

**Introduction:**

- My heart this morning is to not just to teach you a few things by exegesis of a passage, but to persuade you that we have much to gain from the Spirit's work at Pentecost. May 23rd, five Sundays from now, is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is 50 days following Passover. It is also known by Jews to be the Feast of Pentecost or Feast of Weeks.
- What is the Feast of Pentecost?
  - It was one of the three Jewish feasts that called for a pilgrimage to the Holy City. It got its name, Pentecost (fiftieth), from the fact that it took place 50 days after Passover. On this Jewish holiday there would be a lot of pilgrims in Jerusalem from across the known world.
  - It was a feast of harvest. That's what it is called in Ex 23:16 (cf. Dt 16:10).
  - In other words, there is a beautiful symbolic significance: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in extraordinary power was meant for witness and world evangelization. And what is this but a great harvest in the field of the world. And that is exactly what happened—3,000 people were harvested for God and given eternal life on the day of Pentecost, the feast of harvest!
- Charles Spurgeon once said, *"Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without the wind, branches without sap, and like coals without fire, we are useless."* The Day of Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birth of the church and the Holy Spirit coming on the apostles and they began to speak in other languages (Acts 2:4). But my message this morning is not about celebrating. You can celebrate Christmas and never know the joy of Messiah's birth. You can celebrate Easter and never know the power of forgiveness provided by Jesus on the cross. You can celebrate Pentecost and never know the power of the Holy Spirit. I want you to know the Holy Spirit personally and the the power of the Holy Spirit that makes you a witness for Christ!
- Three things we will look at this morning. First, the forty days of pre-pentecostal preparation. Second, a clarification of pentecostal expectation. Third, a promise both fulfilled and given! I want to inspire you to want what God has given the church. And to receive by faith what God has poured out on the church.

**I. A Full Forty Days or Pre-Pentecost Preparation By Jesus**

- A. There are 50 days from Passover to the Feast of Pentecost. I like to think of this as the last 40 days of Jesus life on earth plus 10. In that time Jesus goes from grave to resurrection, to ascension. The next 10 days or last 10 days are the made up of the disciples in 'wait mode' waiting for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus does 4 things in 40 days to prepare them for Pentecost.
- B. First, He gave them further commands, commissions, instructions:
  1. *"until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen."* (Acts 1:2, ESV)
  2. *entéllomai.* "To command," "commission," especially as a ruler to subjects. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 234). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
  3. So once again we find Jesus commissioning (like at Sea of Galilee) His disciples. He is really working hard to the get the mission of the Kingdom into them and into us. It is about the whole world. He wanted them to "own" the mission.

- C. Second, He appeared to them many times. Why? He wanted them 'to see' He was alive.
1. To see meant to have light (lights on). It meant to have revelation of an experiential truth. FAITH!
  2. *"I tell you, many prophets and kings longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it."* (Luke 10:24, NLT) Hebrews 11 says that these died in the faith having not received.
  3. *"Then Jesus told him, You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."* (John 20:29, NLT) Blessed are those who hear and believe. *"His Spirit bares witness with our spirit that we are children of God."* Ro. 8:16
- D. Third, He proved to them in many ways He was actually alive, in a body—a bodily resurrection. He wanted them to know He had a living, glorified body!
1. Luke 23:39-40; 42-43. Jesus says to them, *"see my hands, feet, touch me."* A spirit does not have flesh and bones. Give me something to eat. He ate in front of them. Last week He cooked breakfast on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, in John 21.
  2. "You can't be an authentic instrument in the hands of a living Christ, if you do not think he is alive. Until the apostles were profoundly persuaded that Jesus had broken the power of death and that he was alive with indestructible life, and therefore could never be defeated and that his cause was unstoppable – until then, the apostles were ready to go back to fishing for a living."
  3. The 'proofs' brought confidence and convincing Jesus was alive!
- E. Fourth, He talked to them about the Kingdom.
1. They were still looking for an earthly Kingdom to call their own.
  2. They needed a crash course in post-resurrection kingdom theology.
  3. We are bring what is not of this world into this world through Christ by the Power of the Holy Spirit.
- F. We need what they received, in Acts 1;1-3.
1. We need to be commanded and commissioned by Christ.
  2. We need to 'see' Jesus, by faith.
  3. We need complete confidence, a fully convincing, complete confidence that Jesus is alive.
  4. We need Kingdom understanding. A fuller understanding of what the Kingdom is so that we are about the Father's business. Once we have entered into His kingdom, ruling and reigning within begins.
  5. These four things are really about a solid salvation experience. Preparation for pentecost! You can't have Pentecost without them! Next Jesus brings...

## II. A Clarification of Expectations

- A. Next, Jesus tells them that they will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus thus, lays out a clarification of what the disciples are to expect.
1. This had never happened before! Can you imagine what the 120 were feeling, thinking expecting.
  2. What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? How will we know when we have it?

3. Will it hurt? Will it help? What will we do with it? This is not the first time that Jesus has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. People still ask these questions today.
- B. So Jesus lays out a clarification of what the disciples are to expect. He gives these clarifications in a series of three *"You will's..."*...you will be baptized with Holy Spirit... you will receive power, and you will be witnesses.
1. The first is a command and we need to take note of this, because many people think having a relationship with Holy Spirit is an option in a believers life. It absolutely is not! Jesus commanded... *"...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* It is a stated fact by Jesus (indicative tense).
    - a) Commanded, Greek - *parangéllein* - in the Gospels when it is used by Jesus it is always translated command. Jesus did not *'suggest'* of them to stay in Jerusalem. He commanded them to stay. He gave them an authoritative order containing direction - stay in Jerusalem.
    - b) Do not leave Jerusalem until...
      - (1) The Father sends you the Gift He promised.
      - (2) Baptize with the Holy Spirit - to immerse or to drench...immersed into the HS!
    - c) Again, the Christian life was never intended to be lived without the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Joel 2:28-29 was given. To tell us what God has for us!
  2. You will...be baptized with the Holy Spirit
    - a) *"John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* (Luke 3:16, NLT)
    - b) You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit or you will live way below Kingdom standards and provision.
  3. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us!
- C. The second is what you will receive, *"You will"...* *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."* *Power comes with Holy Spirit.*
1. "Words of this stem all have the basic sense of ability or capability. *Dýnamai* means: a) "to be able" in a general sense; b) "to be able". It also means to have great ability or power.  
Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 186). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
  2. *"You will receive the ability of God when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."* or You will receive God's ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
  3. That is why we need the Holy Spirit and faith to believe for "greater works." Jn 14:12
- D. Third, is what you will then do and be. *"You will...be my witnesses..."*
1. "What is the heart or essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit? I think the essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is when a person, who is already a believer, receives extraordinary spiritual power for Christ-exalting ministry." John Piper
  2. You will receive power to be witnesses. *"Etymology*. The root would seem to be *smer*, "to bear in mind," "to be concerned." The *mártys* would thus be one who remembers and can

tell about something, i.e., a witness. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (pp. 564-565). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

3. I would say that Jesus was a very good witness of the Father's love. The Holy Spirit rested upon Him and remained.
4. God is looking for the same on us who call ourselves Christians. That the ability of God would be in us...fruit of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, power of the Spirit all testifying of the wonderful, powerful love of God. And that, that testimony would produce a harvest of souls for the Kingdom!
5. Heaven is about the harvest. A taking back of what belongs to God. A bringing of the new creation to those who have never met Jesus!

### **III. A Promise Fulfilled, And Given**

#### A. Acts 2:1-4

1. The believers were together on the day of Pentecost.
2. Suddenly -
3. Everyone present was filled.
  - a) Baptism is associated with filling.
  - b) Acts 2:4—those in the upper room.
  - c) Acts 4:8—Peter filled with Holy Spirit said to rulers...
  - d) Acts 4:31—After praying they were all filled.
  - e) Acts 9:17 —Paul was filled with Holy Spirit
  - f) Acts 13:9—Paul filled with Holy Spirit pronounces a man blind.
  - g) Acts 19:6 —Ephesian believers filled with the Spirit.

#### B. That which was promised was given - The Holy Spirit.

1. *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."* (Joel 2:28-29, ESV)
2. His Spirit has been given. Have you received.

### **Conclusion:**

- *"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."* (Luke 24:49, NLT) Sounds like Acts 1:4