

Holy Ghost

The Ghost and the Fire – Pentecost Distinctives: Part 1

June 5, 2022

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SERMON DESCRIPTION

God continues to empower His people and the promise of Holy Spirit and fire is alive and well, nothing impactful can be accomplished without the power of the Holy Ghost.

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do they need to know?
 - The baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is still imperative to live the Christian life.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - It is impossible to live an empowered and overcoming life without Holy Spirit.
3. How should we apply it?
 - Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and walk in the spirit.

CENTRAL TRUTH

The body of Chris must return to her heritage and the roots of Pentecost.

MAIN PASSAGE

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

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.

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

MAIN POINTS

- The power
- The witness
- The sound
- The fire
- The tongues
- The unity.

There are key distinctives that accompanied the outpouring of Holy Spirit, consider:

1. The Power

- b. Act 1:8 - 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."
- b. "Dunams" – dynamite power of the Holy Spirit
- b. Stir up the gifts and callings of God in your life.

2. The Witness

- The main purpose of the pouring out of the Spirit of God was so that the Apostles and followers of Christ could be witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, they would be enabled to do "greater works" as Jesus had commanded them and promised.
 - To be witnesses means, to be martyrs, literally to suffer for the glory and sake of Christ. This will take incredible grace and require the boldness and infilling of the Spirit.

3. The Sound

- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit came with a sound that commenced in Heaven and travelled all the way to the upper room. Every move of God is always accompanied with a sound.
 - Filled the house
 - It is a corporate anointing
 - The sound went from that of wind to utterance and languages of men
 - Make a joyful noise unto the Lord
 - The sound impacted the city of Jerusalem
 - The sound of war came from the camp of Israel
 - Sounds impact the spirit world
 - *"God is attracted to the sound you are making, to the sound of your voice"*

4. The Fire

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

a. What is fire?

- Our God is a **consuming** fire (Hebrews 12:29) "For our God is a consuming fire.
- Fire is **a sign** of the glory of God's power and His presence
 - The children of Israel were led by the pillar of cloud and of fire
 - It was a symbol to Israel of God's presence
 - In the wilderness God revealed His presence through fire

- The fire is **individual** – it sat on them as individuals – God knows the fire that each one of His children requires.
 - Concept that the fire is unique to every person - Holy Spirit knows the fire that we require for our individual lives and ministries
- The fire is **selective** – It knows what to destroy and what to preserve
 - i.e., The three Hebrew children – their bindings fell off when they were thrown into the fire but they were not hurt.
- The Fire is **expressive** – It speaks – the fire communicates the word of God
 - God spoke to Moses through the burning bush (Acts 7:30, Exodus 3)
 - The bush was not consumed by the fire
 - Abraham saw a vision - a burning lamp and a smoking furnace **Light and Illumination**
 - Fire brings light and illumination brings a sense of darkness into light
 - *Jeremiah 23:29 ESV: Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces.*
- The FIRE is a **weapon** – “fight fire with fire”, in other words, fight the fires of hell with the fire of the Holy Ghost
 - Paul shook off the snake and into the fire (Acts 28:5)
 - Act 28:5 - But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.
 - Fire is also expressed in energy and power
 - The FIRE is PASSION.
- Fire present in worship - **Worship and Sacrifices**
 - In all of Israel sacrifice fire was an important element
 - Many of Israel’s offerings were connected to fire
 - The “peace” offering, “sin offering”, “meat offering” and the “incense”
 - Fire was always present in the Holy Place
- Do not touch strange fire
Exodus 30:9
You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it.
- **Fire** that brings **purification**
 - Purification, - **Purifying Agent**
 - Fire is a cleansing agent element, but it is different than water
 - Water cleanses but fire purifies internally and intrinsically, it penetrates the very substance of things
 - Christ’s baptism was by fire - included motives, aims and thoughts and intents of the heart
 - The Holy Ghost separates us from the self-life and brings us into the nature of Christ
 - Isaiah indicated that when we walk through the fire we will not be burned
 - Fire that refines (Luke 3:15-18)
- Fire is **judgment** – and vindication
 - Elijah called down fire from heaven against the prophets of Baal
 - Fire can be destructive when it is sent in judgement

- Fire that **reveals** - God's choice
 - Often times within Scripture God declares His choice and selections through the demonstration of fire
 - 1Kings 18:16-39; Acts 2:1-4
- The fire is **beautiful**
 - Warmth and beauty
 - Fire brings heat and beauty; The Holy Spirit warms our hearts
 - Fills our hearts with love, we enjoy warmth, affection, God is love.

b. *"In ancient Rome when the fire went out all business ceased working. They do not do a thing without the sacred fire". So all true works ceases when the Holy Ghost is withdrawn from the church of God and from the midst of the work. God does not accept anything that is not done in the power of the spirit. ~A.B. Simpson*

5. The Tongues

- a. Tongues of fire rather than the tongue that is set on the fires of hell
- b. *"It's easier to speak in a tongue than to hold your own" – Bishop Tony Miller*
- c. 10 Reasons Why Every Believer Should Speak in Tongues
 - i. Speaking in tongues is the initial, outward manifestation of the Holy Spirit Baptism.
 1. Acts 2:1-4
 2. Acts 10:44
 3. Acts 19:1-6
 - ii. Speaking in tongues provides spiritual edification.
 1. 1Corinthians 14:4 (WE ARE SPIRITS!) Edify means to charge up or build up
 2. Jude 20-21 - Keeping in God's love is edifying.
 3. 1Corinthians 8:1 - ENVY, STRIFE, and CONFUSION TEAR YOU DOWN
 - iii. Speaking in tongues reminds us of the Spirit's indwelling presence.
 1. Abides (remains) with us forever
 2. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and we should acknowledge His presence. Psalm 139:7-10
 - iv. Speaking in tongues keeps our prayers in line with God's will (Romans 8:26-27)
 1. He helps us to pray when we do not know what to pray or how to pray
 2. He searches the intents and motives of soul and spirit and applies the perfect wisdom to the real need
 3. The outcome is Romans 8:28.
 - v. Speaking in tongues stimulates faith (Jude 20:21)
 1. Speaking in tongues waters and nourishes the word we already have in us (Remember WATER is a type of the Holy Spirit).
 2. Speaking in tongues keep us in God's love and faith works by love (Galatians 5:6).
 - vi. Speaking in tongues keep us free from worldly contamination (James 1:27)
 1. 1Corinthians 14:28 – We have the ability to speak to ourselves in certain situations which are not under our authority or control. This does not mean we can subject ourselves to ungodliness and then pray in tongues to counter the effect.

- vii. Speaking in tongues is speaking the mysteries of Christ (1Corinthians 14:2)
 - 1. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ (Colossians 2:3) and we speak directly from our spirit to our Father's Spirit and enlighten our minds.
- viii. Speaking in tongues gives spiritual refreshing (Isaiah 28:11-12)
- ix. Speaking in tongues is giving thanks unto Him (1Corinthians 14:15-17)
- x. Speaking in tongues brings the tongue under subjection (James 3:8)
 - 1. No natural ability or wisdom can tame the tongue.
 - 2. If we can yield our tongue to God by our prayer language, then He can bring forth blessings and right words that edify.

6. The Unity

- They were all gathered in one accord in the upper room as Jesus had instructed them. In other words, they were of one mind, one purpose, and one goal—to await the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ in the pouring out of the Spirit of God by the Father. Unity is a powerful weapon and according to Psalms 133 God commands a blessing there.
 - However, just because unity is present, there will always be mockers as well
 - The Spirit of Pentecost is the answer for racism – there were people gathered from various places and they witnessed the pouring out of the Spirit of Pentecost. In fact, 3000 souls were saved after Peter preached.

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND THOUGHTS

Pentecost or the Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles – The Harvest or Pentecost

1. On the day of first fruits when you bring a new meat offering unto the Lord, you shall have a Holy Convocation; you shall do servile work (Numbers 28:26)
2. At the Feast of Pentecost, called "the early harvest"
 - The Jews offered up the first fruits of new grain offering from their first annual harvest exactly fifty days after Passover.

The Call to Action

- Move forward
- Be filled
- Be people of Holy Spirit.

Summary

- We have become intellectuals at the cost of forgetting the things of the Spirit
- We must expect God to do things that cannot be explained
- God knows the fire you need
- God chooses by fire
- God meets us in the fire
- The sound is for the room, but the fire is for the individual
- God's people are forged in fire
- Fight the fire of hell with the fire of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is the first person of the Trinity to be mentioned in the Bible
- Fire is used by God to purify us
- When God chooses you, He puts fire in you and on you.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Describe what occurred when you were filled with Holy Spirit.
2. Consider the word fire. "What other attributes does fire have that has not been named in the sermon notes?"
3. Why is God and worship so closely associated with fire?
4. Connect the dots between The Day of Pentecost in the Jewish calendar and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What is the significance of this day? Why was the Spirit of God poured out on this festival?
5. Why did the people mock the Apostles and those that were in the upper room? What does this communicate to you?
6. In the account of the pouring out of the Spirit of God, explain how the Spirit of Pentecost is the answer to racism.
7. What is the connection between the pouring out of the Spirit of God and speaking in other tongues? What do the Scriptures have to say on the subject?