

Blog



Pentecost

Why does Pentecost matter?

“Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind.” (Charles Spurgeon) This weekend the Church around the world celebrates Pentecost. It was a day two thousand years ago when the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the praying disciples and a dynamic Church burst onto the scene of human history. Pentecost.

Why does Pentecost matter? The Church needs the Holy Spirit. Individual Christians need the Holy Spirit. Without Pentecost we

are left like a car with a flat battery, or worse, like body with no breath. The Holy Spirit provides the power for believers. “Trying to do the Lord’s work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.” (Corrie Ten Boom)

Just before leaving his disciples to return to heaven, Jesus made them a promise. The Holy Spirit would come and empower them.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

We cannot live a spiritual life without spiritual power. “The Christian’s life in all its aspects is supernatural; only the Spirit can initiate and sustain it.” (J. I. Packer) We all need the power of the Holy Spirit, and on the day of Pentecost, Peter the apostle promised that the gift of Pentecost would be available to every generation (Acts 2:39). Here are some thoughts about Pentecost.

Pentecost is about a person

“When the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

Pentecost is about a person. What the disciples received at Pentecost was not a force, like a bolt of divine electricity. Nor was it merely a spiritual experience. It was not an attribute of God, such as love, joy or peace. The disciples were given a person, God the Holy Spirit himself. “It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7) At Pentecost the Church received God the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is about a person.

Pentecost is about power

“You will receive power.”

Pentecost is about power. When the disciples received the Holy Spirit they also received power. “There is no use in attempting to do God’s work without God’s power.” (D. L. Moody) The gospel message is confirmed by, “Signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.” (Hebrews 2:4) “How I long for a recovery of true biblical Christianity where the apostle Paul, who wrote the book of Romans, also raised the dead! It seems that profound theology and great signs and wonders happily cohabited in Paul’s life and ministry.” (Terry Virgo) At Pentecost the Church received power. Pentecost is about power.

Pentecost is about purpose

“You will be my witnesses.”

Pentecost is about purpose. The great commission of Christ was to, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15) To, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19) To, “Be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) An impossible task without the power of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost so that the Church would have the power to preach the gospel throughout the whole world (Matthew 24:14). This task is not yet completed. But Pentecost makes it doable. At Pentecost the Church was empowered to fulfil the great commission. Pentecost is about purpose.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:1-4)

Pentecost changed the world as Christian believers, Christ's Church, were filled with the Holy Spirit. He is still available to us today. Be filled with Spirit. As John Wesley never actually said, "Set yourself on fire and people will come to watch you burn." Pentecost is about a person. Pentecost is about power. Pentecost is about purpose. Pentecost matters.