

Dear Friends,

The recognition and celebration of Pentecost should be one of our top priorities as Christians. Jesus's birth, His death, resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit and fundamental. Believing and participating in these truths, living in them and through them, brings to light God's love as He desires to redeem all mankind.

We, like the first disciples, have been promised the indwelling of the Spirit; they, like us, hungered and longed for something greater. Following, learning from and ultimately choosing Jesus as our lord and Savior prepares our soul to receive the very Spirit of God! This choice brings more than a roommate. For me personally, He is a soulmate. Nothing else in this world can replace this union of Spirit and soul.

This is why Pentecost is so special. God came into the very room of Jesus's beloved disciples and empowered them! Empowered them to speak God's words to all people in a language they could not deny.

Acts 2



2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to

Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

We too have been called into action today as we read the account of the disciples speaking through the Spirit and by the Spirit. You and I have that very same power, that same Holy Spirit in us! We have received the Spirit so that all will receive the message of Jesus.

Salvation only comes through Him. Unlike some who doubt, we believe.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

We might wonder about our ability to hear the voice of the Spirit as we join Him in the calling of people to repent and be baptized. For many, our words seem to have fallen on deaf ears and hard hearts.

If we desire to communicate Jesus to those ready to hear we must remember they have been called by the Spirit of God. Therefore, we must use the Spirit to communicate. Don't panic, those words are available to us in the Bible! The gospel message is simple: God loves you! Choose Jesus! When we read the Bible, we should first pray for the Spirit to teach, give understanding and enable us to be effective communicators. Then have faith that He will answer those prayers!

We are privileged to be able to listen to the Holy Spirit, to talk with Him and receive instruction. This is praying! Then we step out in faith and obedience to what we hear. Communion with the Holy Spirit then becomes our lifestyle, our lens through which we see everything instead of through fleshly eyes.

Our world is desperate to hear the truth of love and grace, to see light dispel the darkness and see the greatness of our Heavenly Father in all that is good.

Happy Pentecost!

Archie

Call to action:

We need to understand who the Spirit is that every believer has living in them. Look up these verses and highlight His role in our lives:

Psalm 143:10

Matthew 10:19-20

Luke 12:12

John 14:15-16 and 26

Acts 1:8

Romans 5:1-5

Romans 15:13

1 John 2:27