

“Be Filled and On Fire”

05-24-15

On this Pentecost, we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the early church just 50 days after Jesus’ resurrection. We might believe that this is the first time that the Spirit has brought life to His people. But in Ezekiel 37, we read of “*a valley of dry bones*”. Ezekiel’s surrounded by visions of skeletons that have absolutely no hope for life. But with the Spirit, life can even be breathed into bones, causing them to stand and live.

Open to Acts 2. The early church needed this same “*breath of life*” to be given to them and on Pentecost, life was breathed into the church causing all of history to be changed forever! Verses 1-4, “*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

This is incredible! These are the same disciples that 50 days earlier were holed up in a room with the doors locked because of fear! Now they’re getting ready to preach the Good News to people they aren’t like and don’t know! What changed? They were filled with the Holy Spirit!

They were able to preach Jesus Christ to all the people there in Jerusalem even if they were from a different nation. All the people could understand. Peter gave the heart of the message in His sermon that day.

He told how Jesus had come to earth and died on the cross for the world’s sins and rose three days later to show His power over sin, death, and Satan. Verses 37-38, “*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “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.”*”

For those of us who call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to be just like the disciples that first Pentecost. There was a radical change in them. We have to let go and be filled! To make a difference like them, what do we need to be filled with?

Holy Spirit.

- Came in spectacular fashion.
- He’s your Paraclete, your ultimate Helper, your ultimate counselor Who lives in you!
- He’s gift to us from God. John 14:26, “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*”

Holy Flame.

- Something in us that causes us to look different-be different than the rest of the world!

- People should see glow comes from inside you. You have an inner peace and joy.
- Max Lucado says, *“The wizard of Oz says look inside yourself and find self. God says look inside yourself and find the Holy Spirit. The first will get you to Kansas. The latter will get you to heaven. Take your pick.”*

Power.

- Power to hear God’s voice
- Power to have a heart like God’s and love like God
- Power to be changed and be secure knowing God’s here

Faith.

- With faith nothing is impossible
- Knowing it’s not you, but God
- Trusting in God’s guidance even in the midst of struggles and difficulties.

God’s Word.

- Only through Word can we know God, His promises, His love, and who we are to Him
- Armed to witness and do battle against Satan. – Jesus and temptation
- Time away from world to be strengthened

Prayer.

- Take it to the Lord in prayer – guard and shield you
- Remember His promise to be there and listen – always gives an answer
- Reminds that we’re not in control but never alone.

As we’re filled with all these gifts of God, may it change us and make our lives new. May we move from who we were to what God wants us to be. As God’s people, we need to be on fire for Him! What should we be on fire with?

Love.

- World needs it. Hard to do at times, but remember you’re not alone
- Romans 13:8, *“Owe no one anything, except to love each other.”*
- Look at ways you can make a difference in others’ lives

Worship.

- Give God time
- Praise, honor, realize what God is doing in life
- Turn focus on Him – rejoice, see Him closely

Service.

- Look for ways to do things at Church and never stop doing! Serve each other!
- Put service as a normal part of life asking the question, “W.W.J.D.?”
- Henry T. Blackaby said, *“The Holy Spirit doesn’t need to equip you for what you’re not going to do, so if you’re in rebellion against Jesus and refusing His right to be Lord, He doesn’t need to send the Holy Spirit to equip you for service. And, tragically, you miss out on the joy that He brings. So let the Holy Spirit deal with anything that’s keeping you from obeying Christ.”*

Witness.

- Can't wait to show Jesus in our lives – *“Wherever you go, preach Christ, and when necessary use words!”*
- Witness to others by what you do or how you act
- May other people wonder what's gotten into you! May it be Jesus

Breath of God.

- Brings life to us
- Whatever you say show Christ. Be example to others.
- From Psalm 150:6, *“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”*

Passion.

- Passion gives us all-encompassing focus-sports, work, family.
- Passion for Jesus puts and keeps Him first and foremost in our minds
- Changes our perspective on life

The Holy Spirit, is willing and able to direct you in the narrow way that leads to an abundant life. Beloved, yield to the Holy Spirit. Be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit! Be on Fire for Jesus Christ!