

Pentecost and You
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Scripture: Selections from Acts 4 and 5.

Theme: Pentecost has meaningful results for every believer.

Basic Proposition: Discover the biblical meaning of Pentecost and allow the results of the coming of the Holy Spirit to impact your life.

Intended Audience: Believers

Need addressed: Move Pentecost beyond experience.

Solution: Find the meaning and purpose of the Holy Spirit's infilling.

Introduction:

Illustration - "Common too common is the sin of forgetting the Holy Spirit." Famous pastor and preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote these words emphasizing our need of the personal work of the Holy Spirit. He goes on to say, "Let us revere His person, and adore Him as God over all, blessed forever; Let us own His power, and our need of Him by waiting upon Him in all our holy enterprises; let us hourly seek His aid, and never grieve Him; and let us speak to His praise whenever the occasion occurs." The occasion is now...the promise has come...and the promise is for you.

Results of Pentecost:

1. Purpose

Without understanding the purpose, Pentecost is meaningless.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit gave the disciples a divine mission: WIN THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST! Acts 5: 27-42

- The Holy Spirit defined a mission.
- The mission was bigger than they were.
- The mission gave meaning to their experience.
- The mission made an eternal difference.

Illustration - E. Stanley Jones the great missionary and preacher said, Pentecost is not a spiritual luxury; it is an utter necessity for human living. The human spirit fails unless the Holy Spirit fills."

2. Power

Acts 5: 12-16

- God is all-powerful.
- There is no need to fear God's power.
- God's power always brings God glory and honor. Not humans.
- God empowers us to complete the mission.

Illustration - Jesus told the disciples that they must wait upon the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The word translated "power" here is the Greek word *dunamis*. The Greek word *dunamis* entered the English language when the Swedish chemist and engineer Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-96) made the discovery that became his fortune. He discovered a power stronger than anything the world had known up to that time. He asked a friend of his who was a Greek scholar what the word for 'explosive power' was in Greek. His friend answered, 'Dunamis'. Nobel said, 'Well, I am going to call my discovery by that name.' So, Nobel called his 'explosive power' dynamite....Jesus gives us His power through the Holy Spirit to complete the mission.

3. Passion

Acts 4: 13-20, 29-31

Passion is a strong devotion that compels action.

- Passion will change your priorities.
- Passion will change your goals.
- Passion will change schedule.
- Passion will change your future.

How to increase your passion for God:

- a. Purify your heart.
- b. Return to your first love – Revelation 2:4
- c. Ask God for it.
- d. Remember what God has done for you in the past. Deut. 7:18; 8:2.
- e. Refuse to settle for compliancy.
- f. Stay focused until it comes. Perseverance.

Illustration - Apathy is not a state of mind but a state of your heart. A – is a prefix meaning without. PATHY – root word is pathos – meaning passion or love. APATHY is being without love or passion. It is not a question of your works for God but where is your love?

Illustration - An old preacher came to the pulpit one Sunday morning and prayed this earnest prayer, “Oh, Lord. Give thy servant this mornin’ the eyes of the eagle and the wisdom of the owl, illuminate my brow with the Sun of heaven, possess my mind with love for the people, turpentine my imagination, grease my lips, electrify my brain with the lighin’ of the Word, fill me plum full of dynamite of thy glory, anoint me all over with the kerosene of salvation and set me on fire. Amen.”

Let the passion of Pentecost capture us too!