



The Phenomena of Pentecost

Sermon Outline

Text: Acts 2: 1-4

Introduction: Pentecost was the central point of New Testament Christians. Some Christians remain at Calvary, others at the empty tomb. We should reach Pentecost.

1. Wind--the breath of God

- a. Adam, new creation, divine breath (John 20:22)
- b. Breath-life, inspiration, strength
- c. Breath became a mighty wind
- d. Inspiration--think new thoughts
- e. Valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37)

2. Fire (Matthew 3:11)

- a. Represents God's presence (e.g., burning bush)
- b. Illuminates
- c. Burns
 - (1) Affects character
 - (2) Burns the dross
 - (3) Affects emotions (love, zeal, desire, feelings)
- d. Communicates-warmth (how the gospel spreads)
- e. Melts-unites

3. Other tongues

- a. Language-unique to humanity
- b. Self-control (James 3:2-8)
- c. Babel-rebellion, confusion of tongues
- d. Pentecost-submission, control
- e. Communication
 - (1) With God-praise, intercession
 - (2) Prays with one's spirit
 - (3) With the world-servants will prophesy and be witnesses
 - (4) With 17 languages at Pentecost (Acts 2:6-12)--the gospel for every race and includes our mission to all the world.

Conclusion:

We need the wind, fire, and inspired tongue.

CALVARY AND PENTECOST

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:9,10; 1 Corinthians 1:23-25

Introduction

There is a relationship between Calvary-50 days after Pentecost is Calvary's complement. Calvary opens the way to God. God comes to us in Pentecost. The divine fire descended upon the altar. We need not only Pentecost but the Cross plus Pentecost.

1. The Cross is divine intervention which gives a remedy for sin and rebellion.
2. The Cross crucifies self (Galatians 2:20).
 - a. Peter was self-confident; when he humbled himself and sought God he was baptized with Pentecostal power.
 - b. The Cross signifies the surrender of human will. "Not my will but Thine be done" power requires accepting divine direction.
3. The Cross demonstrates pardon.
 - a. "Father, forgive them."
 - b. We must watch our own spirits.
 - c. Have a redemptive attitude.
4. The Cross is the triumph of love.
 - a. When we were enemies.. .
 - b. God's love reaches out to all humanity-no one excluded.

UPON ALL FLESH

Text: Joel 2:28,29

1. Last-days movement-contrast of judgment and grace.
 - a. Signs in the heavens.
 - b. Pentecost is not stagnant but equal to today. (We are not contending simply for organization or doctrinal formula. Ask, "What does God want to do now?")
2. A supernatural movement--"my Spirit upon all flesh"--a sovereign act of God. The impossible becomes possible. The Infinite comes upon the finite.
3. A youth movement-attracts youth, young men, and handmaids.
4. A common people's movement-servants, no privileged class, no difference in rank. (Apostles were not religious professionals-120 received, not just the apostles. This is the strength of the work.)
5. A universal movement-upon all flesh.
6. A movement of vision-shall see.
7. A movement of witness-shall prophesy.
8. Preparation: repentance, humility, unity, intercession (verse 12).

SIGNIFICANCE OF PENTECOST

Text: Acts 2:12

Introduction

"What meaneth this?" We must not confuse the symbol-happy singing, manifestations, speaking in tongues, emotions-with the substance.

1. Pentecost came to prepare the Church for Its work.
 - a. A complete and balanced gospel.
 - b. Well-balanced and thinking people.
 - c. Christian virtues--grace, holiness, gifts, and graces.
 - d. Well-developed Christian character.
 - e. Responsibility for evangelism and social needs.
 - f. Each aspect of the gospel should receive its proper emphasis but balanced-not mistaking the leaf for the trunk.
 - g. A biblical Pentecost.
2. A true Pentecost exalts Christ Jesus.
 - a. Note the apostles' message.
 - b. The Holy Spirit's work is to reveal Christ.
 - c. Jesus Christ crucified, resurrected, Savior, Healer, coming King, Head of the Church, Baptizer, High Priest.
 - d. Christ is our message. Tongues and healing are by-products. We do not preach denomination.
 - e. True Pentecost will not exalt the individual.
3. True Pentecost results in the consecration of the entire being to God. The Baptism is not an extra.
 - a. God intends for the Holy Spirit to control the life.
 - b. Gives fire-impulse. (See the apostles' sacrifice and daring .)
 - c. God conquers us. We are His. Tongue controlled IS a symbol-not wrath, passion, or doubt.
4. Pentecost signifies the divine breath in the human soul. The Infinite dwells in the finite.
 - a. Wind-inspiration.
 - b. Christ breathed on disciples new life, new birth.
 - c. At Pentecost the breath turned to a mighty rushing wind.
 - d. Power in prayer.
 - e. Liberty in worship.
 - f. God dwells in His temple.
5. Pentecost signifies the divine power to reach out to humanity.
 - a. At Pentecost-many tongues.
 - b. The believer becomes the expression of God's heart.
 - c. We are His witnesses. God uses men. Be ye reconciled to God.

Conclusion: Let us not defraud the holy purpose of God in sending the Holy Spirit to us.

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