

Sermon for Pentecost

“When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts of the Apostles chapter 2 beginning at verse 1.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN

Next to Easter, Pentecost or as defined by the early church Whitsunday, is the second greatest festival in the Church. Pentecost is the Greek name given to the Feast of Weeks because it fell on the 50th day after Passover.

In the book of Deuteronomy we can find that this is where the feast of the first fruits of the corn harvest was presented. Later, the giving of the Law of Moses was commemorated.

The word Whitsunday is said to have derived from the white robes worn by the newly baptized on that day. We can trace the celebration of Whitsunday all the way back to the First Council of Nicaea somewhere around the year 325 AD where it was written in the canons.

However, the first Whitsunday occurred 10 days after Christ had Ascended. From that day forward Pentecost for Christians would have a whole new significance.

In the Gospel John Jesus said, "I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Jesus himself who has been and continues to be the disciples Comforter is telling them that he is soon to be replaced. Like a child when their squishy is taken away to be washed and Mom tries to provide an alternate Comforter the child wants nothing to do with it.

The disciples are probably feeling very much the same thing. Nothing can replace Christ as the Comforter. Jesus points out the big picture to them when he says, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you". Christ had made a promise that the Comforter would come, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Are we a Spirit dependent person? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us?

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Peter was a coward! He denied Jesus walked away and turned his back to him. Why? Because Peter was not empowered with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2: 14 - 39 READ FROM THE BIBLE Highlights - Peter empowered with the Holy Spirit speaks truth that continues to resinate today!

What happens on that day of Pentecost? **UNITY** Acts 2:5 and there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Ephesians 4:13 Saint Paul said - Until we all come to the unity of the Father and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called one hope of your calling.

Gospel of John 14: 15 - 18 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper; He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him.”

The Comforter, Paraclete, Helper, Holy Spirit came to bring Sensitivity, Gentleness, Spirituality, powerfulness of God Loves.

John 16: reads - Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

You see we can't earn the Holy Spirit nor do we deserve it! The Holy Spirit is a gift that can change lives. (3,000 men in one day).

The Holy Spirit gives us the EMOTIONAL OIL -

I relate this to the movie the Wizard of Oz and the Tin Man one who is not empowered. Eventually the challenges of the world stiffened the Tin Man. To the point where he was frozen. Unable to sing, dance, chop wood and even help his friends. It wasn't until

Dorthy oiled his joints was he set free. Then he was empowered to do the things he was called to do. We too must remain oiled in the Holy Spirit to do the things God has called us to do.

Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

5:25 - IF we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Gospel of John 16: 13 - 15 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” He will give us the mental grace and the vision to understand what is and what is to come.

When we receive the Holy Spirit we become a Spirit Dependent People. Well lubed and ready to continue in the truth and love of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Ghost.
AMEN