

Power of the Spirit
Act 2:1-2
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Today is Pentecost - What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is a celebration of a feast of the Old Testament.

Pentecost is, the birth of the church. The Holy Spirit came to the church, and filled the church, which continues to empower and embolden the church.

Most of us have some idea of God the Father Creator

And we have some idea of God the Son Jesus the Christ the redeemer

But the Holy Spirit there is a gap. In our minds spirit conjures up ideas of supernatural, inner spirit being. Small s spiritual things that miss the who and what of the Holy Spirit.

Augsburg confession article 5 - the Work of the Holy Spirit. In order that we may obtain the faith through which we are righteous in God's sight God instituted the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments. For through the Word and sacraments as through instruments the Holy Spirit is given and the Holy Spirit produces faith, and where and when it pleases God in those who hear the Gospel.

2 Cor 12:3 *No one can confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord apart from the Holy Spirits power.* Sinners cannot by their own reason and strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him on their own. So God came at Pentecost.

Pentecost is: a happening. It *is* happening; it is on-going. It is happening as we live out our lives and ministry in the context of a congregation, a community of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God Plugs us into His Power

Hear it again Acts2:1-2

So, we're wearing red today because red is the liturgical color of the Holy Spirit. Red symbolizes the presence of God. Just as Moses saw the burning bush as a symbol of God's presence, so we wear red today as a symbol of God's presence with us.

***Open Bibles and follow with me - Verse 1 When the day of Pentecost had **fully come**, **Was fully come** -* When the day had arrived. The word used here means literally "**to be completed**," It refers,**

not to the day itself, but to **the completion of Gods salvation plan for us.** Mark 1:15 sums it up- *“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”* This is the Day...

God’s continuous plan of salvation from creation to the cross all follow this theme.

*Verse 2 Suddenly (out of no where, without warning) a **sound** like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

They **heard** the Power of the Holy Spirit. Evidence of the Spirit’s arrival was the **sound**. Not the actual blowing, but the roaring sound of a violent wind.

It caught there attention. Where is it? What’s going on here? The power of the spirit in Gods Word is the power to blow new Life into our lives.

*verse 2 They **saw** what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

They saw actual flames of fire NOT burning things up, but what looked like flames of fire over each believer. That flame of fire teaches us about the **purifying work of the Holy Spirit**.

The Holy Spirit’s first work in your life and my life is to speak to us the **straight Word of God** that convicts us of our sin and our sinfulness and declares us guilty of sin and worthy of condemnation in hell. That is the convicting work that drives us to our knees and to the cross of Jesus Christ.

When it comes to the righteousness we have before God, it rests solely on the work of Christ. Martin Luther described us as “beggars.” We are completely passive in our relationship with God, powerless to do what only God can do.

Passive righteousness is the vertical relationship between God and man. God does the work. The only contribution that man brings into this equation is sin. This is a righteousness that is alien; it is completely outside of ourselves.

Our righteousness in the vertical realm does not come from anything we do, but only from God’s action toward man.

It is the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes to see hanging there on the cross God's own Son bearing the punishment, the condemnation for my sin and your sin and gives us forgiveness of sins and freedom to live. It is there at that cross the Holy Spirit purifies us with the GOSPEL. They SAW - The Power of the Holy Spirit

This flow of the Holy Spirit within us is stirred in the Means of Grace every time we receive **Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper**. Every time we are still before His **Word**. When we gather to **worship**, through our **relationships**, through **every day circumstances** - shaping us, molding us and fanning into flame a living faith to be more and more like Christ.

May the Power flows within us .

There is a lovely little story about a child who woke up one night after a frightening nightmare. She was convinced that there were all kinds of monsters and goblins lurking under her bed and in the corners of her room. She ran to her parents' bedroom and after her mother had calmed her down, she took the child back to her room and said, ' You don't need to be afraid, you are not alone here. God is right here with you in your room.' The little girl said 'I know that God is here, but I need someone in my room who has skin on.

We all need a God with Skin on ...

In our horizontal relationships, our righteousness is not passive, it is active. We not only have relationship with our creator (passive), but we also have relationships with our neighbors. In our relationships with the world around us, God calls us to be active serving the world around us.

The passive righteousness we have freely through faith; active righteousness requires that we serve those around us in the places that God places us.

It is our Calling. The Work of the Holy Spirit is to Speak of Christ. Pentecost is God has got some skin. through the Holy Spirit, God took on flesh once again in you and me to share Gods Pentecost message .

Living Pentecost – is what the Holy Spirit is empowering and calling us to live as the Body of Christ –

- † They will see God working through us to share his Grace to see a God who will hold them when they need to be held,
- † Share a cup of coffee, and offer fellowship
- † It flows when you make a meal for someone who is just home from the hospital, or visit someone in the hospital

- † when you fix a strangers car that won't start, or
- † to give a ride to someone who needs it.
- † To see a A God... who will laugh with them when they are delighted,
- † who will pick up the phone to let someone know that they are being thought of,
- † who will mourn with them when they grieve,
- † is to share so that all those in our communities who are so in need of God's unconditional love will be able to find it - by finding a God with skin.