

THE MISSIONARY PURPOSE OF PENTECOST

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Sermon in a Sentence: The biblical account of Pentecost proves that the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is empowerment for missional witness.

Sermon Purpose: That people may be filled and re-filled with the Spirit with a clear understanding of its missional purpose, resulting in their becoming effective witnesses for Christ.

Text: Acts 1:8; 2:1-12

Introduction:

1. The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is clearly stated in Acts 1:8. (That purpose is empowerment for witness at home and around the world.)
2. This truth is abundantly demonstrated in the events of the Day of Pentecost.
3. Six "Pentecost happenings" demonstrate that the purpose of Pentecost is empowerment for global witness:

I. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in the Promise of Pentecost (Acts 1:8).

- A. According to these words of Jesus, power for witness is the primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- B. We can experience that same power today, and for the same purpose.

II. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in the Timing of Pentecost.

- A. The Spirit was poured out on the "Day of Pentecost" (Acts 2:1).

- B. In the Old Testament the Day of Pentecost was called the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of Harvest."
 1. (Ref., Ex. 23:16; 34:22)
 2. Pentecost was a harvest festival, celebrating the first-fruits of the barley harvest.
- C. The timing was not coincidental.
 1. Pentecost marked the beginning of God's great world harvest.
 2. He gave His church the power to harvest the nations.
- D. We are filled with the Spirit in order to participate in God's mission of reaching the lost at home and abroad.

III. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in the Setting of Pentecost.

- A. The Bible says that "There were dwelling in Jerusalem, Jews from every nation under heaven..." (Acts 2:5).
- B. The first Pentecost was an international gathering.
 1. It was all arranged by God.
 2. He wanted us to understand that the purpose of Pentecost is to empower the church to reach people of all nations (Acts 2:5).
- C. Missions began immediately upon receiving the Holy Spirit.
 1. Peter preached under the Spirit's power.
 2. Three thousand were saved, representatively from "every nation under heaven."
 3. God wants every Christian to be filled with the Spirit and win the lost to Christ.

IV. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in the Sign of Pentecost.

- A. Acts 2:4 says, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

- B. Why did God choose to cause them to speak in tongues?
 1. Why not healing? Miracles? Visions?
 2. Why Spirit inspired tongues?
- C. God wanted us to understand that the primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit was missionary proclamation.
- D. Note that the tongues they spoke were the languages of the surrounding Gentile nations (Acts 2:5-11).
 1. Every time you speak in tongues God wants you to remember the lost people around the world who need to hear the gospel.
 2. He also wants you to know that he filled you with the Spirit to help to reach them.

V. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in Peter's Explanation of Pentecost

(Three emphases of Peter's sermon:)

- A. First emphasis: "The Last Days"
 1. Read: v. 17
 2. The Church is a "last days" community.
 3. The last days is a time of harvest!
- B. Second emphasis, "All Flesh"
 1. Read: vv. 17b and 39
 2. The experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience, not for just one tribe or people, but for all people everywhere.
- C. Third Emphasis: Spirit-inspired Proclamation of the Gospel.
 1. Look again at verses 17 and 18.
 2. The church is to be a community of Spirit-anointed witnesses.
 3. Our message is Jesus! (v. 21)
- D. God wants to fill you with the Spirit so you can declare the gospel to your friends and neighbors.

VI. The Missionary Purpose of Pentecost Can Be Seen in the Results of Pentecost.

- A. The immediate results of the disciples receiving the Spirit at Pentecost was . . .
 1. powerful spirit-anointed witness.
 2. Peter preached under the Spirit's anointing and 3,000 were saved.
- B. The continuing results of the disciples receiving the Spirit at Pentecost (and on other occasions in Acts) was dynamic missionary advance at home and abroad.
 1. This is recorded in the entire book of Acts.
 2. They preached the gospel. Signs followed. Churches were planted. The gospel went from country to country.

Conclusion and Altar Call:

1. God wants you to participate in His mission.
2. You must first be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
3. Come now and receive the Spirit.

— Denny Miller