

Week September 29, 2013

This Week's Focus: The coming of the promised Holy Spirit empowering us for the mission of Jesus.

This Week's Text: Acts 2:1-14

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Luke 24:46-50

When Jesus baptizes a person with the Holy Spirit, the person is carried not only from doubt to belief but to certainty, to awareness of the presence and the glory of God." Martin Lloyd Jones

Related Texts: Leviticus 23:9-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, 14:26-28, 15:20; Ephesians 5:18; Genesis 15, Exodus 19:18

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What is the significance of the descending of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost?
- In what ways has our culture promoted self-healing and self-wholeness?
 - What does the day of Pentecost tell us about our need for God?
 - o Can you share a time when this has become very evident in your life?
- The coming of the Spirit is first described as a "sound like a mighty wind".
 - o What does that imply? Reference Ezekiel 37:1-10.

- What is the significance of the tongues of fire? Reference Genesis 15:17 and Exodus 19:16-19.
- According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens when some comes to a
 saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the initial identification and union with
 Christ. Reference Romans 8:9 and 6:1-11.
 - What is the difference between the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit? Reference Ephesians 5:18 and Acts 4:31 and 7:55.
- What are the different purposes of speaking in tongues? Reference Acts 2:6-11 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-2 and 26-29.
- What is the significance of the multi-lingual proclamation of the gospel on the day of Pentecost? Why do you think God did it that way?
- Define the "mighty works of God".
- Can you a share a time when you were "filled" with the Spirit's power and shared the "mighty deeds of God"?
- What is holding us back from declaring the gospel?
- How can we encourage each other to live on mission with Jesus?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins and delivers us from the wrath of God.
- God uses us to proclaim His might deeds with power.

Prayer Focus:

• Pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit so that we can declare His greatness and gospel to the world.

Next Week's Text: Acts 2:14-41