



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Shake it Up! Becoming World Class Christians
Speaker: Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, Author and Pastor, Quest Church
Scripture: Acts 1:8, 2:1-12

"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

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Acts 2:1-12

Sermon Outline:

1. On October 14, 1947, Chuck Yeager accomplished what no one thought was possible-- breaking the sound barrier.
2. Jesus tells his disciples that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit and they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem.
3. Breaking the "sound barrier" starts at home. It may be easier to be a missionary in a faraway place than at home where everyone knows you.
4. Samaria -- no one wants to go there. The "otherness" and divisiveness in Samaria is terrifying. God sends us to Samaria to learn to trust wholly on Him and to practice becoming world class Christians.
5. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples in great power. Unable to be contained, the disciples went out into the world speaking in tongues. People from all over the world heard these Galileans speaking about the wonders of God in their own language. They were amazed and asked "What does this mean?"
6. Peter addressed those that thought the disciples were drunk. Peter said that this is what God had promised through the prophet Joel. God's spirit would be poured out on all people.
7. Dr. Salter McNeil shared her testimony of her time in England lecturing on her experience as a Pentecostal in the thriving Black church in America. On the last of the trip, Dr. Salter McNeil and her group visited a Jamaican church in Birmingham eagerly expecting a time of celebration. Instead the group is met by a woman who asks where have they been? Didn't they care about the trials and the plight of the Jamaicans in England? Dr. Salter McNeil learns about the divisiveness, isolation and "stuckness" of the Jamaicans in England. She didn't know that there was anyone in the world waiting for her to come alongside them in their suffering.
8. Dr. Salter McNeil declares that the Lord is trying to push and mobilize us. She encourages us to not pull back but to push forward. God has more for us. The skills and gifts that He has given us are not for us. The world is waiting. Get ready to be deployed as world class Christians...

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil declares that the world is waiting for us and to get ready to be deployed as world class Christians.

Sermon Questions:

What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?

- How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?
- Dr. Salter McNeil points out that it may be easier to be a missionary in Papua, New Guinea where you don't know the customs and the language than to talk about God with your uncle at the dining room table. Do you agree or disagree? Why do think this may be true? Can you share a time of when you spoke about your faith to your own family? How was your message received?
- What "sound barrier" are you facing?
- The disciples were reluctant to bring the good news to Samaria. Who or where is your Samaria? What do you think God is trying to teach or show you by going to your Samaria?
- How do you interpret the phrase "world class Christian"?
- Dr. Salter McNeil shared how Mavis, a Jamaican Christian living in Birmingham, England taught her the truth that the world is waiting for us Christians to bring hope and join in their suffering. Where do you sense God is calling you to start your journey or take the next step as a world class Christian?
- How do you hear Dr. Salter McNeil's declaration that God is pushing us and mobilizing, to get ready to be deployed as world class Christians?