

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

I emphasize the words "filled with the Holy Spirit." When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you find great joy in every aspect of ministry. I was recently in a conversation with another Disciple pastor when I mentioned preaching on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. She interrupted the flow of the conversation to talk about it. She said "I have been a pastor a long time and have heard thousands of sermons but I have never heard a Disciple preach about the indwelling of Holy Spirit." Well, here we are, Pentecost is a very special occasion. All of the followers of Jesus were all together in one place. It is the Spirit that came among them. They received the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit stayed with them. Then the Holy Spirit is passed on throughout the generations through anointing and indwells in us.

The author, Luke, describes it as best he can. It came upon them suddenly. It came to them from heaven. This is the Holy Spirit! He describes the sound as best he can. Like a violent wind. This we would think of like a tornado. I have not been that close to one personally but I heard it sounds like a train is upon you. What it sounds like is not significant. What is significant is what it is that made such a great sound. This is the Holy Spirit! He describes what it looks like as best he can. Fire - fire - fire! What it looks like is also not significant. What is significant is what it is. This is the Holy Spirit!

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. This is what is important! This is what matters! They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is the birth of the church - it is when the Spirit came upon the people - it is a time of great excitement, energy, commitment! Oh how I love the excitement, energy, and commitment that comes from being a Disciple. Something truly remarkable happened - people heard the word in their own native language. The word carried power and authority. The Holy Spirit came upon them and about 3000 new people joined. Wow! This is a goose bump moment.

There are some key points I would like to highlight. Each of these is a sermon unto itself. 1, The Spirit is Active. 2, The people have to hear the word. 3, Christ gives us the mission. The first point, the Spirit is active, is revealed in the biblical texts. In the creation story of Genesis chapter 2 God breathed life into Adam. In John 20:22 Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." In today's Scripture it is Pentecost and the Spirit comes to the people. Praise God - the Spirit comes to the people. This is something worth celebrating - the Spirit comes to the people.

The second point is the people have to hear the word. As a matter of fact there is no other way. God gave the word to Israel. Jesus gave the word to the world. The Bible gives us the word today. All of us are here today because sometime in our lives we have received the word. There is a lot more I could say about this but the point I want to make is that it is up to us to deliver that word. Jesus needs us to deliver the word. The third point is Christ gives us a mission. It is my firm belief that Matthew 28:19-20 is some of the most important words of the Bible. Jesus says go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. This is the great commission, this is what Jesus tells us to do. Make disciples and teach them to obey everything. This is what we are all about. This is what we are to do. In this commandment there is no room for complacency. Make disciples means you make people that are devoted followers of Christ. You make sure they are devoted followers of Christ. You teach them everything Jesus taught. You teach them every single lesson of Jesus. You make sure they know every single lesson of Jesus. You become a student then you become a teacher, and you teach the Jesus model. And you are very serious about it - there is no room for complacency! You have the Holy Spirit as your guide, protector, and source of power.

On Pentecost the people are empowered by the Holy Spirit, empowered with the Holy Spirit, and empowered through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit at work. The Holy Spirit - strengthens us and empowers us, joins us together in unity, and gives us a mission to fulfill. You are not just a Christian, you are a Disciple. You have the Holy Spirit at work in you. This is very serious business. This means you have tasks the Lord commands you to do and you have the power to do them. Christ is about change in the individual. When you become a Christian there is a complete change in personality, off with the old self and on with the new, a new behavior, a new attitude, a new way that you look at the world.

The lesson is for you is not to be just a believer but to be a follower of Christ. To exchange the virtues of the world (things that pull you away from God) for the virtues of Christ. We are to be examples of Christ to the world around us. Think about this message and your relationship with Christ. Christ brings us closer to God. Christ gives us love. We know God loves us, me, and you. Let the peace of God rule your heart. Have compassion for other people. We are bombarded daily with challenges and temptations. Let us be in covenant with Jesus Christ Jesus daily. You are filled with the Holy Spirit. Let Christ rule your life daily. Obey his teachings and commandments. Be right with the Lord and you can't go wrong, no matter what you are facing, because you too are filled with the Holy Spirit.