

Pentecost Sunday | 28 May 2023

Key texts

Ascension:

*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **Luke 24:5-51***

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8***

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20***

Pentecost

*When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. **Acts 2***

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **Acts 2:17-18***

Reflection questions

Ascension

- Which word of Blessing pops out/stands out to you that **you need** from Jesus now?
- Which word of Blessing pops out/stands out to you that **you need to pass on** from Jesus to someone else?
- How would your life be different if you lived in the BLESSING of GOD rather than in self criticism or comparison?
- Who in your life needs to receive BLESSING? How can you help bless them in the days ahead?

Pentecost

- Building the Tower of Babel was the first proclamation of **empire** in human history with, in this case [Genesis 11:4], one city seeking to dominate the rest of humanity. But God's intent is to send his people into all the world, all peoples, all cultures.
- Ananias goes to pray for Saul/Paul [Acts 9]. We want to have everything figured out, to have all the answers, but that is often not God's way.
- At the amazing and miraculous gathering of Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out so that the disciples could suddenly understand, appreciate and collaborate with all the cultures gathered together.
Do we really get this?
- Or do we still look at those who are different with the spirit of Babel and want to control them?
- Pentecost reminds us that everything we do as Jesus people is to be done in the awareness and power of the Spirit.
- We pray and work toward seeing God's kingdom, ways and purposes break into our world.
- To be filled with the Spirit is to have the ability to say or do what God wants said or done.

Prayer

Spirit of God

may we breathe in and hold your love within us
may we breathe out and share it with the world

Spirit of God

may we breathe in and hold your peace within us
may we breathe out and share it with the world

Spirit of God

may we breathe in and hold your life within us
may we breathe out and share it with the world.