

TODAY WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST

and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Up until Pentecost God had come upon certain people by His Spirit to empower them in their service for Him.

At Pentecost, and in these last days God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. So we read ..

Acts 2:1-4 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

LIVING IN YOUR ELEMENT

The Bible teaches us that God created us and He gave us life and breath.

Job 12:10

"In His hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?"

But God's not satisfied with us just being living-breathing-beings .. so He has made a way through Jesus that we can live our lives in overflowing measure ... in fact Jesus Himself said, *"I am come that you may have life and life more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

A fish in the water ... is in its element

A bird in the air ... is in its element

A Christian baptized in the Holy Spirit, living their life in the supernatural and not the natural is ONE THAT IS ALSO LIVING IN THEIR ELEMENT

It is when we are living IN OUR ELEMENT that amazing things happen in our lives!

Now Pentecost is all about God enabling us to move from just being natural Christians to being those that live in the SUPERNATURAL DIMENSION ... the ELEMENT He designed us to flourish in.

What has been given to us to enable us to live in this SUPERNATURAL DIMENSION?

1. **A SUPERNATURAL GIFT has been given -**

*Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "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.**"*

*Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good **gifts** to your children, HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"*

This gift has already been given ... have you received it?

2. This SUPERNATURAL gift brings with it an EMPOWERING -

Acts 1:8 *“You will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...”*

Jesus instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait there ‘til they had received the **power from on high** which is also called ‘The Promise of the Father’.

These hundred or so fear stricken and less than confident disciples were filled with Spirit as Jesus had said

- In Acts 2:14 **Peter** is standing before a crowd preaching ... 3000 added to their number that day ... a SUPERNATURAL empowering had taken place and they were changed men!
- Then just 15 chapters later we read the account of **Paul & Silas**’ visit to Thessalonica where the peoples response there was:

These men that have turned the world upside down have come here too!
Acts 17:6

DO YOU KNOW -

You can just about live in church (yes, you’re churchy), and you can even be a lover of God ... but without the equipping and empowering of the Spirit, getting out there and making a difference can become pretty hard going ! We need the assistance of God!

1. Some years ago I read **TODD BURKE**’s book – **Prepared for Burial** – His account of God sending him and his wife as young people in their 20s to prepare the Cambodian Church to go underground just before the Khmer Rouge took over.

He gives the most amazing accounts of supernatural ministry ... miracles ... angels ... healings ... visions of Jesus ... many salvations !

One of the things I remember him saying in the book was that as they arrived the resident missionaries were catching planes out of the area. They suggested to him that nothing more could be done, the hearts of the people were hard & unresponsive, and as young inexperienced missionaries the best thing they could do was to join the rest of them and GET OUT of the area NOW whilst there was still time.

However, this young-inexperienced-‘Spirit-filled’ couple had the empowering of the Holy Spirit for the task and it proved to make all the difference !

2. The good Samaritan in Luke 10:25f

Religious and so called ‘God loving’ people – the Priest and the Levite - walked past the half-dying man and on the opposite side of the road but it was the Samaritan that ‘poured in the oil’ (a picture of the Holy Spirit). It’s that supernatural empowering that enables a Samaritan to serve a Jew!

3. This SUPERNATURAL gift brings with it an overflowing -

Acts 1:8 *“... and you shall be **My witnesses** both in Jerusalem ... and even to the remotest parts of the earth.”*

John 7:38 *“... from your innermost being **shall flow** rivers of LIVING WATER. 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit whom those who believed in Him were to receive...”*

The OVERFLOWING from us must flow in the direction of the LOST

When Jesus commissioned His disciples He said, "GO into all the world and preach the Gospel ..." (Matt. 28:19-20)

Someone once said that half of God's name is GO! God wants us to GO and the overflowing from our lives – the flowing of that river of living water – will impact our world exactly as it had happened with the disciples at Pentecost!

Jesus leads by example in that we don't find Him in the SYNAGOGUE and sending the disciples out to tell the people to come to JESUS, rather it was Jesus and His disciples going out and moving among the people. He healed the sick .. raised the dead .. restored sight to the blind .. set the demon-possessed free.

We are living in a POST-MODERN WORLD that has no memory of God.

How do we go out and into our changed world? I have recently read an interesting book about supernatural evangelism. Let me tell you a bit about it:

1. THE ULTIMATE TREASURE HUNT: By Kevin Dedmon
All around us there is TREASURE because that is how God sees people.
Supernatural Evangelism – The Holy Spirit giving them clues.
2. JESUS practiced supernatural evangelism
e.g. NATHANIEL - the skeptic under the fig tree (John 1:43)
It was the operation of the gift of knowledge that made Nathaniel say, "You are the Son of God"

e.g. ZACCHAEUS (Luke 19:1-10)
It was Jesus supernaturally stopping right under Zacchaeus' tree that brought him down in awe and wonder.

Jesus is so into seeking & saving the LOST ... Parable of the lost coin Lk 19:10
Looking in every nook and cranny ...

That's what His empowering + its overflowing is for: THE LOST ... FOR OTHERS

JUST IMAGINE ...

- * A church where each member has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is supernaturally empowered and supernaturally overflowing
- * A church that has plugged into the brokenness of the community AND is meeting its physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Fulfilling the scripture where Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Matt. 5:16)
- * A church that's style of evangelism is let's 'GO & TELL' and not just 'COME & SEE'
- * A church in this POST-MODERN AGE in the midst of a community that has no memory of God - or it only has a fading one - showing them who God really is.
- * A church moving out into its community 'completely' dependent on the Holy Spirit.

* A church that the Community so wants there because of the transformation they bring.

Have you received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
Are you supernaturally empowered?
Are you overflowing and impacting your world?

Acts 17:28

"In Him we live and move and have our being."

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LIVING IN YOUR ELEMENT!