

Living in Pentecost
June 4, 2017
Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (Acts 2:1-4 NLT)

Pentecost is not a one-time event. It's a way of life in which one lives daily in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Doesn't that sound like a lifestyle all Christians should be striving to achieve? But how do we get there from here? This week, we will spend some time talking about the transformations that must occur in our lives if we expect to connect with the power of the Holy Spirit that has been bestowed upon us and move in accordance with God's will.

Digging Deeper

Preparation – Prayer

They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. (Acts 1:14 NLT)

- The first believers were constantly united in prayer. We believe God hears our prayers and works through those who seek Him with their whole hearts. Do you seek Him in all you do? How much time do you spend each day talking to God? What are some things that distract you from prayer?
- Diligent prayer is an expression of our devotion to God and a means of strengthening our relationship with Him. Can you point to a time when you clearly felt the power of prayer working in the circumstances in your life?

Purpose – Power to minister in Jesus' name

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NLT)

- The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to accomplish our God-given mission: to spread the Good News of salvation to a lost and dying world. That is, after all, the mission statement of our church: to make disciples of Jesus who seek to change our community and world for Him. Have you ever considered yourself empowered by the Holy Spirit to do that very thing? Think about the ways (big or small) you can begin to work toward that goal right here in this community. You have a purpose and the Holy Spirit is giving you the plan! Do you have the eyes that see and ears that hear?

Posture – Passive trust

“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)

- To receive God’s Holy Spirit we must offer no resistance and allow Him to act. We must only trust that He can do what He has promised. So we pause to seek His will and prepare to yield to His plans (which are of course so much better than ours anyway). Isaiah 40:31 (NLT) tells us: “Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.” Have you found that to be true? Have you personally experienced a situation when waiting on the Lord’s direction increased your dependency on Him and His timing?

Promise – Presence of God

Once when [Jesus] was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.” (Acts 1:4 NLT)

- In His infinite wisdom, God knew we would need an advocate and teacher to help us navigate the complicated circumstances this world doles out indiscriminately. But He also loved us enough to demand our full attention and willingness to allow the gift of the Holy Spirit to penetrate our very souls. So we must ask ourselves, “How should the indwelling Holy Spirit affect our daily lives?”

Conclusion

Pentecost is the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming into our world. But, as we have discussed, it cannot remain as just one day in the hearts of changed believers. If we truly wish to live in Pentecost we must pick up our crosses daily and get on the road with Jesus. Sound familiar? That was the theme of our Lenten series that led us to Christ’s Resurrection and ultimately, to Pentecost. John 14:15-31 (NLT) assures us of the promise of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the lives of those who love Jesus and obey His commands. Once we receive His outpouring of love through the Holy Spirit, we gain the direction, discernment and discipline to enable us to live our lives as Jesus taught: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your power! Let us live in Pentecost! Amen!