

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH 1.11.2020 am

More than a name or denomination, there is revival in the heart that flows out because the Holy Spirit brings life. He added 3,000 to the church on the day of Pentecost and changed the world. We serve a God who continues to move today, powerfully. Acts 2:1. The same Holy Spirit draws, saves, and comes to dwell in the heart of the blood-bought believer – He is received (John 20:21-23) and comes upon believers in power. The first believers were told to wait to be baptised (immersed, drenched) with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5); they gathered in obedience and He came, as promised by Jesus, He rested upon the believers, baptised them and they began to speak in other tongues as He gave utterance. Acts 2:1-4.

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

There was no denying there had been a change in them; there was a clear sound, clear evidence that they were baptised in the Holy Spirit; the Kingdom of God would advance with lives supernaturally empowered.

There is a sound of Pentecost; vision at Pentecost, experience at Pentecost and a lifestyle of Pentecost.

1. The **sound** of Pentecost; there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind and it filled the whole room – can't see the wind but you can see the effect in lives around. There is a sound of other tongues, other languages – those outside heard it and wondered what it was but heard the own languages, and languages of heaven – praising the wonderful works of God. Today, tongue with interpretation is become a supernatural sing for those who are yet to believe, in the gatherings and outside of gathering; we see our God move in the House and on those who are lost. New songs coming forward, not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit. Zechariah 4:6. We see a God who moves in the House, and on the lost, today.
2. The **vision** of Pentecost; Acts 2:1-4 – tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of those in the upper room. Again, you can't see the wind, but you can see its effect – these tongues represent the anointing upon believers for ministry, for signs, for witnessing.

"¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17-20

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." Mark 10:8:

Faith activated – through laying on of hands. God speaks and delivers, still. People **saw/see** the supernatural in action – saw/see lives impacted, changed for good, souls saved, families restored, healings...

You can hear something. You can see something. We need to receive something. Any move of God doesn't go outside of the Word of God and we are filled by the Spirit of God to do the supernatural, as the Spirit gives utterance, ability.

3. **Experience** of Pentecost

Speaking in tongues is a secret weapon in the sense that the enemy can't understand. There is an edification, a building up of the spiritual self, in the initial evidence, **and** empowering to do everything God wants us to do, for His purposes. Luke 4:18-19 answers the why – for the poor, those without God – without good news, blind, in chains, captive ...

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

We truly are living in the day of the favour of the Lord – the day where the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the anointing to reach the world.

"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." Acts 1:8.

We have the sound, sight, and experience of Pentecost – this, there is a lifestyle of Pentecost.

4. **Lifestyle** of Pentecost

Reaching those in our surrounds – living as witnesses of Jesus; when they see us, they see Christ. The kingdom of darkness is not the same as the kingdom of light – we are peculiar in this sense – we are different, and people are watching our lives as well as listening to what we say. Each believer has their own mission field – workplace, our own generation, people groups around us – if we have breath, we hold purpose because we have the power of God to live a Godly life.

Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*

Titus 2:12 explains the grace of God has appeared to all men *'teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,'*

We are not perfect but 2 Peter 1:3 explains *'His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,'*

His divine power brings His divine nature as we participate with Him, through His promises. Like Christ, witness to Him where we go. This empowerment is for the world; it works better there amongst people who are yet to know Him.

Did this baptism finish with first generation of believers?

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:17

These are last days, and this promise is for our descendants – our tomorrows, until that great day.

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

We believe, we receive. We ask, we receive; simply true of what God said. Luke 11:11. The Holy Spirit is a GOOD GIFT – to those who ask, they receive. This gift reaches the lost and increasingly the harvest celebrates the harvest together.