

Pentecost: Power for Mission! Passion for the Lost!

Sermon in a Sentence: When you are filled with the Spirit you will receive power and passion to take the gospel to the lost.

Sermon Purpose: That believers will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the Spirit's power and passion.

Text: Acts 1:8; 4:17-20, 31-33

Introduction:

1. Pentecost stands at the fountainhead of Christian missions.
 - a. It is the singular event in history that launched the church into Spirit-empowered fulfillment of Christ's commission to take the gospel to "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth" (Ac 1:8).
 - b. Without the Day of Pentecost there would have been no book of Acts ...
 - c. ... there would have not global Christian church.
2. This message will look at the purpose of Pentecost.
3. When one is authentically baptized in the Holy Spirit they will receive two powerful, missional benefits:

I. WITH PENTECOST COMES POWER FOR MISSION.

- A. Jesus promised His church power for mission:
 1. Ac 1:8 "But you will receive power ..."
 2. Jesus personally experienced the Spirit's empowering.
 - a. He performed His messianic ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit:
 - b. Lk 4:17-18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ..."
 - c. Ac 10:38 "God anointed Jesus ..."
- B. The early church experienced that same power.
 1. Pentecost resulted in power for mission.
 - a. The Spirit was given and received (Ac 2:1-4).
 - b. Resulted in 3000 people coming to Christ (v. 41).
 2. A second outpouring in Jerusalem (Ac 4:31, then v. 33)
- C. The early Pentecostals rediscovered that same power:
 1. The story of Azusa Street.
 2. The amazing worldwide growth of Pentecostalism.
- D. The promise of Pentecostal power is ours today!
 1. Read Acts 2:38-38
 2. We must appropriate the promise by faith (Ga. 3:5,14).

II. WITH PENTECOST COMES PASSION FOR THE LOST.

- A. When it comes to doing the work of God, raw power is not enough; that power must have redemptive purpose.
 1. When misunderstood, power can corrupt.
 - a. For example: Simon the sorcerer (Ac 8:18-20)
 2. Power must be properly understood and directed.
 3. It must be accompanied by passion for the lost!
- B. Pentecost did not only result in power, it also resulted in holy passion.
 1. At Pentecost, with the infilling of the Spirit came a deep-seated realization of people's desperate need for Christ, and a compulsion to tell them about Him.
 - a. The love of God was poured out into their hearts (ref. Ro 5:5)
 - b. They received a compulsion to proclaim Christ to the lost (Ac 4:17-20).
 2. This passion included ...
 - a. ... a love for lost souls.
 - b. ... a holy passion to reach them with the gospel.
 - c. ... a driving motivation to go where the gospel had not been proclaimed (Ro 15:20).
 - d. ... a willingness, if necessary, to endure hardships and even death to see the gospel proclaimed.
- C. Our reception of Pentecostal power must be accompanied by a passion to reach the lost.
 1. Pentecost, properly understood, provides both.

Conclusion

1. We must each experience the power and passion of Pentecost today.
2. We need the Spirit for two important reasons:
 - a. To give us passion.
 - b. To give us power.
3. To receive the Spirit do this:
 - a. Ask in faith (Lk 11:9, 13)
 - b. Receive by faith (Lk 11:10; Mk 11:24)
 - c. Speak in faith (Ac 2:4)