

In You

(Pentecost; Series: Reimagining Church; Message Six)

Acts 2:1-13

A. The disciples were huddled in an upper room - confused and overwhelmed

“All authority in heaven and on earth is 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’ve commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, even to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit... [and] you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:4b-5,8)

1. This unimpressive, uneducated little group would change history
2. There was a [Jewish] festival going on in Jerusalem called Pentecost
 - a. Jews came to bring their firstfruits and give thanks for the harvest
 - b. So there are thousands of God-fearers in the streets and Temple

“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.” (Acts 2:2-3)

B. The One Jesus had promised would show up had just shown up

THE SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit isn’t an impersonal force or a rushing wind

1. The Holy Spirit is God
 - a. Luke uses the word pneuma (i.e., breathing life) for both wind and Spirit

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear it’s sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)
 - b. Throughout Scripture fire denotes the presence of God

“I baptize you with water. But One more powerful than I will come...He’ll baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16)

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

2. He ignites in this little band of discouraged believers a passion for lost people

B. People were amazed: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?”

1. How did they know they were Galileans? Their accent
2. Never underestimate the power of proclaiming the Word of God in the language people can understand

C. “And some laughed, and some accused them of drinking too much”

1. People watch what happens here. Is anyone amazed? Is anyone perplexed?

2. When the Spirit moves, the Church is stirring

THE STATEMENT

A. We must never forget that the Church is in the eternity business

1. Will there be people in heaven because of what we do here?
 - a. How much are we willing to give up so people can hear the Good News?

“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (Matthew 16:15)
 - b. Peter stood up and, filled with the Spirit, tells them about Jesus
2. The real miracle here is that God is moving in and taking up residence
 - a. At Christmas, we celebrated “God with us” (“Immanuel”)
 - b. At Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit of “God in us”

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

B. We’re talking about living radically different to reflect the Glory of God

THE SPECIFICS

A. The first word that goes with “in you” is power

“I pray you’ll begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him at the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 1:19-20)

1. The power is in you...to make the right decisions, to love unconditionally...

“It stands to reason, doesn’t it, that if the alive and present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he’ll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive unto himself.” (Romans 8:11; The Message)

2. With his Spirit, you have the same power to live as the disciples in Acts 2

B. The second word that goes with “in you” is complete

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” (Colossians 2:9-10)

1. With his Spirit, we’ve everything we need to live this life in complete joy

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life.” (2 Peter 1:3)
2. Who am I when I’m in Christ and Christ is in me: I am a child of God...

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...” (Philippians 4:13)

C. Do you long to make an eternal difference in someone’s life?

1. The only way is if the Spirit is in your life. And he is - if you love Jesus
2. If we come together like the disciples in Acts 2, we can change history