

PENTECOST

SERMON

NOT LEFT ORPHANS



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SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 2:1-21 (ESV)



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“1 ¶ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.”

**Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21
(ESV)**



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“4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 ¶ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.”



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**“7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying,
“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”**

**8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own
native language?**

**9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of
Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and
Asia,”**

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 (ESV)



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“10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?””

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 (ESV)



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“13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

14 ¶ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.”

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 (ESV)



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“16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 (ESV)



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“19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Ac 2:19-21 ESV)

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 (ESV)



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THESE ARE THE LIVING WORDS OF GOD

**THANK YOU JESUS FOR NOT LEAVING US
ORPHANS**

AMEN



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Today we are celebrating Pentecost. We are going to think of the reality that we have not been left fatherless and orphans in our Christian walk in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost simply means 50. After his resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days on earth with his disciples appearing too many. He then ascended to heaven to be the perfect man at the Father's throne representing all of us. Remember that Jesus is both Jesus-God and Jesus-man in his one person within the Trinity.

Ten days after his ascension to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to this earth from the Father.

Before his crucifixion, Jesus had promised his disciples that he would not leave them orphans. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit, an advocate just like he is.

Let us look at the promise he made before going on to the momentous event of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

“15 ¶ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

17 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.

18 ¶ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (Joh 14:15-18 ESV)



Jesus knew that his disciples would not be able to survive and stay faithful without God the Holy Spirit coming to them.

Out of love for his disciples, he promised not to leave them fatherless or orphans. He said, **“I will come to you”**.

Jesus has come to his disciples and to us by sending us his Spirit.

The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit both as a person distinct from Jesus as well as the Spirit of Jesus. He is the Spirit of Jesus because he was sent forth by Jesus to live in us. Because the Holy Spirit is God and God is one, when the Holy Spirit lives in us, both the Father and Jesus live in us.

Now let's go back to Acts 2 which we have just read and think about this momentous event which is celebrated on Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTED HIMSELF AS A POWERFUL WIND



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The Holy Spirit came in very powerful manner. There was no doubt that he had come.

This coming is a powerful wind reminds us of the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 in the valley of dry bones.

“8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.” (Eze 37:8-10 ESV)



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The Holy Spirit is compared to breath or the wind. Imagine this scene. God brought Ezekiel in the spirit and set him down in the middle of a valley which was full of bones. All the bones were dry. And God asked Ezekiel if he thought that these bones could live.

Ezekiel humbly answered, "**O Lord God, you know.**" God told Ezekiel that the bones would live when he would cause the breath to enter them.

When the breath came into them they all became alive. Imagine the scene!

If you remember in John 3 when Jesus met Nicodemus, this is what Jesus said to him.
(next slide)

“6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”” (Joh 3:6-8 ESV)



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The Holy Spirit came in a way that is in harmony with prophecy.

It is also very consistent with what Jesus told Nicodemus. Being born-again, having a your life in Christ is brought about by the intervention of the Holy Spirit who makes us alive. Apart from the intervention of God, we are all dead in our sins.

What happened on the day of Pentecost shows that the apostles were completely changed men.

They had lost the spirit of fear which they exhibited when Christ was crucified and subsequent to his resurrection.

Now these fearful men were completely transformed. They proclaimed the good news about Jesus boldly and with vigor.

In fact, it is impossible to proclaim Jesus without revelation through the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTED HIMSELF AS FIRE



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"Then tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them."

God in the Old Testament manifested himself as fire.

Remember when God met with Moses and Exodus 3? The Lord God appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.. He revealed himself to Moses saying, "**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**

While God was leading the Israelites towards the promised land, he led them as a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21-22).

When the tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

When then happened?

THEY BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.



This was very different than the speaking of tongues discussed in 1 Corinthians 14. In 1 Corinthians 14, those speaking in tongues needed someone to interpret what they were saying. This led to confusion and there were problems in the church as a result. The apostle Paul did not condemn them but gave them clear instructions about how they were to speak in tongues translated in Greek glossolalia. They were not to speak in tongues unless there was an interpreter. If there were no interpreter, they were to say nothing. Only 2 or at most 3 could speak in such tongues during a service.

What happened on the day of Pentecost was different because as the apostles were speaking, devout Jews from every nation who had gathered in Jerusalem for this feast were hearing them speak in their own tongue or language.

There was a time on the earth when people spoke one language. This was during the time of Noah. You will find the story in Genesis 11.

To avoid perishing in another flood, the people had taken things in their own hands and began to build a high tower that reached into the heavens, and the clouds (Genesis 11).

The people at that time decided to disregard God and his will. Consequently, God confuse their language. They had to stop the construction because they could not understand one another anymore.

God did something absolutely amazing here to the apostles. He made a miracle in the ears of the listeners so that they could understand where the apostles were teaching about Jesus.

God showed that people of different languages and from different regions could and did become the people of God.

God respects diversity. In this world, people have difficulty accepting differences between languages, between races, between skin colours, etc. In fact in this world, people try to get rid of diversity. If we take our own province, there has been a lot of pressure trying to have just one language.

In some countries, people are forced to adopt a way to think. If they don't, they are brought to camps where they are "re-educated" sometimes forcefully and rudely.

The history of Canada as well as the history of other countries has some very sad historical experiences. In Newfoundland, all the first Nations people, the Beothuk, were killed.

In our own province, we saw them as problematic. We put them to live in reserves isolated from the white European descendants.

That is not so in the kingdom of God. There is diversity within the Trinity. God created diversity in people. He honours and respects diversity.

This is not how God works. **"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,"** (Re 7:9 ESV)

It is also interesting that God chose Galileans, people who were considered backward. To use modern vocabulary in North America, we might use such words as socially and educationally backward, lacking finesse. Other words which might be used in North America are: hicks, provincial, unsophisticated, uneducated, a person not interested in culture, etc.

God uses very ordinary people to proclaim the good news of the gospel. We read in 1

Corinthians that God chose what is foolish in the world to confound the wise. He chose the weak in the world to shame the strong.

Consequently, we are not to think that God can't use us because we are not as educated as others in terms of formal education, career or position in society. That is not how God works.

The other thing that we are to notice is that God descended on each of the disciples individually. Individually and collectively, they were called to do a work, the work of proclaiming the gospel to the world and to make disciples.

When the Holy Spirit comes in our lives, he makes real changes.

- He opens our minds.
- He changes our hearts of stone into a heart of flesh.
- He gives us new life.
- He guides us.
- He influences the way we think. We are to participate in what he is doing.
- Our mind is being renewed as we stop being conformed to this world. We are to test and discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect to him.
- We become his temple.
- We become changed people.
- The relationship we have gone through the Holy Spirit is a very intimate relationship as we come to know Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
- God works both individually and corporately with his church, they called out ones.

THE GOSPEL IS NOT ALWAYS WELL RECEIVED



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Instead of acknowledging that a mighty miracle was happening, some among the Jews who had come to worship in Jerusalem put out the unfounded thought that this was happening because, as they said that these people were filled with new wines - in other words, they were drunk.

Not everybody reacted that way, of course. Many were wondering what was happening while others mocked and ridiculed the preaching of the apostles.

Peter addressed directly which was on their minds reminding them that it was 9 AM. These people were not drunk. He told him clearly that which was happening was fulfilment of the prophecy found in Joel.

Then he went on to talk about Jesus, who he was, his life on earth, his dying for their sins and his resurrection and ascension to the Father's throne.

This was very real because there were literally hundreds of people who had seen Jesus alive after his crucifixion.

Many of the people were so touched by the to the heart. As a result of the preaching

of the apostle Peter they wanted to know what to do. Peter told them clearly to “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are afar off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself**”.

He told them to save themselves from this crooked generation. On that day 3,000 people were added.

GOD KEEPS ADDING TO HIS CHURCH OUT OF LOVE. WE ARE NOT LEFT ORPHANS!



We need to remember that the Holy Spirit is at work in our world today. He is convicting people all over the world to turn to Jesus in repentance. We are not to limit God's work because we do not know who he is calling now and with whom the Holy Spirit is working.

The Holy Spirit is compared to the wind. We do not know where he works or how he works but we see the results of change lives.

As we walk in Christ and share the good news of the gospel as God leads us, we cannot expect that we will always be well received.

Some but not all will mock. Some but not all will reject. Some but not all will be angry. When that happens, we are to remember the words of Jesus who said, " **11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**" (Mt 5:11-12 ESV)

Jesus send the Holy Spirit from the Father because he loves us. He has not left us

orphans. He has not left us orphans. He knew that we could not stay faithful without sending the guarantee of our salvation, the Holy Spirit!

Let us pray and thank God.