

Pentecost

The Promise of Pentecost

Acts 1:4-8 HCSB While He was together with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "This," *He said, "is what* you heard from Me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, at this time are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Purpose of Pentecost

God desired to possess His people:

The feast of Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the Passover. The feast of Passover celebrated the delivering of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. 50 days later God descended on Mt Sinai and called Moses apart to give him the Law. On that day he made the following covenant with His people:

Exodus 19:5-6 HCSB Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep (*lit: guard, protect*) My covenant, you will be My own possession (*lit: treasure, jewel – from a root word meaning to shut up – the idea being one of protecting what is valuable*) out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, (6) and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites."

He told them His desire in John 14:

John 14:16-18 HCSB And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. (18) I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

John 14:23 HCSB Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

This is the same desire expressed when God gave Moses the command to build the temple:

Exodus 25:8 HCSB "They are to make a sanctuary for Me so that I may dwell among them.

Whenever God took possession of something the fire and the glory were there.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 HCSB (1) When Solomon finished praying, fire descended from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of

the LORD filled the temple. (2) The priests were not able to enter the LORD's temple because the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD. (3) All the Israelites were watching when the fire descended and the glory of the LORD came on the temple. They bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement. They worshiped and praised the LORD: For He is good, for His faithful love endures forever.

This was the case in Acts 2:

Acts 2:1-4 HCSB When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. (3) And tongues, like flames of fire that were divided, appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

What was happening? God was possessing His temple.

It was this event that allowed Paul to write:

1 Corinthians 3:16 HCSB (16) Don't you know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 HCSB (19) Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

2 Corinthians 6:16 HCSB (16) And what agreement does God's sanctuary have with idols? For we are the sanctuary of the living God, as God said: **I will dwell among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.**

He expanded in Jeremiah to not simply possess but to purify and empower :

Jeremiah 31:31-33 HCSB “Look, the days are coming”—*this is* the LORD's declaration—“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (32) *This one will* not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant they broke even though I had married them”—the LORD's declaration. (33) “Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the LORD's declaration. “I will place (*lit: “Nathan” give or bestow*) My law within them (*lit: in their inner parts*) and write (*lit: inscribe or engrave*) it on their hearts. I will be (*lit: exist as*) their God, and they will be (*lit: exist as*) My people.

He reiterated this covenant in Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 36:22-28 HCSB “Therefore, say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: It is not for your sake that I will act, house of Israel, but for My holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you went. (23) I will honor the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations—the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am Yahweh”—the declaration of the Lord GOD—“when I demonstrate My holiness through you in their sight. (24) “For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. (25) I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. (26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and

carefully observe My ordinances. (28) Then you will live in the land that I gave your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God.

He desired to perfect them and make them pure.

He desired to give them power to keep His commands.

The Product of Pentecost

Acts 1:8, "But you will receive **power (ability)** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will **be My witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Power (Greek: "dunamis" from where we get the word "dynamite")

To obey

Philippians 2:13 HCSB For it is God who is working in you, *enabling you* both to will and to act for His good purpose.

Augustine – *"It is one thing to seek the will of God, it is another to have your will and His will so interwoven that you can no longer tell them apart."*

To witness

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 HCSB (18) Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (19) that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

To minister

- ◆ The problem with the church today is that we are trying to reach the world with out the power to do so.
- ◆ The disciples were not allowed to do anything until they had received the promised power.

Purpose

To tell what God has done - He has redeemed us.
He has saved me given me new life.

To tell what God is doing - He is restoring us.
He is making me into what He created me to be.

To tell what God wants to do - He wants to do the same for you.

The Possessing of Pentecost

Luke 11:5-13 HCSB He also said to them: "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, (6) because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' (7) Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked,

and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' (8) I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. (9) "So I say to you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (11) What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (13) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Desire

We must be hungry for it.

We have to be convinced that we are not sufficient.

- ◆ You must be ready and willing to receive it.
- ◆ This means you are willing to no longer belong to yourself.
- ◆ You are willing to throw yourself on God in total dependence for salvation and power to obey.
- ◆ You must submit to Him and rely on Him to do what needs to be done.

Ask

We ask because we are hungry.

We ask God because He is the source.

Believe

Our desperation for Him must combine with our faith in His promise and His ability and desire to fulfill that promise.

Wait

We ask and believe until it happens.

Luke 11:9. "So I say to you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 24:49. "And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised; but remain in the city [Jerusalem] **until** you are clothed with power from on high."(Amplified)

Receive

"You will receive..." Receive literally means "to take" or "to lay hold of."