

The Fire of Pentecost

The invitation of the hour is for you and me to step into the fullness of what Pentecost makes available – **NOW**.

The time we are living in shows us it's heading up to the Last Days.

NOW is the time for a sweeping move of God's Spirit that will usher thousands into the Kingdom of God.

It's not tomorrow, not one day, someday in the distant future – Pentecostal fire is available **NOW**.

The question is: Who will pay the price to experience Pentecost NOW?

There are some prerequisites to seeing Pentecost in your life:

1. Prioritizing Constant Prayer

Acts 2:1-2 serves as a pattern for igniting Pentecost among hungry believers.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven.

- Unity and agreement to obey Jesus' command to go and wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4)
- Acts 5:32 (NLT) *Once when He 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."*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) **Pray without ceasing.**
- Ephesians 6:18 (ESV) **Praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
- Romans 12:12 (ESV) *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer.***
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) *Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

There are two dimensions of Holy Spirit encounter that come to those who pray:

A. You will experience God as you hear His voice and begin to pray what He is saying – praying His Word.

- To pray, you must encounter Him –
Hebrews 11:4 *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who*

wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.

- You are either talking to Him, or you are saying what He is saying.

B. Constant prayer positions us to experience God's sovereign suddenly breakthroughs.

As New Testament priests, we are to keep the fire of prayer burning as the Old Testament priests kept the altar fires burning:

Leviticus 6:12 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must never go out. Each morning the priest will add fresh wood to the fire and arrange the burnt offering on it. He will then burn the fat of the peace offerings on it.

2. It's not just about the meeting; it's about the commissioning with fire

In Exodus 3 and Isaiah 6, Both Moses and Elijah had fiery encounters with the Lord's presence.

It is essential that we are marked with Pentecostal fire to create a space for everyday people to be marked with the fire of God and deployed into their spheres of influence.

- People need to experience the Lord at the altar, allowing Holy Spirit to mark them to carry fire into their spheres of life.
- Whether it's school, work, business, media, science, education or entertainment, these spheres of influence are just as important as those called to a mission field, preaching the gospel in a faraway land.
- Pentecost needs to mark men and women to be sent by God into the dark places not yet challenged by His presence.
- The common denominator of Moses, the prophet Isaiah, the early church, and us today, is that we are to be commissioned by fire to **GO!**

3. Don't despise messy prayer

True prayer is the kind that births things in the Spirit realm.

Birthing a baby is a messy thing. The hospital tries to sanitize it, but it's still a messy process to get that new life to come.

- When intercession/birthing prayer comes, we can't shut it down saying – "Oh, that's too loud, or too emotional, or doesn't fit the decorum of the situation, take that to the back room."
- This is Hannah praying, birthing a longed-for son to give to the Lord – 1 Samuel 1:9-11 – *Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and*

went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the Lord. And she made this vow: "O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime"

- It's Romans 8:26-27 praying – *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. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.*

4. Make space for repentance that moves people toward God

Repentance is essential to revival and is not a bad word: it's both a transformation of the mind and a turning away from sin.

- Repentance confronts evil thoughts and actions in our lives, it recognizes that sinful activity is far below God's standard for living.
- Repentance has both a negative and a positive to it:
We turn away from sin and its inferior standard of living to embrace being in the pleasure of God's presence.

5. Restoring the altar

We have replaced altars of commitment and consecration in our lives and culture for more room for activities and entertainment.

- The altar, whether here in the building or your home or wherever you meet with the Lord is a sacred place.

**We don't need an experience with the person on the platform;
we need an experience with the Lord in the altar!**

6. We must preach the eternal gospel – the gospel of fire

Reality check: Jesus did not die on the cross to give you and me a happy life, improved relationships, financial prosperity, good health and a sense of significance.

- These are wonderful by-products that flow from the Christian life – but they are not the gospel.

- A. Jesus died because without His sacrifice on the cross, you and I were dead in our sins.
- B. We were hopelessly disconnected from a holy God because of the chasm of sin dating back to Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden.

- C. The only solution for sin's contamination of this world was for the spotless, perfect, righteous blood of Jesus to be shed to make eternal atonement for us.
- D. The only one who could boast of sinless blood was Jesus, the Lamb of God.
- E. This is the Gospel the apostles and revivalists of old preached, and it's the only message worthy of signs and wonders.

It's time to boldly preach the Gospel that is worthy of Pentecostal fire.

It's time to raise the standard of Pentecost again without compromise.

It's time to give Holy Spirit priority to move and manifest on His terms, not our preferences.

It is time for us to establish Pentecost as the Bible baseline for Christianity in every generation, so that we become the NORMAL church again and step into the "greater things" Jesus announced were available.

The Spirit says: **IT IS TIME!**

PRAYER FOR PENTECOSTAL FIRE:

Father, I recognize that **RIGHT NOW** I can experience the fullness of Pentecost.

I repent for putting it off. I repent for thinking it would be "one day, some day," when I would experience Your Spirit's fullness.

I am filled with Your Holy Spirit **NOW**. And Lord, I will make room for Pentecost **today**.

Spirit of God, expose any idol that I have built in my life that prevents me from experiencing the fullness of Jesus.

Reputation: I lay you down. I am willing to be undignified before You, Lord.

Spirit of Religion: I refuse to accommodate and partner with you any longer. You prevent movement. You keep me chained to what happened in the past or what worked in the previous season.

Lord, help me to have ears to hear what YOU are saying **NOW!**

Give me eyes to see what You are doing **NOW!**

Help me to step into Your movement, no matter what it looks like.

I lay down my preferences and say:

Holy Spirit, I want YOU on YOUR terms.

I'M IN!