

# The Power

Joseph Carty / General

Holy Spirit / Pentecost / Acts 2:1–4

The Day of Pentecost and the fulfillment of the Promise.

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## › 260 – Hover O'er Me, Holy Spirit

Intending to raise cattle, a family from New York bought a ranch out West. When their friends visited and inquired about the ranch's name, the would be rancher replied: "I wanted to name it the Bar-J. My wife favored Suzy-Q, one of our sons wanted the Flying-W, and the other liked the Lazy-Y. So we're calling it the BAr-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y." "But where are all your cattle?" the friends asked. "None survived the branding."

- Previous Sermons
  - The Person
    - (3rd person of Godhead)
  - The Promise
    - (Acts 1)
- Now
  - The Power
    - (Acts 2)
    - (Pentecost)
- Next
  - The Past
    - (SDA History 1888)
  - The Punchline
    - (Latter Rain)
- Today,
  - Day of Pentecost
    - Turn to Acts 2

### Acts 2:1 ESV

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

- Look at KJV
  - better

Acts 2:1 (KJV):

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

During World War II, Hitler commanded all religious groups to unite so that he could control them. Among the Brethren assemblies, half complied and half refused. Those who went along with the order had a much easier time. Those who did not, faced harsh persecution. In almost every family of those who resisted, someone died in a concentration camp. When the war was over, feelings of bitterness ran deep between the groups and there was much tension. Finally they decided that the situation had to be healed. Leaders from each group met at a quiet retreat. For several days, each person spent time in prayer, examining his own heart in the light of Christ's commands. Then they came together. Francis Schaeffer, who told of the incident, asked a friend who was there, "What did you do then?" "We were just one," he replied. As they confessed their hostility and bitterness to God and yielded to His control, the Holy Spirit created a spirit of unity among them. Love filled their hearts and dissolved their hatred. When love prevails among believers, especially in times of strong disagreement, it presents to the world an indisputable mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ.

- If you remember
  - from last chapter.
- Jesus gives promise
  - of coming Spirit
  - not many days future.
- But disciples
  - ask if Jesus will
  - restore kingdom.
- In other words,
  - they missed it.
- They were completely
  - unprepared for
  - coming promise.

- What changed?
- God told them,
  - go to Jerusalem
  - get ready.
- Only 10 days later,
  - the promise comes.
- What changed?
- First verse,
  - “they were in one accord”
  - That changed!

- In this world
  - elections
  - Covid
  - race discrimination
  - disunity
- If you remember,
  - last supper,
    - fighting about
      - who is greatest.
      - Foot washing....
- Things have changed:
  - Unity
  - Humility
  - repentance
  - peace
  - love
- How?
- What brought about unity?
- Good question!
- Don't we want unity?!?
- What did they do
  - during those 10 days?

Acts 1:13-14

And when they had entered, they went up to the upper

room, where they were staying... All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- What were they doing there?
  - Prayer
  - NO...

## “Devoting Themselves to Prayer”

- Is there a difference?
- What is the difference?
- When you are
  - devoted to something
  - you give it your heart.

### Ellie's Prayers

- Not just
  - table prayer
  - bed-time prayer
  - 10 minute token prayer
- Devoted to Prayer!

The Lord has fulness of grace to bestow on every one that will receive the **heavenly gift**.

The **Holy Spirit** ... will mold and fashion the human agent according to the divine Pattern, **in proportion as** the human agent shall earnestly desire the transformation.

- *Sons and Daughters of God* p. 28

- There is a phrase here
  - that is very important
    - “in proportion as”...
- What does that mean?
- We receive
  - this amazing change
    - of the Spirit
      - in proportion as
        - we seek and desire it!
- So far,

- we learned
  - the disciples
    - sought it
    - desired it
    - devoted themselves.
- As a result,
  - God worked an
    - amazing transformation.
- What Next?

#### Acts 2:2–4 ESV

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.

- What happens now?
  - Fill with Holy Spirit
  - Strong Wind
  - Tongue of Fire
  - Spoke in Tongues
- Our Pentecostal friends
  - would say
    - speaking gibberish!
- But let's see
  - what happened
    - in the story:

#### Acts 2:5–6 ESV

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

- people hear the noise
  - come check it out.
    - Hear people
      - Speaking in what???

- “hearing them speak in his own language”

- God does not
  - lead his people
  - to speak gibberish.
- That work my friends,
  - is not of the Holy Spirit.
- It is actually
  - a false latter rain.

Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a **revival of primitive godliness** as has not been witnessed since apostolic times...

The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out;

there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world. {GC 464.1}

| **Texas - Gibberish**

- Now, just in case
  - you are not convinced
  - Tongues are real language
  - the story continues:

**Acts 2:7–12 ESV**

And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one

another, “What does this mean?”

- The Bible is
  - abundantly clear
  - on topic of Tongues.
- Tongues are
  - other languages.
- Yet,
  - just like today.
- Many misunderstand
  - and reject
  - working of the Spirit.

#### Acts 2:13 ESV

But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

- At this point
  - Peter stands up
  - gives long sermon.

#### Acts 2:15–16 ESV

For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

- He quotes

#### Joel 2:28–29 ESV

“And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.  
Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

- Peter claims
  - they are experiencing
  - fulfillment of Joel 2.
- He explains,
  - this is all
    - because of
      - what they did
      - to Jesus.

Acts 2:22-23 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth... [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

**Acts 2:36 ESV**

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

- As the people
  - they are convicted:

**Acts 2:37 ESV**

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

- Peter doesn’t waste time
  - giving the answer:

**Acts 2:38 ESV**

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Many people
  - accepted exhortation:

**Acts 2:41 ESV**

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

› (parenthetical idea)

- I know many
  - who want to be
    - baptized but
      - not into a church.
- They say
  - I want to be
    - “baptized into Christ”.
- I want you to see
  - last verse explains:

Acts 2:47 (NKJV):



praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- Verse 41 says
  - 3000 were added
    - “added to them”
- But verse 47
  - makes it clear
    - who them is:
- “added to the church”
- This makes clear
  - those who are baptized
    - are added to
      - a local body
        - of believers.
- In this way
  - they can
    - grow
    - thrive
    - edified
    - disciples
    - supported
    - unified.
- In fact,
  - amazingly,
    - verse 46 explains
      - the extent of
        - their unification:

#### Acts 2:45 ESV

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

- That is an amazing
  - sense of unity they had.
- And I’m convinced
  - there will come a time
    - when we will
      - do this again
        - sooonnn....
- So we better

- start getting used
  - to being around
  - each other a lot more.
- This chapter is
  - the story of
  - amazing transformation.
- 120 Unconverted
  - 3000 Converted
- What changed?
- Jesus Christ
  - ascended 10 day before.
    - Sacrifice accepted
    - Reinstated as
      - King of Kings
      - Lord of Lords
- Inaugural appointment
  - give them
    - the promised
      - Holy Spirit Power!

Christ's ascension to heaven was the signal that His followers were to receive the promised blessing. For this they were to wait before they entered upon their work.

When Christ passed within the heavenly gates, He was enthroned amidst the adoration of the angels. As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in rich currents, and Christ was indeed glorified, even with the glory which He had with the Father from all eternity.

The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven's communication that the Redeemer's **inauguration** was accomplished.

According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people. {AA 38.3}

- The outpouring

- of Pentecost
  - happened right on time.
- It was on the
  - prophetic calendar.
- In fact,
  - all feast days
    - Messianic Prophecies.
- I just don't have
  - time to go into
    - all those details
      - at this time.
- This unique outpouring
  - of the spirit
    - is actually not
      - solely reserved
        - for those who lived
          - 2000 years ago.
- That part of story
  - I like most
- Most exciting part
  - about all this:
- Joel's prophecy
  - is actually
    - Dual Fulfillment.
- Follow me on this...
- Peter says
  - Pentecost is
    - fulfillment of Joel 2.
- But if we read it thoroughly,
  - It is only a
    - partial fulfillment.
- The context of
  - Joel 2 and 3
    - is judgment.
- Lets read section
  - that Peter quoted...

#### **Acts 2:17–21 ESV**

“ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;  
even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall  
prophesy.

And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;  
the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and  
magnificent day.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon  
the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

- Look at this
  - you realize
    - part of this
      - was not fulfilled
      - at Pentecost.
- Those signs in heavens
  - did not happen then.
- Actually, there are
  - two other places
    - that talk about
    - those signs.

#### **Matthew 24:29 ESV**

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun  
will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of  
the heavens will be shaken.

- What is the context of this verse?
  - Tribulation
  - 2nd Coming
- Next verse:

#### **Revelation 6:12–13 ESV**

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold,  
there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black

as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

- This passages
  - signs before
    - 2nd Coming.
- Therefore,
  - Pentecost was
    - only partial fulfillment.
- There will again,
  - be a special
    - outpouring of
      - God's Spirit
        - at the end.
- In the same chapter
  - of Joel 2
    - we find beautiful
      - spiritual teaching.
- Just before
  - the prophecy about
    - Spirit being given
      - we find
        - verse 23:

#### **Joel 2:23 ESV**

"Be glad, O children of Zion,  
and rejoice in the LORD your God,  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the latter rain, as before.

- Early and Latter Rain
  - Two rainy seasons
    - Fall and Spring.
- This rain from heaven
  - was emblematic
    - of something more:

#### **Hosea 6:3 ESV**

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;

he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.”

- Early rain =
  - coming of God’s power.
- Joel 2 speaks of
  - 2 rains
  - 2 fulfillments
- Early Rain =
  - Pentecost
- Latter Rain =
  - End of Time
  - Spirit Power.
- We live during Latter Rain
- If this is true
  - we have obligation:

#### **Zechariah 10:1 ESV**

Ask rain from the LORD

in the season of the spring rain,  
from the LORD who makes the storm clouds,  
and he will give them showers of rain,  
to everyone the vegetation in the field.

- It is time
  - for the rain.
- Jesus is coming soon.
- He will soon,
  - provide another
    - pentecostal experience
    - for last-day believers.
- Our job:
  - be prepared to receive!
- Like early disciples:
  - devoted to prayer!
  - Ask for Rain!

› 265 – Breathe on Me, Breath of God