Pentecost June 8, 2025 Jn 14:8-17; Acts 2:1-21

“***And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another counsellor to be with you forever – the spirit of truth***.” (Jn.14:16)

“***And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.***” (Acts 2:21)

* These two passages from Scripture basically sum up our Christian vocation.
* We are promised the HS, and when we receive this gift, the purpose is to empower us to proclaim the truth of the gospel so that others will call on the name of the Lord and be saved.
* We proclaim boldly and fearlessly because we have the Spirit of God in us.
* If we are not quite so bold or fearless, it is probably because we haven’t fully allowed the Holy Spirit to work in us – we could be just a little shy about acknowledging or allowing the HS to fill us.
* But that’s ok because God is not finished with us. We are on a journey of growing into Christ-likeness.
* The first Pentecost as described in the

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reading from Acts 2 was one that involved expectant waiting because Jesus had specifically promised that He was going to ask the Father who would send the Counsellor or Spirit of Truth.

* The disciples were ready and expectant and I don`t believe there was any fear at all.
* Yet today I believe there is a great deal of fear associated with the HS in many churches.
* I believe it is true to say that a Church that is afraid of the HS is a Church that does not really know the HS.
* This 1st Pentecost was a very significant event that resulted in the birth of the Christian Church.
* Up until this point, Jesus’ ministry was focused specifically & directly on Himself as one individual teaching the crowds & healing the sick.
* But mostly it was preparing His disciples for this very day.
* A day that meant that God’s plan was

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being fulfilled so that the same message of salvation through Jesus Christ could be spread everywhere through the Church that began with the disciples and continues today through you and me.

* We don’t know exactly what happened on that day of Pentecost, except that it was something quite unusual & extraordinary.
* It is described as suddenly there was a **sound like** the blowing of a violent wind and they saw **what seemed** to be tongues of fire.
* But in the end it was a time of joy & celebration such that their behaviour was so erratic that they were even accused of being drunk.
* I believe this reference to such a time of joy and celebration is significant in that it means that when we are filled with the HS, or when we are touched by the HS, it`s ok to have joy.
* There is joy in walking with the Lord.

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* What does all this mean?
* Ultimately, I believe Peter accurately explained what was happening when he referred to the OT book of Joel and concluded with: “***Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***
* The ultimate purpose for this event is that people would be saved.
* While Pentecost meant that the disciples had to be receptive and open for such an event, it was however part of God`s perfect plan.
* Reading from Acts begins by saying, “***when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.***”
* And on the day of Pentecost, this strange & wonderful thing happened.
* Now we, as Christians, identify with the day of Pentecost because of the significance of what happened to these men who were gathered & consequently, through them, how the church began & was established.
* But the feast of Pentecost was

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established in the OT before these events we know of in the Christian context.

* It occurred 50 days following Passover.
* It was one of the three major Jewish festivals, and on this day the Jewish Law required that no servile work should be done (Lev 23:21, Num 28:26).
* What this meant was that this day was a holiday for all & the crowds on the streets would be greater than ever.
* So, **the 1st thing** to point out is the timing of this event.
* What God was about to do, he chose a time when there was a great festival & lots of people.
* What happened next, I believe, is really the heart of the matter because even though God does indeed have a plan for the world, and can stage happenings at opportune times, there is always the requirement of a response from God’s people.
* Something that should give us great

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hope because in this case the response came from Peter, who in spite of his declared eagerness to serve Jesus, he had actually failed him miserably at His greatest time of need.

* It should give **us** hope because maybe that is our story. Maybe we have denied Jesus in our place of work, among our friends, & even in our homes.
* We feel that we have failed miserably, & certainly are not worthy to serve Him or to proclaim His gospel to others.
* What makes this story so incredible and so relevant for you & me is who God empowers & uses to accomplish His purposes.
* This story about Pentecost is also a story of **restoration**.
* Jesus can take our lives, even at our deepest point of failure, and He can restore us to wholeness, just like Peter.
* Peter is a marvellous example of that truth, & Acts 2 shows us what results can come from such a restoration.

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* The coming of the Spirit gave new power to Peter & his fellow believers: power that allowed them to in turn offer new life to others in a startling & effective way.
* When we give our heart to Christ, we have the same access to the same power that Peter experienced at Pentecost.
* Because that is exactly what Jesus promised; “***I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.***” (Jn 14:16)
* This power however, was not given for its own sake; it was not just to make Peter feel good – rather, it is power for service & for witness.
* **When that restoration takes place**, we proclaim a new message.
* Peter who had sworn that he had not known Jesus now stepped before the half-enquiring, half-mocking crowd & proclaimed mightily the gospel of Jesus Christ & his allegiance to it.

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* What was the difference?
* Peter had a new message because he had been open to the coming of the Spirit & had experienced a powerful restoration.
* He not only was able to point out what was going on – that God was pouring out His Spirit as was prophesied by the prophet Joel,
* But he also had a very clear & basic message that he proclaimed.
* His message was that Christ is risen! The resurrection was at the very heart of the early Church’s message, & it ought always to be the center of ours as well.
* But that is not possible without the restorative power of the HS
* The reality of Christ’s resurrection must be a conviction in our hearts, because if we don’t know this ourselves, in our hearts, then our message will be hollow and ineffective.
* That conviction however can only come from the HS – the Spirit of truth.

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* We don’t serve a Saviour who died 2000 yrs ago, we serve One who was raised from the dead & is alive today.
* It is when the Spirit convicts us of that fact that we become powerful witnesses.
* That is what happened to Peter.
* Peter was not only able to boldly stand before the very e/e he had previously feared, he was also able to boldly declare the truth of what was happening.
* There was no more confusion – Peter’s message was clear & very simple.
* That is the model Jesus gave for the Church & it is exactly the same today.
* If we read on a bit further. When Peter was finished speaking, we read where the ***people were cut to the heart***.
* In other words, they realized how Peter’s message rang true & made sense to them.
  + 1. They realized that this offer of salvation through Jesus Christ was their only hope in a confused world.
  + The people said to Peter & the other

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apostles, “***Brothers, what shall we do?***”

* + And Peter replied, “***Repent & be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.***”
  + Pentecost was the birth of the Christian Church because men were empowered to proclaim the very simple truth that Christ died for our sins and rose again.
  + And that is exactly the same model that works today.
  + Unfortunately, all too often the church has lost sight of this simple fact because they are reluctant to name sin.
  + On that great occasion of Pentecost, 3000 people responded in faith & trust to the Christ who was preached.
  + Peter, a weak, discouraged disciple, had become a powerful deliverer of a message that had a tremendous impact on the crowd, & ultimately on the world.
  + But to accomplish this & have such an impact, Peter had to first experience

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God’s forgiving, restoring love.

* + And that happened through Him being open to the Spirit’s presence & power in his life.
  + How does all this apply to you & me?
  + I don’t think too many of us will ever be like Peter, but that doesn’t matter.
  + Peter is just a good illustration of how someone who has failed & has been at rock bottom can be restored & used mightily by God for His purposes.
  + But I believe there is a very significant application for you and me here, especially as we stand for the truth of the gospel.
  + In spite of all the difficulties we may have had in whatever our circumstances may have been, it is still a hard thing to step out of our comfort zones into something new – something that we may feel might even fail.
  + We need to look to Pentecost & embrace the HS for two main reasons:

1.So that we can receive the same kind of

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restoration that Peter received.

2.Need the HS (Spirit of truth) to speak the

truth to us about the Church.

* And the truth is that it is not about us – we don’t have to worry about the church failing because if we are listening to the HS, He will testify to what Jesus said; “***I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”***
  + What really matters is that we are open to the HS so that God can heal & restore us.
  + Because when we are restored in Christ, we will have an incredible desire to serve Him & to witness to His restoring

love.

* + And our witness, no matter how small it may seem, will make a difference in growing His church & helping others realize that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**.