then God's people are going to have walk together in unity.

We need a move of God in these days like the early church enjoyed in those days.

1. THE POWER OF GOD WAS RELEASED

A. A Sure Agreement (v. 1)

Acts 2:1

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

1. Notice that God has to first have something worth working with.
2. God will not work with a group of back-biting, self-centered, arguing, ill-tempered Christians.
3. Learn to agree together so you can learn to agree with God.

B. A Sudden Arrival (v. 2)

Acts 2:2

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.

1. When God saw they were ready, He sent them the Helper.

2. The Holy Spirit will not become real in your life just because you “think” you are ready. When you are right with God and seeking His face, then He will make Himself real to you.

C. A Special Ability (v. 3)

1. This “power from on high” is the Holy Spirit of God equipping the saints to do what they could never do alone.

2. You will never accomplish on your own what God can accomplish together with you.

2. THE PEOPLE OF GOD WERE REVIVED

A. They Were Silent (v. 4).

1. When you don’t know what to do, don’t just do to be doing.

2. When you don't know what to say, don't just say to be saying.

3. Wait on God. Remember the old saying, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt."

B. They Went Speaking (v. 4-13).

1. Tongues meaning a language

2. The often missed point here is that God made salvation readily available and accessible to anyone who would listen.

Nobody was to be left out that day. Nobody is left out today. God wants everybody to be saved!