

Upside Down Part 7

Pentecost is Personal

PENTECOST HISTORY

- The Day of Pentecost was the celebration of the covenant that God made with people (giving of the law to Moses)
- God took a people that were not a people and made them His.
- It occurred 50 days after Passover thus the name. Pente means 5. Cost means to the 10th power (50 - fully come)
- It's not scary...It means fifty!

THAT PENTECOST

- This would have been a normal celebration that families participated in for generations.
- But for a small group of 120 people, this day was extra special.
- It had been 50 days after Jesus, the perfect lamb of God, was resurrected from the grave. His followers were gathered in a small upper room waiting on the gift that Jesus had promised.
- Jesus promised that after His death, One would come who would be an Advocate, a Helper, the Spirit of God who would never leave them.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- to Me meant that they would reproduce the ministry of Jesus as His representatives. Our assignment is what we fulfill **WITH** God, not **FOR** God.
- This day was the first day of the "last days" The lavish outpouring of God's presence.
- Up until this point, they only knew the Spirit from a distance. They read about the Spirit being present at creation and showing up in powerful ways throughout the Old Testament. He would come on specific people for a tasks or assignments.
- This was different. This would be a Pentecost celebration that they would never forget. This changed everything. It was the Birthday of the New Testament Church!

Acts 2:1-4 (NLT)

***2** On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,^[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

- It filled the house but then it rested on each of them. Why??

Pentecost is Personal

- It a few moments what started in the upper room spilled out to the southern steps of the temple then to the world.
- God's spirit was no longer limited to an event or location. This wind that could not be seen is still blowing powerfully in the world and this fire is still burning centuries later. Pentecost happens every time the spirit moves and when He moves everything changes.

The book of Acts isn't just a description but it's a prescription., How we as the church are to function and the central role of the Holy Spirit in the church.

No longer limited to one temple, He dwells in every believer. For what?

The Holy Spirit dwells in us to reproduce the ministry of Jesus through us.

- The early church understood that there was a purpose to the power. That they would carry His presence into the world.
- This means that Pentecost is more than a story in the Bible, a religious festival, or a date on the calendar.
- Personal for Peter: 53 days before this he denied Jesus but then Pentecost... this one encounter changed everything. He went from hidden to hollering. Fearful to fearless. (Jesus called him rock)

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

- When you have a personal Pentecost, the Holy Spirit will convince you of your new identity and fill you with the power to live out what God has promised you.
- Peter had heard Jesus talk about the Holy Spirit, but he had no idea what it would be like until it happened.
- The Holy Spirit has more for you than you can imagine: Power, Presence, and Purpose.

Having a personal Pentecost is the difference in you living in victory or defeat. The difference in a life that's limited by your natural ability and the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in and through you.

YOUR PENTECOST: 3 Ways to Experience

1. Begin Relating to the Holy Spirit

- You don't relate to things, but you can relate to a person. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not an it, or a thing, or the weird vibe of God. Notice Jesus always referred to Him as "HE"

2 Corinthians 13:14 (MEV)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

- Grace of Jesus, Love of the Father, AND **Communion of the Spirit**
 - Holy Spirit is identified with communion.
 - “Be with you” implies that you can be without it. Some have communion and others do not just like some walk in grace and others have not. It’s offered to whosoever.
 - **Communion (Greek): *Koinonia***
Fellowship, companionship, communication, intimacy, sharing together, social intercourse, partnership, joint participation, close mutual association.

2. Follow the Leading of the Holy Spirit

- He has feelings and He speaks. (He convicts, convinces, challenges, and celebrates) He leads us into truth (never disagrees with the Word)
- We must be careful not to grieve Him, for He is tender and gentle and can be greatly saddened by our actions.
- Example: When Amy and I first got married, I treated her like one of my guy friends. It didn’t go well. I learned fast. This will not work.

Ephesians 4:30 (NASB)

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Grieve (Greek): *lupet-* to be sad, to be made sorrowful, to be made sorry.

Comes from the Greek Lupe: a grief that only be experienced by two people that deeply love each other.

Ephesians 4:29-32 (NLT)

²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own,^[a] guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

- The Father places protection on the Holy Spirit because He can be grieved. “Don’t you mess with the Holy Spirit.”
- Don’t stop here. ***There’s a difference in following the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit.***

3. Respond to the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (NASB)

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰ do not utterly reject prophecies,

- Grieving and Quenching have equal value of importance.

- We grieve Him with wrong activity (sin). We quench Him when we fail to cooperate with divine activity...we don't access the power.

Quench (Greek): sbennumi- to extinguish, to stop the flow of

1 Corinthians 12:1(NIV)

of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

- This is where many Christians live: *misinformed or uniformed.*
 - *Uninformed: grew up in a church that didn't really talk about Him, or you've just started walking with God.*
 - *Misinformed: seen some weird people to weird stuff, fearful of what He might "make" you do.*
- When we keep the Holy Spirit at a distance, we tend to rely on our own power.
- This is a strategy of the enemy: he is the author of confusion. We become spiritually anemic and weak.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV)

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit,

- Eagerly desire: *covet (I want that, I need that in my life)*
- Don't be passive. He wants to give you gifts and He wants you to pursue and cultivate them...if we don't, they won't grow.
- When I was growing up, I thought that we got all these gifts: we have full access, but our capacity grows in our walk with God: (Emma got a car at 16, not a bike with training wheels)

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV)

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b]¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

- We don't know the whole back story, but we do know is that Paul is clearing up some confusion around the Spirit's gifts.
- There were some who thought that certain gifts made them more filled with the Spirit than others.
- When we start comparing, our focus has shifted from the Spirit to people and we lose power.

Spiritual Gifts: Supernatural capacity and ability given to Christians by the Holy Spirit that enable them to serve others and live an empowered life.

Vs 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Two Truths:

1. They are His gifts given to us.
 2. To work through us for the good of others.
- The only way we fulfill our personal purpose and corporate purpose is to experience a personal Pentecost where we are filled with the Spirit and His gifts.

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

Don't be drunk with wine because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

- Paul is talking about being “under the influence” or “controlled” by the Holy Spirit
- But wasn't I filled when I accepted Jesus? The deposit was made when you believed but then we must choose to access Who He put in us. Just because you have access doesn't mean you are experiencing the full measure of the Spirit.

There's a difference in you having access to the Holy Spirit and you giving the Holy Spirit full access of your life.

RESPONSE: **Make Pentecost Personal** *Relating, Leading, and Filling*

Just Ask: “Holy Spirit come and fill us.... with of your power and gifts. Come fill me to overflowing. I want to walk in the fullness of your power.

- Realize He is missing in your life.
- Held the Holy Spirit at a distance? Say you're sorry and draw close.
- Believe for His gifts to move through you.