

# Summary

This Pentecost Sunday sermon explores the significance of Pentecost as more than just the birthday of the church or the day tongues were given. The pastor emphasizes that Pentecost represents the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within believers, transforming them into the holy of holies. Through powerful testimonies, including stories of Israeli and Palestinian Christians finding unity and miraculous instances of speaking in tongues, the message demonstrates how only the power of the Holy Spirit can bring together generational enemies and transcend human barriers. The sermon outlines four characteristics of a true Pentecost church: it must be united (dwelling together in one mind and purpose), Spirit-filled (willing to be used and led by the Holy Spirit), amazed by God (not needing entertainment but finding Jesus sufficient), and Jesus-centered (lifting up Christ above all doctrine, politics, or gifts). The pastor challenges the congregation to be among the faithful 120 who waited in the upper room rather than the 380 who had 'something else to do,' calling believers to be available for God's use even when they don't fully understand His ways.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with grateful hearts, knowing that You have called us together for a purpose. As we gather in Your name, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to speak to us today. Help us to set aside any distractions or preconceived notions, and make us receptive to Your Holy Spirit's leading. Lord, we pray that through our time together, You would draw us closer to You and to one another, and that we would leave here changed by Your presence. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's one thing that still amazes you about God or your faith, even after all these years of believing?

## Key Verses

- Acts 2:1
- Acts 2:4
- Acts 2:5

- Acts 2:7
- Acts 2:22
- Acts 2:36
- Acts 2:37
- Acts 2:47
- Matthew 18:20
- Romans 15:5

## Questions

- The pastor shared a story about an Israeli soldier and Palestinian pastor finding unity through Christ. How have you seen the Holy Spirit bring together people who might otherwise be divided?
- Acts 2:1 says they were 'all together in one place' and 'of one mind.' What are some practical ways we can pursue unity in our church and community?
- The sermon mentions that 'unity brings an anointing that will never be present in us singularly.' How have you experienced God's presence differently when gathered with other believers versus when you're alone?
- What does it mean to you personally to be 'Spirit-filled'? How can we be more willing to be used by God in ways we might not fully understand?
- The pastor asked, 'Are we still amazed by God?' What tends to make us lose our sense of wonder about God, and how can we recapture that amazement?
- How do we balance being a 'Jesus-centered' church while still valuing doctrine, spiritual gifts, and social engagement? What does it look like to keep Jesus as the highest priority?
- Out of the 500 people who saw Jesus after His resurrection, only 120 were in the upper room at Pentecost. What might keep us from being fully available when God is moving?
- The sermon ended with the image of the Spirit filling our sails like wind rather than just filling a container. How does this change your perspective on being led by the Holy Spirit?

## Life Application

This week, commit to being more available to the Holy Spirit's leading in your daily life. Choose one area where you've been hesitant to let God use you - whether it's in conversation with a neighbor, serving in your community, or stepping out in faith in some way. Pray each morning, 'Lord, send me and use me today,' and be open to opportunities He places before you, even if they're outside your comfort zone.

# Key Takeaways

- Pentecost represents the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within believers, making them the holy of holies
- A true Pentecost church is characterized by unity, being Spirit-filled, maintaining amazement at God, and staying Jesus-centered
- Unity brings a special anointing and manifestation of God's presence that cannot be experienced individually
- Being Spirit-filled means being willing to be used and led by the Holy Spirit in ways we may not understand
- Only 120 out of 500 who witnessed the resurrected Jesus were present at Pentecost - we must choose to be available when God is moving

# Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and for making us Your dwelling place. As we leave this time together, we pray that You would help us to live as a true Pentecost people - united in purpose, filled with Your Spirit, amazed by Your goodness, and centered on You above all else. Give us the courage to be among the faithful few who are always ready and available for Your use. May we not miss what You are doing in our lives, our church, and our community. Fill our sails with Your Spirit and move us where You need us to be. We surrender ourselves to You completely, trusting that You will use us for Your kingdom purposes. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.