Sermon Highlights

The Day of Pentecost: The Holy Spirit's Coming and the Birth of the Church

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines the pivotal event of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit descended upon approximately 120 believers gathered in the upper room. The message emphasizes that Pentecost was a unique, unrepeatable event marking the beginning of the church age and the harvest of souls. The Holy Spirit came with the sound of a rushing wind and appeared as divided tongues of fire, enabling the disciples to speak in various languages so that Jews from every nation could hear the gospel in their own tongue. Peter's sermon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, explained that this event fulfilled Joel's prophecy. The sermon stresses that while Pentecost cannot be replicated, every believer receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation. The message calls for unity among believers despite differences in interpretation of spiritual gifts, emphasizing that the Holy Spirit is the active agent of God's work in the church today, empowering believers to share the gospel and draw others to Christ.

Key Points:

- The 120 disciples gathered in the upper room did not know about the coming church age or that 2,000 years would pass before Christ's return

- Pentecost occurred 50 days after Passover, during the festival celebrating the harvest, symbolizing the spiritual harvest to come

- The Holy Spirit came as a sound like rushing wind and appeared as divided tongues of fire upon each believer

- Jesus had to ascend so the Holy Spirit could come, as Jesus in His humanity could only be in one place at a time, but the Holy Spirit can be everywhere present

- The disciples spoke in actual languages of the people gathered from various nations, not unintelligible speech

- Peter stood up and preached the first great sermon, explaining this was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy

- Pentecost was a once-in-history event that cannot be replicated because it occurred at a specific prophetic time, with the whole church present in one accord

- The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity, not merely a force or feeling

- Every believer is indwelled by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation

- Christians should maintain unity on essential doctrines while allowing for differences on secondary issues

- The Holy Spirit is the active agent of God working in the church today, just as Jesus was during His earthly ministry

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 2:1-21 (primary passage)

- Joel 2:28-32 (quoted by Peter)

- 1 Corinthians (referenced regarding spiritual gifts)

- Gospel accounts of Jesus's teachings about the Holy Spirit

Stories:

- The account of approximately 120 believers gathered in the upper room for ten days of prayer

- The dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit with the sound of rushing wind and tongues of fire

- The miracle of the disciples speaking in languages they had never learned, enabling Jews from various nations to hear the gospel in their native tongues

- The crowd's confusion and accusation that the disciples were drunk

- Peter's bold stand to preach the first sermon of the church age, resulting in 3,000 conversions

- The illustration of wind blowing through treetops without feeling the breeze below

- The reference to Peter being identified as a Galilean by his accent when Jesus was on trial

- The humorous illustration of 25 clowns emerging from a Volkswagen, compared to 120 people being "in one accord"