

Sermon Title: **“Pentecost is Here”**

Series: *Learn, Live, Lead*

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Text: Acts 2:1-21

Introduction

“Stand firm, and you will win life.” -[Luke 21:19](#)

We began this year with a look at what Kingdom endurance is. **Standing Firm** here means *Endurance* and is a very rich word embodying an **upward, consistent, contagious, and outward** motion that goes against the current. *It is swimming upstream after Jesus.* We saw this is the work the Spirit of God does in our lives, just as He did in Jesus’ - He leads us upward to higher ground and a higher life in Him.

We also looked at some of the outward challenges we face when going upward with the Spirit, including the spiritual forces of darkness which our on their way downward. As they are being cast out of God’s Kingdom, we are being brought in. This is the nature of our Spiritual Battle. Unlike the generations that came before Jesus since His Ascension the Spirit has now come upon us to take the battle to where it truly is at.

What does this look like lived out in or lives? Following Jesus as His Disciples.



“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.”

-Matthew 4:19

This series is set to be a journey answering this question- *what does it mean to follow Jesus?* How do we today answer His invitation and see this journey with Him unfold as it did for the first-generation followers of Jesus? Together we will discover anew what it means to follow Jesus- *to be a disciple making disciples culture that **learns, lives, and leads!***

I. The Need for More (Numbers 11:16-29)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.’” -Vv.16-17

One of the clearest illustrations of the role the Holy Spirit would have among God’s children comes here in this journey of Israel from Egypt to the Land of Promise. It is against the

backdrop of their compliant against God, desiring more than what He was providing, that Moses is buckling under the weight of leading this people. To lead them out of Egyptian bondage was one thing; to lead them through the Wilderness into the land of Promise was another thing.

We rejoice when someone places faith in Jesus and begins a journey of following Him. Everyone wants to be a part of that story. Yet *beginning* is not the same as *finishing*. Moses was feeling the fatigue of helping and leading people to continue to give God their Yes, keeping their hand in His.

It is in this place of affirmation, *I cannot do this by myself*, that God promises to meet this need through His Spirit. Often God waits to provide what we need until we realize how much we need it.

*So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy leaders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. **But they did not continue doing it.** Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.” -Vv. 24-26*

Here we have Moses explaining to the people what God said, what God will be doing, and what this will mean for them. This plays into the Disciples’ words,

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose...”
-Acts 6:2-5

As these seventy are chosen and arranged around the Tabernacle, God takes a portion of the Spirit that is upon Moses and divides it among the chosen. Immediately those recipients prophesied. **Prophesied** here means to speak under the influence of God’s Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings us into the Divine conversation between Father, Son, and Spirit as His Kingdom comes through His Will being done. This is both foretelling and forthtelling in nature.

Did not continue doing it here is a reminder to be conscious of the translation we use. The ESV is richly reformed in its translation conviction and the leaning has a tendency to be on the *cessationist* side of things, meaning the Spirit does the miraculous in the beginning but then ceases. The Hebrew here does mean to stop; but only when both **completed** and **ready to be repeated**. **Like a woman who is with child bears the signs and eventual fruit of that pregnancy but ceases when the child is born; her body then repeats the process.** It is in this breathe that some translations like the KJV translate this as *they prophesied, and did not cease*.

The Holy Spirit cannot be less, rather the portioning out signified the gifting His presence would bring upon them; it would be different than that of Moses. *More on this soon!*

Then there were two who missed the memo and we still within the camp that also received and prophesied. What I love about this is that God is not limited by geography; in our election God's Grace finds us! He seeks and saves, not just saves (See -> [Luke 19:10](#)) I can't help but not that in this sense Paul refers to himself as an Apostle born out of due season, meaning he is like one of these two- *outside of the group but not the anointing!*

“Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the Contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.” – [1 Corinthians 15:8-11](#)

This also plays into Joshua's concerns for Moses- will this water down or lessen the need for you? ***Pluralizing leadership does not weaken the leader but strengthens the Body!***

“And a young man ran and told Moses, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ And Joshua the son of Nub, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, ‘My lord Moses, stop them.’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!’” -Vv. 27-29

Joshua brings report to Moses on this untimely anointing on these two. In this we see again that God is not limited by the circumstances that seek to come between us and our anointing- God's word is faithful because He is faithful!

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Is the Lord's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.’” -[Numbers 11:23](#)

Moses' response to Joshua gives us a glimpse into God's heart and intention toward us; this was a taste of what is yet to come. A portion of the Spirit was taken from Moses and divided among seventy. They shared in the work God called Moses into in order to strengthen the health of the Nation of Israel. Moses was sufficient to bring Israel out of Egypt. More than Moses would be needed to lead Israel all the way to the Land of Promise.

II. A Shared Vision of More (Luke 10:17-24)

“The seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!’ and he said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’” -[Luke 10:17-20](#)

After sending out His close twelve, Jesus then sends out seventy more disciples two by two carrying His message and demonstrating His power to heal.

“Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you.’” -Luke 10:8-9

As the Disciples are declaring and demonstrating the Kingdom of God in Jesus’ Name, Jesus invites us to see what He sees- *the transition of the spiritual forces of darkness cast down and the saints raised up!* **This is Kingdom transition-** and warning: There will be friction! (Lambs amidst wolves).

What I want to note is the similarity between what Moses said regarding the pluralizing of the Spirit and how that strengthens the Nation, with Jesus’ words regarding the same:

“And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest. Go your way;’”
-Luke 10:2-3

Jesus saw the harvest of the world for His Kingdom and affirms the need to empower more with His Spirit to see to this incredible work. Seeing the victory His Disciples were experiencing in His Name brought a joy that rippled into the Divine.

“In the same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Pleasing to you). All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Then turning to the disciples he said privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.’” -Luke 10:21-24

Here we see Jesus’ rejoicing in the Holy Spirit in praise and gratitude toward the Father because the Father is pleased. God the Father, Son, and Spirit share this unique conversation within themselves, and only those invited in may come. It is in this breath Jesus turns and says that they are blessed to have come closer than any other before them to both see and participate in this Divine conversation!

Note that this for Jesus was in the Holy Spirit. Jesus in His humanity demonstrates the role the Holy Spirit has in bringing Him into fellowship with the Father. It is by this same Spirit you and me are welcomed into this Divine conversation.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper; to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” -John 14:15-17

While this is incredible, we must understand that this is not so that we only see and hear, **but participate** in God’s Kingdom coming into this world! Let’s back up a few verses.

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” **-John 14:12-14***

Jesus looked to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria- all of the world for this Kingdom harvest. In this gaze He sees the need to pour out His Spirit to abide within His followers to carry on what He is doing. This is the Father’s Will; it is His pleasing Will. God gives all things to the Son, who in turn does what pleases the Father.

Jesus in turn gives us His Spirit, inviting us into this Divine Conversation in order to also do what is pleasing to the Father.

III. The More Has Come (Acts 2:1-21)

*“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **-Acts 2:1-4***

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus’ followers just as He promised. The sound is the very voice of God echoing back into the Garden for Adam and Eve though this time they need not hide behind fig leaves, but are washed by the blood of the lamb and come into God’s presence with boldness! The appearance of the tongues of fire helps them each understand they received the same Spirit- not one of them is greater than the other- it is the same Spirit upon each of them.

Gave them utterance means that they spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit, same as did the elders with Moses. Prophecy is the key piece taking shape here with those filled with the Holy Spirit! This reaches back into the Psalms of Hallel, 113-118. (Videos online. Take a look)

*“When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.” **-Psalm 114:1-2***

The foreign language reminded Israel that they were not home in Egypt; the shared language of the Spirit invites all to come home to the Father through Jesus!

*“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?’” **-Acts 2:5-8***

Peter then steps up and shows that this has always been God's plan. The Holy Spirit bringing God's presence into us through His Son who removed our dividing sin from us, in order to be filled to overflow His blessings into all of the world.

“But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs in the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” -Acts 2:16-21

From this moment onward is the last days. All of the world is moving forward to that dark ending before the eternal day begins. In this season the Spirit of Christ fills us to lead us into speaking the language of our audiences to hear the Good News and see this demonstrated in the same manner Jesus brought it- in power and authority!

While Luke records Peter's sermon, the others would have been moving through the crowds at the Spirit's leading, speaking into people's lives with the Spirit empowerment, and participating in the harvest that happened among those who cried *Hosanna*, then *Crucify Him*, and finally *what must we do to be saved?*

IV. The Prophetic Voice of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12-14)

As we see the Holy Spirit has come to fill us to overflow outward from us, let us consider the call for the *renewal of the prophetic*.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

-1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.” -1 Corinthians 12:27-28

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation (staying the course). The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophecy. The one who prophesies is greater than the

one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”

-1 Corinthians 14:1-5

It is here that the message comes full circle. The desire for all to be Spirit filled has come to pass thanks be to Jesus Christ. In this filling we need to be seeking the prophetic- the voice of the Spirit foretelling and forthtelling for the furtherance of the church, the strengthening of the Body, and the Glory of Jesus Christ.

In the Spirit is to be in the *Word*.

In the Spirit is to be in *Prayer*.

In the Spirit is to be in *Community*.

Let us move forward this Pentecost Season renewed in the Holy Spirit with fresh vision, direction, and passion speaking God's Word in a manner that is both foretelling and forth telling!