



The CHURCH Series

Part 2 – Earth, Wind & Fire

Memory Verse...

- *4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;*
- *5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
- *6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*
- *7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*
- *8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
Acts 1:4-8



Introduction...

- Pentecost is generally regarded as the 'Birthday' of the Church.
- This is because it marked the arrival of the Holy Spirit who is integral to the New Testament Church.
- Without the Holy Spirit, the early Believers could NOT be witnesses.
- Let us begin....



The Day...

- *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*
- *² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*
- *³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.*
- *⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:1-4



Pentecost...

- An annual Jewish festival also known as the “Feast of Weeks”.
- This “Day of First fruits” was a celebration of the first buds of the Harvest.
- Pentecost was (and still is) seven weeks and a day after Passover.
- This festival was one of three feasts (Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles) where ALL able-bodied men were required to travel to Jerusalem
- All three feasts required that first fruits offerings were made at the Temple as a way of expressing thanksgiving for God’s provision.



Pentecost...

- Jerusalem therefore was overflowing with pilgrims who had come from the nations and across Israel
- God is strategic in the timing of the arrival of His Holy Spirit.
- The convergence of thousands of pilgrims was met with emergence of the Spirit filled Church.
- The first Church Pentecost shows Divine Intelligence at work and how Heaven uses certain platforms to launch God's agenda.





Homothumadon...

- In one Accord...
- A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts,
- helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community.
- ***Homothumadon*** is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison".
- The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone.
- As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.

In One Accord

- They were in one place
- They were of one mind
- They were united in obedience
- They were one in Prayer
- They were one in waiting
- They were in harmony
- They were one in synergy
- Male and Female were one
- Old and young were united



Suddenly...

- God did not give the Disciples a date and time for His arrival
- Heaven has its own timetable
- When the Earth is aligned, Heaven responds.
- There is a surprise element to a genuine move of God.
- This was in fulfilment of what Jesus had told His Disciples just ten days before.



...WIND

- The early Church started with the Supernatural, therefore the End time Church will operate in the same.
- This was not someone's special meeting. This was a unique move of God!
- The whole house was 'consumed' with this heavenly force that came.
- Everyone in the house was 'baptised' within this force.



...FIRE!

- ...divided tongues as of fire
- As the sound and wind filled the house, the Holy Spirit filled each of the Disciples.
- Everyone (earth) was emersed within the Wind and the Fire of the Holy Spirit.
- The children, young people, male and female were all baptised together. There was NO distinction.



ALL...

- And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...
- It important to see the way the Church was birthed by the Holy Spirit.
- If the Church began this way, surely this is the way that it will end.
- The spirit divide between the 'anointed' and the rest is man made.
- The power divide between the Leaders and Followers is man made.



Tongues...

- The early church began with an incredible sign of tongues.
- All the pilgrims from worldwide nations could hear their own languages in clear speech from local Galileans!
- It would be like King Charles speaking in accurate Yoruba, Twi, Lingala or Arabic!
- It was a very clear supernatural sign that captured everyone's attention.



Tongues...Our Trip To Israel

- One of the supernatural highlights of ministry for me was our trip to Israel in 2000
- I had taken a group of Caribbean and African students at the School of ministry to Israel
- The Zionist Israeli Guide Ami and his driver Benjamin were taking us across Israel as part of our Christian tour.
- We had tried to share the Gospel with them, but they politely rejected our preaching.
- On the third or fourth day we were to visit Mount Carmel. Ami had told us that the whole of the nation was desperate for rain since it had not rain once for months.
- I asked him if he knew the story of Elijah and he laughed because he could take us to the Prophet's grave site if we wanted.
- I told him that we would pray for rain when we got to the top of the mountain.....



Tongues...Our Trip To Israel

- As we embarked on the mountain top, there were other tourist groups arriving too.
- I looked up to the sky, there was not a cloud to be seen. It was approaching 40* degrees!
- I got the group to form a circle and we all began to pray out loud in tongues.
- We did that for about ten minutes and I felt we should stop praying.
- As soon as we stopped. Someone from the other group approached us asking who was from Haiti? They had heard their language being spoken by someone in the group.
- Whilst we were still marvelling at that, Ami asked me where and when we taught our students Hebrew!!
- He pointed to one of the Congolese students Fransua who spoke Lingala, French and stuttering English....



Tongues...

- He said to his driver “Benjamin, you tell Jonathan what you heard!”
- Benjamin proceeds to tell us that he heard the young Congolese speaking in accurate Hebrew the way his grandfather spoke it. Pure and concentrated Hebrew!
- I opened the Bible and showed them this passage in Acts and how this phenomena had happened before.
- They listened intently and received the Gospel even though they didn’t professed Jesus right then.
- It was such a powerful witness.
- A week after we arrived, I got an email from Ami telling me it was raining cat and dogs in Israel and Tel Aviv!!



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- *¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,*
- *“Whatever could this mean?”*
- *¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”*
Acts 2:12-13
- Its incredible that in the same moment some are moved by God’s sign, others scorn and mock.
- This are the general different responses to the Gospel.
- Some whose hearts are ready will respond positively, while others will abuse, reject or laugh.
- The duty of the Believer is to share the message and not be affected by the response good or bad.
- We are not called to convert or even convince anyone.
- We are called to Witness to the Truth



This is That...

- Peter stood up and preached the Gospel to all those gathered.
- The Early Church had one main message, and it was the Gospel.
- The contemporary church has many messages and sometimes the Gospel.
- The early Disciples only preached CHRIST and Him crucified.
- They preached the Crucified life through Christ.
- We have diluted this message



The Gospel...

- ²² *“Men of Israel, hear these words: **Jesus of Nazareth**, a Man attested by God to you by miracles,*
- *wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—*
- ²³ *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God,*
- *you have taken by lawless hands, **have crucified, and put to death;***
- ²⁴ ***whom God raised up**, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*



The Gospel...

- ³⁶ “Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”
- ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
- ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”
- ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”
- ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “**Be saved from this ^[4]perverse generation.**”



Results!

- *41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*
- *42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:41-42*
- This passage talks about the Event and the Discipleship that follows afterwards.
- Note it does NOT say 3000 decisions were made.
- It says 3000 were ADDED to the Church!
- Thank God for preaching on the streets and gospel events
- What we need are DISCIPLES not number of decisions.
- We need to UPGRADE our outreaches to the RESULTS category of addition to the Church



The KINGDOM Church...

- *43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*
- *44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,*
- *45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*
- *46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*
- *47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*



The KINGDOM Church...

- Holiness unto the Lord
- Corporate Leadership (No single senior pastor)
- The supernatural power of God
- United Believers
- All ages and genders involved
- Uncommon generosity
- Poverty is eradicated through sharing
- Daily Church, not weekly
- House to House community
- Holy Communion – Jesus
- Humility and Thanksgiving
- Joyful Church
- Relevant to those outside the Church
- Growing daily



Memory Verse

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Acts 2:1-40 (NKJV)

