

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

PART #1

DECEMBER 8TH, 2010

Act 1:4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Act 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1. Many Christians view Pentecost as just a symbol – or a nice image they’ve seen in a stained glass window. Don’t reduce the Holy Spirit’s work to an event in history. The Lord wants to make Pentecost a personal experience in every one’s life.
2. The early church could not fulfill its mission without the wind and the fire-and neither can we fulfill God’s mission without a re-empowerment of the Holy Ghost. Every believer need to be baptized with the Holy Ghost.
3. In some paintings of Pentecost, the fire resting on the heads of the disciples has been depicted to look like tiny flames from Bic lighters or birthday candles. I doubt the Spirit’s power looked so puny. When His anointing flows through us we receive power to witness, heal the sick, cast out demons, speak divinely inspired words and receive His divine direction. Don’t minimize the Spirit’s potential in your life. **Dare to catch on fire!**
4. “**They were all filled with the Holy Ghost**”: Their experience before Pentecost and after is the difference between night and day! They received

boldness, power and courage all came to life in those who were baptized with the Holy Ghost.

5. The fire of God's Spirit took a group of hard people and shaped them into His Church, a Church of power! The fire of Pentecost made a difference.
6. "Pentecost turned boring religion into an amazing adventure, and it transformed ordinary people into bold missionaries. It can do the same for us today."
7. **Spirit and Truth**: If you have the Spirit without the Word, you blow up. If you have the Word without the Spirit, you dry up. If you have both the Word and the Spirit, you grow up.

WHAT PENTECOST DOES IN OUR LIVES

1. **It empowers Us:**

Luk 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power,.... From on high, with which they were to be endued, meaning the power of the Holy Ghost, strength from him to preach the Gospel, and work miracles in confirmation of it, and courage and greatness of mind, amidst all reproaches and persecutions, to face and oppose their enemies, profess the name of Christ, abide by his truths and ordinances, make their way through all opposition and difficulties, and spread the Gospel all over the world;

Luk 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luk 9:42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare *him*. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Luk 9:43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered everyone at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples,

Luk 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

a. **More faith and renewed power:**

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Act 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Act 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad **went every where preaching the word.**

2. **Pentecost Interrupts Us:** The Bible tells us that the wind of the Spirit blew into the upper room “Suddenly” (Acts 2:2) – and His arrival was not on anyone’s timetable.

a. Jesus said Himself said that the Spirit was unpredictable. Like an invisible wind He blows where he wills (John 3:8). We cannot control Him. Yet Jesus expected His early church to wait for His interruption.

b. **Waiting for the Spirit is not convenient,** and patience runs contrary to human nature. We would rather run our lives and ministries ourselves, using our good ideas and clever church-growth strategies. We’d rather do thing on our time schedule. **The early disciples resisted that temptation and waited for the suddenly – and the result was the most explosive, effective and fruitful ministry strategy the church has ever known.**

Act 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

3. **Pentecost Propels Us:** There is nothing static about Pentecost. Although Jesus told His disciples to “stay in Jerusalem until they were

clothed with power from on high. He never intended for them to linger there after the fire fell.

- a. Once they were baptized with the Spirit they were energized with hot zeal. They could not sit still or keep their mouths shut.
- b. From that moment of empowerment the book of Acts becomes a blur of noisy commotion. The newly ignited saints darted back and forth through Jerusalem like spiritual pyromaniacs, spreading the fire of God as they healed lame beggars, baptized new converts and miraculously broke free from prisons. After Philip the evangelist took the gospel to a Samaritan village, he was literally picked up by the Spirit and carried to Azotus in an instant.

Joh 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Act 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Joh 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

Joh 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.