



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 28.05.2023

“Pentecost”

Preacher

Ps. Nathan Bean

Scripture

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd



14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams."

Acts 2:1-17

Thought

Imagine if all that we knew about Church was based on what we read in the Gospels? If we had no experience of Church or Christians - but if everything was based purely on what we read in the New Testament? If this was our experience, what would we expect when we first walk into a Church service, and what would we be seeking?

Would we not burst through the doors, rush to the front and seek the move of the Holy Spirit? Would we not realise that it was the Holy Spirit that empowered all the marvellous acts of the early Church, that without it, we're little more than a club?

And so, today, we remember Pentecost, and the day the Holy Spirit was first poured out upon the early Church. Yet more than just remembering - we bring our attention to the very real presence of the Holy Spirit which is still here and now, willing to pour out upon us. Pentecost is for everyone. We've got nothing without the Holy Spirit.

The Church was never meant to be a gathering of people with common interests. It's a gathering of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit to move out into our world with power. To be moved by the wind, pushed out into the world. To be ignited by fire, burning bushes of God's presence in all the



world. To hear the praises of God's people in every language through every nation, no one excluded, all brought in, welcomed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Poured out for all, poured out for all time, poured out for you and me.

Discussion Points

1. Looking at the account of Acts, how did the Holy Spirit change the apostles and the early Church?
2. How long has it been since you've felt full of the Holy Spirit? Is now the moment to again ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit afresh on you?
3. What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all, to be heard by those of all nations, and what part do you think we play in carrying the message of God's good news?

Personal application + Prayer

Holy Spirit,

I need you.

Fill me afresh today.

Empower me to be a light in this world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen