

## Acts Chapter 2 “Pentecost Power”

This morning we want to take a look into one powerful day in the early church. The early church in the book of Acts is our model and Biblical example at Calvary Chapel. May we have a fresh desire for power they experienced on the day of Pentecost!

### I. The Power of the Spirit (Verses 1-13)

#### 1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a) This is the promise given by Jesus before He left them.
  - Remember the purpose for the filling is to witness for Christ.
    - 📖 *Acts 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) We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit again and again.

#### 2. Speaking in Tongues

- a) Tongues should be used only in accordance with Biblical instruction (1 cor. 14)
  - There is much controversy surrounding speaking in tongues. Sufficient for our study today is that we should practice this gift of the Spirit only in accordance with the Word of God.
- b) Tongues glorify God (see verse 11)
  - Tongues are not used to speak with men but with God.
    - 📖 *1 Corinthians 14:2* “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God...”
- c) Many become uncomfortable with the idea of tongues (5-13)
  - This is to be expected from the world but not from the church. We serve a supernatural God, and have clear instructions from His word.
    - 📖 *1 Corinthians 14:23* “Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?”

### II. The Power of Preaching (Verses 14-39)

Sadly much preaching is lacking in power. People are not experiencing the true power of God’s Word.

A senile old man greeted a guest preacher at the door after the service, and said, "It was a good talk, Son, but you talked too long." He paused, then he added, "And you talked too fast." Again he was quiet for a moment, then he said, "You didn't say anything either." At this point, one of the members felt it his duty to intervene. "Don't worry, Reverend," he said, "that poor old man isn't all there. He only repeats what everybody else says."

#### 1. Explanation from Joel’s prophecy (14-21)

- a) There must be a sound scriptural basis for any spiritual manifestation or phenomenon. (16)
  - Slaying in the spirit, holy laughter, gold dust, shaking uncontrollably, holy glue, etc. are unbiblical.
- b) The Spirit’s work a sign of the last days (14-20)
  - We are now living in the last days and are included in this prophecy. It will be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ.
- c) The Spirit’s work to result in salvation (21)
  - Again, the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring people into a relationship with Jesus and be saved.

## 2. Resurrection proves Jesus is Lord (22-36)

- a) The gospel message isn't complete without the resurrection
  - 📖 *1 Corinthians 15:1-4* "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"
- b) The death and resurrection of Christ was the plan of God from the beginning (22-35)
  - That doesn't excuse our responsibility. "It was our sins that nailed Him there, it was our cross He had to bear"
  - The plan was prophesied in the Old Testament (see: Psalm 16:8-11 & Psalm 110:1)
- c) The resurrection of Christ is a declaration that He is Lord and Savior. (36)

## 3. Application to our own hearts (37-39)

- a) The preaching of the Word by the power of the Holy Spirit was able to cut into their hearts
  - "The world does not need sermons; it needs a message. You can go to seminary and learn how to preach sermons, but you will have to go to God to get messages." – Oswald J. Smith
  - 📖 *Hebrews 4:12* "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
  - 📖 *1 Corinthians 2:2-5* "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."
  - The preaching was so powerful that the listeners themselves gave the invitation!
- b) They had to make a decision and take action
  - Repentance is to turn from sin toward God
  - Water baptism is the outward symbol of an inward work of God in the heart.

## III. The Power of the Church (Verses 40-47)

### 1. People were saved (40-41, 47)

- a) Saved from their sin and this perverse generation
- b) The church grew from 120 to 3,120 in one sermon!

### 2. Their priorities were right (42)

- a) They did four things essential to a healthy church
  - The Word, Fellowship, The Lord's Supper, & Prayer

### 3. Their purpose was the same (43-47)

- a) There was great unity among the believers and they helped each other when there was a need.
  - Helping other people and serving Jesus had become more important to them than their possessions.
  - Because of this common purpose and union the church was extremely powerful. The unity of the believers goes all the way back to verse one.

Seeing the power of the early church should cause us to turn to God and ask Him to make us like this early group of believers. Only then will we experience the power of Pentecost at Calvary Chapel Kampala.