

Faith in the Home

The Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-21. "Pentecost: More about the Message than the Power"

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

What do we think of when hear the word "spirit?" If a crowd sits quietly watching the home team rather than cheering them on, that crowd would be accused of not having much spirit. On the other hand, a raucous crowd that could potentially disrupt the road team and inspire the home team, would be considered a "spirited" crowd indeed. A spirited conversation is one with energy.

Some Christians fall into the trap that worship with more modern music than traditional music is more "spiritual." Emotion, power, energy is often associated with the Holy Spirit. Some people think that the Holy Spirit is only present in you if you can speak in tongues and perform miracles. Yes, the Holy Spirit did amazing things in the Book of Acts, including in Pentecost. But who is this Holy Spirit?

Power is associated with the Holy Spirit because power is associated with God, and the Holy Spirit is God together with the Father, and the Son. The Holy Spirit is a person. Jesus talks about the sending the Helper in John and uses the pronoun Him, when referring to the Holy Spirit. We need to be reminded from time that the Holy Spirit is a person because we focus so much on the Father, and Jesus.

That is actually what the Holy Spirit's role is. Even though He was the "life of the party" in Acts 2, He can be described as the shy person of the Trinity. He never points to Himself, but He points us to Jesus, the Son of God. That's what Pentecost for us today is about.

While the Holy Spirit gave the disciples a supernatural power to speak in different languages, the point of Pentecost is that Jesus from on high sent the Holy Spirit to help us, His Church proclaim the Gospel.

Two applications that can be drawn from this are one, The Holy Spirit helps us proclaim the Gospel, and two the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity that brings people to faith. You believe because your faith was gifted to you by the Holy Spirit. We cannot come to faith by our own reason. So, the pressure of converting new believers is off of us. That's job of the Holy Spirit. However, we see as God's Church that we are here to proclaim it, and now have the authority to do so. That is part of the DNA of the Church. We are ambassadors of Christ. We are His Body. This not something to be afraid of. This is something to be excited about. We get to take part in a Gospel that changes lives and saves souls for eternity.

So, how do we teach and apply these things in our home?

1. When sharing the Gospel, the context of where, when, and who is important. 3,000 souls came to faith in Jesus Christ that day of Pentecost. Remember, many had traveled there to celebrate the remembrance of when Moses gave the Law at Mt. Sinai, 50 days after the second day of the Passover. So, people were looking to worship God. They traveled over the known world to hear the Law of God, and received the Gospel. So, in order to effectively share the Gospel, it is important to know who we are speaking to. God placed people in your life to build relationships. These are people you can share the good news with if they know you genuinely care for them.

2. Remember that even though 3,000 people believed that day, there were still those who rejected it. (Peter refuted a man who thought the disciples were drunk.) Just as the disciples were mocked. There is a potential for us to be mocked for our faith. Perhaps that's already happened. But remember, we get to share the good news of Jesus Christ. What if part of the joy of the new creation is getting to see the impact, we had of sharing the Gospel?

3. What about the Holy Spirit's divine miraculous power? Do miracles happen today? I believe they do, and I have found nothing in Scripture to suggest they cannot. However, just because we may never speak in tongues, heal a lame man, or raise the dead, doesn't mean that we do not have the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3 reminds us, "No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." If you can say He is your Lord, and believe that He rose from the dead, then Holy Spirit, the third person is inside you. We are part of Him. He takes us to the truth of Jesus.

4. The "unforgivable sin" is to reject the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? It means that you reject the Good News of Jesus Christ when you hear it, or you once having faith, reject it. Remember there is an offensive aspect to the Gospel. What's offensive about it is that it proclaims that we cannot be righteous about God.

5. Remember that Christianity is about reconciliation. God promises to help us sinners. He promises forgive those who put faith in Him. Christ loves sinners and so must we. That doesn't mean we celebrate or promote sin. But we who are forgiven are to share Jesus with sinners so that they may be saved.