

Week 6 - “Pentecost”

The Aim of the Session

“What does this mean?” is the ultimate question of Pentecost, uttered by those who were there and watched it happen. We know the Spirit brings an infinite number of Gifts, brings beautiful Fruit into our lives, as we grow in our relationship with God, and brings the breath of real life, life in abundance, and a sense of purpose into lives of Jesus’ followers. That’s what Pentecost “does”, but what does it “mean”?

- **Welcome**

What would you love to do in life, if only you had the nerve?

- **Worship**

Read John 1:9-13 and Galatians 4:4-7. What does being a “child of God” mean to you? What benefits and rights does it bring? Praise God that each and every person who believes in what Jesus has done for them, is a child of God!

- **Word**

Read Acts 1:6-9

- ❖ What sort of Kingdom were the disciples still expecting?
- ❖ What things had they seen that meant this was not an unrealistic expectation?
- ❖ What sort of Kingdom was Jesus bringing?
- ❖ What things had he said to describe it?

Three simple yet complex questions from verse 8:

- ❖ What did Jesus promise them?
 - ❖ What task did Jesus set them?
 - ❖ Where would they do this?
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- From school, what do you remember $F=ma^2$?
 - What did it stand for?
 - What did it mean in real terms?
 - For a bonus point, whose rule and what number!?

The reality is that the effectiveness of making something happen depends on having the right oomph behind it, pushing it in the right direction. Exactly the same principle is applied to the work of the Gospel.

One MASSIVE question:

- ❖ What would have happened had the Holy Spirit not come?

Read Acts 2:1-4 – but the Spirit DID come!

- ❖ How does the “rushing wind” symbolise the Spirit?
- ❖ Think back to things you have learn about *ruach* and *pneuma*, Genesis 2:7 and Exodus 14:21 ...
- ❖ How does this differ from 1 Kings 19:12?
- ❖ What is God saying about the Spirit in this moment?

- ❖ What does “fire” symbolise?
- ❖ Think back to Exodus 13:21-22, Malachi 3:2, 1 Kings 18 and the Prophets of Baal ...
- ❖ Why do the tongues touch each of them there?
- ❖ What is God saying about the Spirit in this moment?

In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist stated that Jesus would Baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Bringing all these things together ...

- Jesus promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit would be given to equip them to fulfil the task he had set them.
- Without the Spirit, the task would be reliant upon human resources only and would inevitably wither.
- The Spirit comes with the power of a mighty wind, symbolising God’s abundant breath of life, being given to the followers of Jesus, to equip them.
- The Spirit comes in tongues of fire, symbolising the purifying work of the Spirit, making us more like Jesus, individually being empowered and equipped.
- The Spirit brings the supernatural power of God into the natural world of our lives, overruling the laws of physics, biology and chemistry – and language.

- **Works**

The call of the Disciples was the same call for us – to be Witnesses.

What does Pentecost “mean”? It means taking seriously the call of God to be Witnesses, knowing God has given us the resources to do it, and realising we have no excuse not to obey.

- What are you being called to be a Witness of?
- Where are you being called to be a Witness?
- How do you need to be equipped for it?
- What do you need to ask God for (clue: T*e H*i* S*p*r*t)
- So do it ...



Next Time ...

Next week is going to be a Social Evening / Week.

Why not plan a BBQ or Wine and Cheese, or a Social evening where you can invite friends along to the group?

And after that ...

Psalms: Seeking God Through Honesty and Reality

7 – Psalm 51 – “Humility Before God”