



Ignited

WHY PENTECOST

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon
notes from May 31st, 2020

© 2020 Smythe Street Church

- Good morning, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!** Today is Pentecost Sunday... the Christian CHURCH's BIRTHDAY!

Acts 2 says... When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and one rested on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-4)

Illustration: When it's safe, I love making campfires. My wife and I really enjoy sitting around a nice fire in the evening and talking. What makes a great fire is just old discarded pieces of driftwood or dry sticks laying around the woods.

Then to ignite it, I add a little dribble of diesel and light it.

Of course, these days with the woods so dry, you can't have any open fires in NB because the woods are full of dry wood that will catch on fire like a box of matches.

Pentecost is when Jesus IGNITED the church!

- He took some dry discarded men and women
- Gathered them in one place
- Poured on them the diesel of the Holy Spirit
- And ignited them with His fire
- The local authorities could not “contain” the fire
(The religious leaders tried to put it out! The Roman Empire tried to stomp it out! But it spread like wildfire in every direction until it filled the world with God's fire of LOVE)
- John the Baptist said of Jesus...

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matthew 3:11

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” **HE WILL IGNITE YOU WITH FIRE!** **Jesus said...**

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!” Luke 12:49–50 (NIV)

He first had the Baptism of suffering on the cross for our sins...

But then, **just before he ascended to heaven,** He sent His disciples into Jerusalem to be filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit! **AND THEY IGNITED THE WORLD!**

Now there were devout Jews **from every nation** (keep that in mind) under heaven residing in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”

- I've heard people teach that this event happened in the upper room where the disciples lived.

But that's not what the Bible teaches!



- Earlier in the previous chapter it mentions an upper room where the 11 Apostles stayed (That’s where they lived).
- It also mentions that they continually gathered for prayer with the rest of the disciples numbering about 120 in total. An upper room would unlikely accommodate such a large group of people.
- **Where did they go and gather for prayer?** They would gather for prayer in the outer court Temple (not the upper room).
- The Temple was called the House of the Lord... Jesus said:

“My house shall be called a house of prayer **for all nations.**”
(Mark 11:17; Matt. 21:13; Luke 19:46; John 2:16-17)

- During Pentecost (Also know as the Feast of the Harvest or First Fruits) thousands of Jewish pilgrims from all over the world would travel to Jerusalem and go to the temple to worship and pray.

Why is this important to note?

- This is important to note because this event happened right out in the open...
In the outer court of the Jerusalem Temple!
 - The disciples were all together in one place in the house of the Lord (outer court of the Temple) praying and waiting.
 - Jesus said wait in Jerusalem until the Spirit comes.
 - On the Day of Pentecost, when the city was filled with pilgrims and Jerusalem was crowded with people from all over the nations, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in the languages from where those Jewish pilgrims came from!
 - They pilgrims were amazed and asked “how can this be?”
- I was raised in a Pentecostal Church. **And I thank God for my heritage!** But we often sought the presence of the Holy Spirit at the end of a church service, after the sermon. We would gather around the front and seek the “Spirit”. And that is great!

But the Holy Spirit isn’t confined or boxed into a building, to a language, to a culture, to a style of church or a style of music, or to a church denomination...

- When this happened the crowd asked, **“How can this be?”**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say... This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh (Racial BARRIERS are gone... upon all people, all nations), and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy (GENDER BARRIERS are gone), and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams (AGE BARRIERS are gone). Even upon my slaves, both men and women, (SOCIAL BARRIERS are gone) in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy’.

No matter who you are, He wants to ignite you and send you!

He concludes his sermon by saying...



“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.” Acts 2:38 (NIV)

Jesus had said...

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

Here is Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, boldly preaching to a large crowd, pilgrims from all nations, and telling them to follow Jesus Christ and be baptized.

If you’ve never been baptized, it’s the FIRST step to following Jesus.

- Contact us...
- “But the church is closed!” (We’re always trying to get in the building!)
- In the early church they practiced the sacrament of baptism in rivers, lakes, the ocean, outside pools...
“Jesus was baptized in a river”
“I was baptized in a river”
- I firmly believe that this is a Word from the Lord:

The Holy Spirit wants to challenge us to shift our focus from being the church INSIDE the building to being the church OUTSIDE the building.

- In the NA Church we are overly fixated on the building...
- What a great opportunity for us to get out of our church building then not be able to be in it!
- In a few days we are having a baptism
“How can we socially distance?” If you can get a haircut, a tattoo, or your nails done, I’m sure we can figure out how we can safely do a baptism outside.
- Next Sunday we are having Communion...

So Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, **boldly** tells them to get baptized... Then he said...

“And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise (the Holy Spirit) is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:38b-39

This promise, the FIRE of the Holy Spirit is for YOU!

It doesn’t need to be in a church building, in an upper room, during an alter call in a church service, led by a special Pastor or an Evangelist. **You can’t BOX the Holy Spirit in or LIMIT Him to a method, a style, or a location.** It is for you right where you are. **God wants to IGNITE YOU!**

Send you, fill you, use you, fire you up **for HIS MISSION!**

- Raccoon story... “We got accustomed (familiar) to our little routine”
- Two differences:
 - (1) They were fatter
 - (2) They had pups



- Málaga story...
 - No religious freedom under a fascist dictatorship
 - There was a real outpouring of the Holy Spirit in homes
 - “The government did us a huge favour”

Very often when things change, when new realities in the world come on us, our devices, our computers, our smart phones, get an upgrade in their software.

GOD WANTS TO UPGRADE OUR SPIRITUAL SOFTWARE

Brothers and sisters, the Church has left the building
and God wants to do a new thing

