

Living in Pentecost: The Wind of Pentecost
June 11, 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)

The gale force wind of the Holy Spirit physically breathing itself into the bodies of those early believers was most likely a pretty terrifying experience. Terrifying, but magnificent! And just as it happened over 2,000 years ago, the Holy Spirit enters all believers when a decision is made to live for Christ. However, we must continually ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, to guide us, to help us do the things God wants us to do. When we're growing as Christians, we should allow the Spirit to take control over more and more areas of our lives. It is impossible to follow God unless we are led by the Spirit. And the only way to be led by the Spirit is to truly become filled by the Spirit. This week, we are going to be talking about living in Pentecost and how the wind, or breath, of God brings us life, direction and renewal even in the midst of devastating circumstances.

Digging Deeper

Category 1: Life

- “For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4 (NLT). When we make the decision to accept Christ into our hearts, we become a new creation in Him and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. But sometimes, when we feel spiritually deflated, we need the Spirit to revive us as well. In what ways can a deeper connection to the Holy Spirit wake us up inside and renew our passion for God?

Category 2: Direction

- Read John 14:26 (NLT). We were promised an advocate to remind us of the goodness of God’s teachings and the Holy Spirit is the mechanism He uses to provide insight into His plan and direction for our lives. How can you tell if you’re being led by the Spirit? It is by the “fruit” of your life, which includes your attitudes and actions. Galatians 5:22-23 says, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Are these attributes evident in your life?

Category 3: Renewal

- Each spring, when the weather is not too hot and not too cold, you can walk outside and physically see and feel renewal happening in all of God’s natural creations. In the same way, God’s Spirit always brings renewal and refreshment to our spiritual beings. What are some things we can do to help us unearth those feelings of spiritual renewal that might be buried under the tensions that exist in our lives?

Category 4: Devastation

- Devastating circumstances can blind us to the nearness and goodness of God. But it is during those times of suffering that God's refining power is preparing us for spiritual renewal in ways that we can't even imagine. Discuss a circumstance that caused you (or someone you know) great turmoil, but led you to the revelation of God's hand clearly sorting it out for good on the other side.
- Romans 8:26 NLT tells us that the Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words." Have you experienced a complete devastation in your personal or professional life? How has God called you to use this experience as a testimony of His goodness?

Conclusion

Come, Holy Spirit! Blow through our lives and fellowship! Breathe into us new life! Guide in Your will and ways! Refresh us with Your Presence! Do something incredible in and through us! Enable us to live in a perpetual state of Pentecostal power! Amen!