

Pentecost Sunday 2019

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, June 2, 2019

Main Theme – Considering the account of ‘Pentecost’ and principles applicable in our generation.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events (SLIDE)**
 - Women’s Ministry – Tuesday Evening, June 11, from 6:30–8pm
- **Special Events**
 - Father’s Day Sunday Service – Next Sunday Morning, June 16 (10:30am)
 - Teen Challenge Sunday – Scheduled for Sunday, June 30 (Outside Service)
- **A Word of Thanks**
 - TY to those who made Royalty’s 1st Birthday SO special (e.g., gifts, kind words, etc.)

MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected this morning:

- 1) The 1st offering goes to support this local work and community outreach
- 2) The 2nd offering goes to support our regular missionaries (foreign/domestic)

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

NOTE – Allow me to once again note that ONLINE GIVING is available (www.NewLifeBarre.org)

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of worship and instruction. I pray you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today (a topic we have NOT covered in some time). Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

SETTING THE STAGE

TODAY is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost was the day on which the Church of Jesus Christ was LAUNCHED into the fullness of MINISTRY/MISSION (nearly 2,000-years ago), having been empowered by the HOLY SPIRIT (cf. Acts 2).

NOTE – This is a moment in biblical history WORTHY of deep reflection and discussion...

Though we will CERTAINLY address the happenings of Acts 2 in the minutes ahead, I prefer to BEGIN in the Gospel of Luke (chapter 4). FYI – The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts were penned by the SAME author – Luke (i.e., faithful disciple, missionary and traveling companion of the apostle Paul). This is WORTH NOTING as we will deeply consider elements of BOTH books today.

TO THE WORD

Luke 4:16–21 (ESV) [Following Christ’s Baptism & Temptation]

16 And he [i.e., Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

DELVING IN PT. 1

NOTE – There are many reasons WHY this account from the life/ministry of Christ is fascinating...

- 1) Jesus' actions/activities are the FULFILLMENT of a 700+ year-old prophecy (Isaiah 61)
- 2) The REACTION/RESPONSE of his hometown peers is interesting (if you continue reading)

Luke 4:28–30 (NIV)

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

DELVING IN PT. 2

KEY – More importantly (for the sake of TODAY), I find the SUBSTANCE of His message significant.

NOTE – These words reveal—from the very INCEPTION of His ministry—what the ESSENCE of His ministry would be. i.e., Jesus identifies/outlines the WORK He had come to accomplish as the Christ/Messiah (in one of His first sermons on record).

Q. What are the foundational points of His great work?

- 1) he had come to proclaim or preach good news to the poor
- 2) He had come to proclaim liberty (release) to the captives
- 3) He had come to proclaim recovery of sight to the blind
- 4) He came to set at liberty those who were oppressed
- 5) He came to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

DELVING IN PT. 3

I am DRAWN to these elements because they provide an OVERVIEW of the work He went on to perform in the subsequent three-plus-years. My mind races to a wide VARIETY of Gospel accounts that provide ILLUSTRATION.

NOTE – We could spend the whole sermon considering the accomplishment of these objectives...

- 1) Jesus preaching good news – poor
- 2) Jesus proclaiming release to the captive(s)
- 3) Jesus proclaiming recovery of sight to the blind
- 4) Jesus bringing liberty to those who were oppressed
- 5) Jesus proclaiming the season/era of God's mercy & grace

DELVING IN PT. 4

NOTE – And this would in NO WAY be a WASTE of our time! In fact, we would likely leave this place with a deepened LOVE for the Lord and INSIGHT into His earthly life/ministry. I have read through and preached concerning these five points MANY times in over sixteen years of ministry!

KEY – But this is NOT what I want to focus on this morning. Rather, I want to consider a portion of Luke 4:18–19 that is somewhat EASY to OVERLOOK (as has been noted in seasons/years past):

Luke 4:18–19 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

**18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me**

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

NOTE – We often get so caught up in the work of Christ that we FAIL to consider a fundamental reality to that work. Namely, the work of Christ was supernaturally EMPOWERED and divinely AUTHORIZED by the Holy Spirit of God.

KEY – This point is UNMISTAKABLE in the words of Christ (quoting from Isaiah 61):

- 1) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” – this verbiage always speaks to divine ENABLEMENT
- 2) “Because he has anointed me” – this speaks to divine COMMISSIONING/AUTHORIZATION

DELVING IN PT. 5

NOTE – We must understand that God the Son—in His INCARNATION—became fully RELIANT upon God the Holy Spirit. EVERYTHING that Jesus would go on to accomplish (i.e., preaching, prophetic utterance and miraculous works) was ACCOMPLISHED by & through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- 1)** Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor BECAUSE He was divinely authorized and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so.
- 2)** Jesus proclaimed liberty to the captives BECAUSE He was divinely authorized and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so.
- 3)** Jesus proclaimed recovery of sight to the blind BECAUSE He was divinely authorized and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so.
- 4)** Jesus set at liberty those who were oppressed BECAUSE He was divinely authorized and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so.
- 5)** Jesus proclaimed the year of the Lord’s favor BECAUSE He was divinely authorized and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so.

DELVING IN PT. 6

KEY – This influences/informs EVERYTHING else we read of Jesus’ life and ministry:

- Q. How did Jesus cast out demons? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus cleanse the leper(s)? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus raise the dead (“3x”)? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus give sight to the blind? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus teach with ‘authority’? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus feed the ‘multitudes’? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus calm raging storms? By the Spirit**
- Q. How did Jesus walk on the water? By the Spirit**

NOTE – We MUST recognize this facet of Jesus’ Coming and Incarnation if we are to TRULY understand His life and ministry. Christ was RELIANT upon the power of the Holy Spirit to PERFORM the work of God.

Q. Could He have done it on His own as God the Son? YES -- ABSOLUTELY

KEY – But He happily/wholly YIELDED to the Holy Spirit in the PERFORMANCE of His mission

DELVING IN PT. 7

KEY – His miraculous works/teaching ministry BEGAN at His baptism (i.e., that moment when the Holy Spirit came upon Him – dove descending upon Him in bodily form cf. Luke 3:22). It was FOLLOWING this point in His life that texts like the following BEGIN to appear...

Luke 4:14 (NIV)

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Matthew 4:23–25

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

S & S – The NT record is CLEAR that Jesus’ ministry was divinely AUTHORIZED and supernaturally EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit of God. The execution of His ministry was UTTERLY dependent upon this reality – from start to finish!

CHANGING GEARS PT. 1

Now we could look at this and say, “Wow, Pastor – that is really interesting!” But this takes on a greater degree of significance and application when we realize that the exact same thing can be said of the Early Church (evident in the Book of Acts and the subsequent NT texts).

KEY – The Early Church was divine authorized/supernaturally empowered by the H.S. – MISSION

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN A BIT...

CHANGING GEARS PT. 2

NOTE – MUCH LIKE ministry of Christ, it is EASY for us to get so caught up in the ministry of the early disciples that we FORGET it was accomplished in and through the POWER of the Holy Spirit.

1) We can get SO caught upon the signs and wonders that they performed (e.g., Peter healing a lame man – Acts 3; the apostles performing many signs and wonders – Acts 5; Peter’s shadow healing people – Acts 5; Peter raising the dead – Acts 9; Paul healing a cripple – Acts 14; Paul casting out demons – Acts 16; Paul raising the dead – Acts 20, etc.) that we FORGET that they were able to do this ONLY through the AUTHORITY and ENABLEMENT of the Holy Spirit.

2) We can get SO caught up in the authority evident in the words of these early followers (e.g., Peter winning 3,000 people to the cause of Christ on Day 1 of the Church – Acts 2; Stephen’s wisdom before his accusers – Acts 6–7; the effectiveness of Paul’s preaching throughout his missionary journeys and imprisonments – Acts 13–28, etc.) that we FORGET that these believers were able to do this ONLY through the AUTHORITY and ENABLEMENT of the Holy Spirit.

NOTE – And this is but the TIP of the proverbial iceberg. The Book of Acts is commonly CALLED the “Acts of the Apostles.” HOWEVER, a FAR BETTER title may be the “Acts of the Holy Spirit.”

CHANGING GEARS PT. 3

KEY – And the ministry of the Early Church BEGAN when the Holy Spirit CAME UPON them (Pentecost) – JUST LIKE the Lord Jesus Himself (as noted before). In fact, let me take some time to ELABORATE upon this.

1) Following His Resurrection Jesus promised divine POWER

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2) Following His Resurrection Jesus cautioned them from ministering APART from the H.S.

Luke 24:49

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

3) Following His Ascension – this promise was FULFILLED on the Day of PENTECOST

KEY – Turn with me to the Book of Acts (chapter 2)

TO THE WORD

Acts 2:1–14, 41

1 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.”

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd...

.....

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

APPLICATIONS PT. 1

NOTE – You may be asking, “Pastor – WHAT is the point of today’s message?” These is all very interesting insights into the ministry of Jesus Christ and the Early Church – but WHAT is the takeaway to all of this information?” Consider the following Q...

Q. If JESUS was reliant upon the supernatural enablement of the Holy Spirit – MISSION...

Q. If the EARLY CHURCH was reliant upon the divine empowerment of the HS – MISSION...

Q. To what degree are WE reliant upon the power of the HS – MISSION (in reality v. confession)?

Q. To what degree are WE embracing the PATTERN evident throughout the Gospels & the Acts?

NOTE – Consider that the Modern Church has EVERY earthly advantage over the Lord Jesus and the Early Church in the way of EARTHLY ASSETS and CAPACITIES. We have greater funds; books and church growth plans penned by experts; the benefits of media and technology; the complete written Word of God; two-thousand-years of Church history to review and consider...

Q. But do we have the power?

Q. Do we have an abiding reliance upon the HS?

Q. Are we far too reliant upon ourselves and our own capacities?

APPLICATIONS PT. 2

Consider what the Early Church was able to ACCOMPLISH in a few decades with a relative handful of people (in much more difficult and challenging times). Against EVERY earthly odd, God used them to CHANGE their world and generation!

Q. How is it then that we CANNOT seem to replicate their success in our generation?

NOTE – There ARE MANY reasons for this – and it is an intriguing question to pray through. Yet I believe that a significant portion of the answer is founded upon a SELF-reliance v. a reliance upon the HOLY SPIRIT.

Q. How may rely upon God’s power?

Q. How many ‘seek’ His empowerment?

Q. How many actively trust to be utilized?

KEY – To a PREVIOUS generation the Lord PROPHETICALLY DECLARED: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.” i.e., “You will only fulfill the mission I have given if you rely upon the power that I will richly supply.”

Q. I have to wonder if this is the word for our generation?

CONCLUSIONS

On this Pentecost Sunday—where we remember the moment the Church was empowered for service divine—PERHAPS we should set our hearts on the Lord and humble ourselves in His mighty presence. MAYBE we should commit AFRESH and ANEW to His Great Commission and SEEK a deeper reliance upon the Spirit’s power in the PERFORMANCE of that duty!

KEY – Maybe we should take the Lord at His Word...

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”