

June 12th, 2016
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Acts Men
Sermon #3 Title: Power To the People
Sermon #3 Text: (Acts 2:1-4)

It should be of interest for you to note, that on the day that we have come to Acts 2:1-4, (The Day of Pentecost – or the Feast of Weeks in scripture), this day we preach on this is in the very Middle of the Feast of Weeks in Israel. – June 11th – 13th, 2016 is the Ancient Celebration of Pentecost.

- 50 days ago, Jesus was crucified
- 47 days ago – Jesus rose again
- 10 days ago – Jesus ascended into heaven
- 2 days ago – the feast of first fruits began
- 1 day from now – the feast will end.

In verse 1 – “When the day of Pentecost was fully come – they were all in one accord in one room.” –

- Some rabbinical writing asserts that the Day of Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks was on a Saturday.
- Yet other Jewish theologians assert that this event was on a Sunday.
- We know that after this day, the church began to meet on the First day of the week, rather than on Saturday.
- We know that the events of this chapter occurred prior to 9 o'clock in the morning.

(There is a chance, that when you were shaving this morning, or brushing your teeth, or putting on your shoes, or when the

orchestra was tuning up – that the anniversary of the moment the Spirit of God descended upon the church came and went while we were preparing for today.)

In John 15:5 Jesus said, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: *for without me ye can do nothing.*”

The events of Acts 2 were not some “Random Event” of Spontaneous Spiritual Combustion. – The events that took place on that Special Day of Pentecost had been Planned by God, Penned by the Prophets, and Performed by the Spirit.

Now we must realize that this event was not “The Day of Pentecost” because of what happened to the church. It was the Day of Pentecost, whether or not anything special was going to happen on that day or not.

- The Day of Pentecost is the Jewish Festival marking the “Feast of Weeks.”

Feast of First fruits!

- It is the Celebration that is delineated in Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- The feast of first fruits underscored the Old Testament Principle that the “first born” was dedicated and belonged to the Lord.
- the firstborn son,
- the firstborn lamb
- here is the firstborn “grain” –

A Jewish farmer in those days would watch his crop carefully, and when the very first buds began to show, or the first sign that there would be a fruit of what was planted, he would mark that plant. Some say he would “tie a reed to it” or “tie reeds to them” to mark them as the first ones that began to grow.

- Then when they were ripened, those fruits were designated to be given to the Lord.

- It was a recognition of dependence upon God for all that He had provided.

- The first fruit was a token from God that there would be a full harvest.

- the feast was the celebration of the offering of those fruits delivered to the Temple.

(Now it did not wait for the Full Harvest- it came at the First of the Harvest)

- Now it is at this celebration that God worked a Supernatural Work, on a Historical Day that would have Eternal effects.

Two primary things for sure we need to understand, and underscore this particular day.

I. It was Promised in the Past

What happened on that day was no theological surprise to the disciples. – It was God doing what God said He would do. It was a historical promise that echoed through the halls of history.

A. The Promise From Above – (Joel 2)

1.) – in verse 14-21 the Apostle Peter gives us the plain explanation of exactly what was

happening to them. (This is a quote from Joel 2:28-32)

Way back in the Old Testament the Lord had told Israel what would happen in the last days.

- The very first thing that he said was “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, (all kinds of flesh, not just Jews), and your sons and daughters shall prophesy; and I will shew wonders in heaven . . . etc.”

- (Now we are going to talk about all of those things mentioned, but for now, you need to note that the First Sign of the Last Days, would be “The Pouring Out of the Spirit of God, into the Children of God.”

- It would be an Action that only God would do, and no man could manufacture.

- men did not pray for it

- men did not ask for it

- God said in Joel, I will do it and He said when He would do it, and what it would mean!

- it would be the last period of days before God wraps up time.

- Jesus repeated this promise to His disciples when He taught them prior to His resurrection.

1.) John 14:16-18 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; *for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*”

2.) Acts 1:4-5 – “Wait for the promise of the Father which ye have heard from me; John truly baptized you with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”

*Note – Now listen – God Planned It, God Penned It, and God Performed It.

B. The Premise Within

What exactly did God promise? What exactly were they waiting for? What is the “Premise” of the event that happened on the day of Pentecost?

(Some people say, - That’s when the church was born - - friend the church was already functioning.

(Some people say – That’s when the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers – Listen carefully – Believers already had the Holy Spirit!

(What exactly happened that day? – He didn’t indwell them, they were already indwelled.

- They were not indwelled from within, they were Immersed from above. God divinely enlarged and increased the power through the Spirit that He had already put into those who had saving faith.

Preacher, I’ve always been taught that people didn’t have the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost!

- Listen Carefully

1.) John 14:16-18 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

- “he dwelleth with you” – (with) – “of you” “from you” “at you”

- and shall be “through you” –

- Some variant manuscripts of the Greek language record this phrase – “he dwelleth with you and is in you”

2.) John 3 – When Jesus explained to Nicodemus the New Birth, “except a man be born of the water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.” – Do you remember what He said next – “How is it that you are a master in Israel and you do not know these things?”

- Listen to the Old Testament Presence of the Holy Spirit within the heart of the believer . . .

Isaiah 57:15 – “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Daniel 4:8-9 – Belteshazzar declared that he knew the “Spirit of the Holy Gods” was within Daniel.

Psalms 51:11 – David prayed, “Take not thy Holy Spirit from me.”

The Bible teaches throughout that no man will submit to the law of God, or please God apart from Saving Faith, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:7-8 – “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in

the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.
Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

*Note – Now when you turn to faith's hall of fame in Hebrews 11, you find hero after hero that pleased God by faith, and the only way that can happen is by saving faith and the indwelling Spirit.

Numbers 27:18 – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;”

Exodus 31:2-3- The Lord had said to Moses – “See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God . . .”

Micah 3:8 – “But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.”

Now all of that being said, Salvation has always happened the same way – they have always been convicted by the Word of God and Spirit of God, and responded by faith and Trust that God would save them through His redeemer – and those people who have been saved, have had the Spirit of God indwell them.

(Then what is the big deal with Pentecost! – At Pentecost, God unleashed a new work through the Same Spirit, and inaugurated the beginning of the last days.

- As He said in 1:8 – Ye shall receive POWER!

(No man ever had Power of the Spirit except by Permission of the Spirit, and at Pentecost, He unleashed His permission!)

- I read a great illustration that I have to share with you. – I do not agree with all things he teaches, but on this picture John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN nailed it.

In 1953 Egypt began work on the Aswan Dam across the Nile River. It was to be 11,000 feet long, 375 feet high, and house 12 turbines capable of 10 billion kilowatt hour output. It would generate enough power to light every city in Egypt.

- The project was complete in 1970, and inaugurated in a 1971 ceremony in which all twelve turbines were unleashed, the full river began to flow over those turbines and the entire country enjoyed the power that came from the Nile River.

- BUT – in those 17 years. They never did stop the flow of the Nile River – it continued to flow while the dam was being constructed. The people who lived near the river during the construction, still enjoyed the flow of the water. – They watered their farms, it turned their mills, it supplied their drinking water.

- Long before the project was complete and the full river flowed through the dam, people who lived near it, enjoyed it.

– But once the Power was unleashed – EVERYONE in EGYPT had the potential to be blessed by the power of the river!

- In the OT, and before Pentecost – those people who lived nearest the River of God's life, enjoyed the indwelling Spirit of God. When the Day of Pentecost came, the River was unleashed, and the Power began to flow with the potential of reaching the entire world.

- That was the Promise and Premise of Pentecost
 - Never get the idea that these men were “more saved” after Pentecost than they were before.

II. It was Purposed For the Present

The Purpose of Pentecost was to give that church what they needed to “turn on the lights in Egypt.”

- The purpose is seen in the happenings –
- Vs 4 – “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

A. To Move the Hearts of His People

- 1.) They were “filled with the Holy Spirit”
 - this is not the idea that they were “filled like a cup” – where you pour water in.
 - this is the idea of being “full influenced” – “fully driven” – “fully moved” – like wind that fills up the sails of a ship.

To be “filled” with the Spirit is to be “governed” by and “guided” by the Spirit of God, and not the will of men. – God began to “blow the sails of their hearts in the direction he wanted!”

Note the ultimate purpose of this filling – to be witnesses, or martyrs of His Work – (one who dies to self, and lets the Lord live through him)

- The Will, and Willingness to spread the good news of Jesus to the entire world.

- A spirit filled church is a church where everyone, is in one place, at one time, in one accord, driven by one Spirit, to do one thing – hear from God – Obey God – and Spread the Gospel message!

- What did Jesus said would happen after they had received power – “they would be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- Where there is no move for missions in a church, there is no moving of the Spirit in a church.

B. To Sound out the Message

- 1.) “And began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- a.) This word just means a language of men. – The miracle however was not in the mouth of the speaker, but in the ear of the hearers.

Verse 6-10 – read

- b.) What did the Spirit give them to say – “The Wonderful Works of God”
 - Every man heard the speakers in their own language.

It was the lost who benefited from this miracle.

1. The purpose of Pentecost was to make Bibles out of Believers that every tribe, every nation, and every person could hear the truth of God in their own language.
2. The second thing that did and I believe is as paramount as the other thing – The Spirit of God can use ANY Saved man to reach ANY Lost man.

(We have a humanistic notion that only certain kinds of people can reach certain kinds of people – It wasn’t just

Greeks, preaching to Spaniards – the roughnecks could preach to the aristocrats. The unlearned could reach the learned.

On that particular festival of Pentecost, God took those people who were indwelt by His Spirit, and Immersed them in His Spirit – They were not just indwelt from within, they became empowered from above.

- He unleashed a New Power through the Same Spirit so that . . .

- (We could do – what He called us To Do

- To move our hearts

- To sound out His Word

- To gift and enable His people . . .

Conclusion: - Now no man can manufacture what only God can do. – But he can quench it. Lost men can reject the Spirit of God in conviction – Saved men can resist the Spirit of God in their carnality.

- (But only those people who have the Spirit of God are saved.)

- he who has not the spirit of Christ is none of his.

Festival of Firstfruits – the first fruit was a token, or a promise of the harvest to come.

In the same way, the Spirit of God is the token of the promised fruits of heaven to come!