

Living in Pentecost: The Witness
June 25, 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)

“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)

We have talked this month about what it means to live in Pentecost. Are you allowing the wind of the Spirit to breathe new life into you? Has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit left you on fire for God? If yes, what do you do now? This week we will talk a little about how we must be in tune with the guidance of the Holy Spirit so we can use the magnificent power God left behind for us to accomplish His will here on earth.

Digging Deeper

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to...

OVERCOME our feelings

- If you are living a life led by the Spirit you are not going to find yourself prone to the sinful behaviors described in Galatians 5:16-24. God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our natural desire to give in to what we want. However, we must be willing to yield our desires to His leading. Have you ever considered that when you allow your emotions to get the better of you it might be a sign of a disconnection from the Spirit? How do you “feel” about witnessing to others?

“I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-4 NIV)

SPEAK the message of Jesus

- When we share our faith we are discussing the most important relationship in our lives. Does that perspective make it easier or more challenging to incorporate evangelism into your everyday life?
- As Christ’s disciples we are intimately related to the Lord and so, in order to witness effectively, we need nothing less than the total filling of the Holy Spirit. What can we do to make ourselves more accessible to the calling of the Spirit and use God’s help to more effectively spread the message of Jesus wherever we go?

“And we all hear these speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” (Acts 2:11b NLT)

IMPACT the whole world for Christ

- Much like the early disciples, we too are called to communicate the gospel to all persons in Lynn Haven, throughout Bay County and the State of Florida, across America, and to every nation on the planet. That includes folks just like us in our own families and community, but it also encompasses people of different races and backgrounds. It means we must share the gospel with neglected groups within our American society as well as telling people who are starving in Africa about Jesus. In order to impact the whole world with the whole gospel we're going to have to overcome our prejudices, biases, and preconceived notions (which we all have). That doesn't come naturally, but requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. How can we begin to live out this calling in practical ways? Have you ever considered taking part in a local, regional or international mission trip? Why or why not?
- The world is changed by our example, not our opinion. When you serve you are living by example and exposing yourself to opportunities to impact the world for Jesus. There are many things you can do to start a ripple of change right here in Bay County. Here are just a few Ideas: volunteer to help with the children who come to our VBS next month, become a mentor to a young person at a local school, help pass out food and pray with those in need at our next food truck on July 31st.

Conclusion

The mission of the Lynn Haven UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who seek to change their community and world.

We can make that sort of difference in people's lives but it requires us to receive power from on high, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8 NLT) God's Spirit gives us power to overcome our feelings, power to speak the message of Christ, and power to impact the whole world for Christ.