

Pentecost Power: Empowering Every Believer to Witness

Title of the Sermon or Study:	Empowering Every Believer to Witness
Bible Text(s) Used:	Acts 1:4-8 ⁱ ; Acts 2:39 ⁱⁱ ; Acts 17:26 ⁱⁱⁱ ; 1 Corinthians 12:13 ^{iv} ; Ephesians 5:18 ^v

God's Purpose Is Bigger Than We Are

Pastor Mike opened with an example of Google maps. At street level, we often see only our own problems, plans, families, and future. But Jesus helped the disciples “zoom out.” They were asking whether He would now restore the kingdom to Israel, but Jesus pointed them toward a much larger mission: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The Pastor Mike reminded us that God does not ignore our personal lives, but His kingdom purpose is always bigger than our immediate concerns. Like a parent who sees the whole puzzle box while a child sees only one piece, God sees the full picture even when we do not.

Reflection Question: Where might God be asking me to “zoom out” and see my life as part of His larger kingdom purpose?

God Places Every Believer Where He Wants Them

The second emphasis was that every believer has a place in God’s mission. Jerusalem represents the people closest to us: family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Judea reminds us of the surrounding community. Samaria points to people we may not naturally choose, people who are different from us or outside our comfort zone. The ends of the earth reminds us that some are called to go far away. Yet no assignment is small when it is given by God. Pastor Mike used the picture of a lighthouse keeper who faithfully kept the light burning. He may never have met the sailors he helped save, but his obedience mattered. In the same way, faithfulness where God has placed us can have eternal impact.

Reflection Question: Who is in my Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, or “ends of the earth,” and how can I be faithful there this week?

God's Timing Calls Us to Faithful Obedience

When the disciples asked about the timing of the kingdom, Jesus told them that the times and seasons belong to the Father. They wanted a timeline, but Jesus redirected them to their mission. Pastor Mike compared this to a farmer who plants seed but cannot force the harvest to arrive early. The farmer's responsibility is faithfulness, patience, and trust. In the same way, delayed results do not mean God has forgotten His purpose. We may pray, serve, give, and wait without seeing immediate fruit, but God's timing is still wise. Our task is not to control the calendar, but to obey what God has already told us to do.

Reflection Question: What is one area where I need to stop worrying about the timing and simply keep obeying God?

The Holy Spirit Empowers Every Believer to Witness

The heart of Pentecost is not merely a date on the church calendar, but the promise of the Father: the Holy Spirit empowering believers for the mission of Jesus. Pastor Mike explained that Christians may understand Spirit baptism in different ways, but the main point of Acts is clear: God does not call His people without empowering them. We are not sent out alone. Like a witness in a courtroom, our calling is not to condemn or argue everyone into the kingdom, but to tell what Christ has done. Pastor Mike's welding-glove illustration made the point plainly: a glove may be designed for important work, but it is powerless until it is filled. So it is with us. Talent, personality, education, and programs are not enough. We need the continuing fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection Question: How can I begin each day more consciously depending on the Holy Spirit for courage, wisdom, and witness?

Closing Thought

Pentecost reminds us that ordinary believers can live with extraordinary power. The same Holy Spirit who filled the early church still fills and strengthens God's people today. We do not have to live intimidated, isolated, or powerless. Jesus promised power so that we could be His witnesses. Our calling is to be faithful where He has placed us, trust His timing, and ask daily, "Lord, fill me with Your Spirit."

i

⁴And while staying^[a] with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

ii

³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

iii

²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

iv

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves^[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

v

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves^[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.