

Good Morning welcome to the Pentecost Sunday talk. I'm Stuart and I'm going to use – Acts Chapter 2: v1-21 **only** in my talk and leave the 1 Corinthians chapter 12: v3-13 reading as something for you to ponder on and think through in the future. ##

When you get to the book of Acts in the New Testament, you get to the stage where the disciples become apostles and it shows how they form the new Church of Jesus, without Jesus physically being around. ##

They had to rely on their experience of Jesus teachings:  
**they** had all been witnesses to the miracles,  
heard **and** experienced the preaching,  
the Jesus interpretation of the Old Testament. ##

They had witnessed the **discrimination** against Jesus by most of the Leaders of the Jewish faith at the time (Pharisees and Sadducees)##  
They had witnessed what had happened to Jesus the Man of God,  
Jesus the Son of God, ## **the persecution**, the **beatings** the **humiliation** and **death**  
on the Cross.##

Most importantly they had been witnesses of the **resurrection**,##  
they had **personal experience** of the **resurrected Jesus**. ##

They had talked to the risen Jesus, asked him **questions**, **received instructions**.##

Jesus called them to be **Witnesses of Jesus** - to the end of the earth. A lot of people think Jesus' quotations finish in the Gospels. Look back at Chapter 1 of Acts, ##Jesus is there **talking to them** right up to his Ascension to heaven.

**Telling** them to go 'to the end of the earth' to witness for Him – **that means** us, we are the 'end of the earth', ~~ Australia & New Zealand are really the end of the Earth!  
##

That Instruction is still relevant today, for us to go to the end of the street, the other side of the village green etc. To Witness for Jesus still, wherever we can.##

Jesus had told the Apostles in Chapter 1 of Acts – to wait to receive the Holy Spirit before they started witnessing, ##

so they huddled together, prayed, talked to **other followers** of Jesus. ##

Voted **in** the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle to replace Judas, **then prayed** even more for the Holy Spirit to come to equip them to be Witnesses of Jesus. ##

They did not have to wait long, 10 days ##  
– that's **all** they had to wait for the '**Promise of the Father**' to happen, the receiving of the Holy Spirit. ##

The breakthrough - the promise that all those who **believed and trusted** in Jesus would **receive** the Holy Spirit. ##

The scripture tells us '**There was blowing wind, a great sound, noise, Tongues of fire resting on them**'. ##

Pentecost was **already** a Jewish festive date – it was the start of the **Feast of Weeks** festival, a sort of **early harvest thanksgiving**, where the new crops had started to

bear **fruit and veg** etc. ##So there were lots of people in Jerusalem it was already a party.##

The Apostles excitement, God's howling noisy wind and the tongues of fire, **was** an addition to the atmosphere that was beginning to happen. ##

So when God decided to launch his new Church – with the coming of the Holy Spirit. He decided it was to be party style. It started at 9am in the morning we are told in our reading. It was an exciting time. It was a spectacular event. ##

A quote from **Phil Moore's** Book '**Straight to the Heart of Acts**' says: "The Apostles were so intoxicated with Joy that their Neighbours thought they were **early morning binge drinkers**".##~~

They were intoxicated with **joy, thanksgiving, enthusiasm and eagerness** to get on with the **job** of being Jesus' witnesses – not preachers, not vicars, not ministers not bishops etc but witnesses. ##

The waiting was over. It didn't need a glass of the local red – the opening of a bottle of the **Carmel Menorah Red** desert wine from Waitrose or M&S to get them in the mood. ##~~

It just took the Holy Spirit and the enthusiasm of being Jesus' witnesses to get them celebrating.

They could get **on with telling others** of Jesus, seeing the **Holy Spirit fill others**, get **Church Planting** world wide – to the ends of the earth. ##

World Mission had started. For here in the streets and plazas of Jerusalem there were already God fearing Jews: Parthians, Elamites, ## residents from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,##

People from **Phygia** and **Pamphulia**, **Rome**, Egypt, Lybia, Crete and Arabia. ## Just look at that list - Europe, Asia, **Middle East**, Africa. You can't tell me God is not strategic. A lesson there for the local Church. That's why we support local & world mission ourselves.##

What was so amazing was that everyone could hear the Apostles speaking in their own native Language. As the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in tongues or other languages. ##

**Communication, conversation, witnessing** is taking place.##

This continued as the Holy Spirit constantly filled the apostles, and **now their new** converts to Jesus throughout Jerusalem **and** as we see from our Epistles in our Bibles **to Rome**, Corinth in Greece (near Athens), Galatia, Thessalonica (Greece) etc.## It got international.##

Of course these new Churches or bunches of **Christians became witnesses too**, ##

they had never seen Jesus, but they **received the Holy Spirit**, they had received part of the Holy **Trinity**, ## they had received **God the Holy Spirit**. They could **not** witness without experiencing Jesus through the Holy Spirit. ##

To keep on going at the **rate** they were going, they were **receiving more energy and Power all the time**. ##

We see examples of prayer for certain situations throughout the Book of Acts, the moment after they prayed, we see people like **Peter and other Apostles** being filled or refreshed (yet again) with the **Holy Spirit** ##

So off they go **again** speaking the word of **God Boldly**. ##

Saul, who became Paul after he received the Holy Spirit, turned from **persecuting** Christians to **preaching** to **everyone** he came across converting them to Christianity.##

These **new converts** also needed refreshing with the **Holy Spirit**. There was nothing for them to be **afraid of**, ##  
and there is **nothing for us to be afraid of today**, ##

when we ask for the Holy Spirit to help us, refresh us, empower us to do God's work, to become Jesus' witnesses. ##

If we expect to be Christian Witnesses for Jesus we need that ability to be true witnesses and **speak boldly**, not **half** heartedly, not **'if we get the opportunity'**. ##

Are you as **excited** about your faith in Jesus as those first apostles, as those who currently are **growing** Churches across the UK, Europe, Africa, America, Australia, India... ##

Do you need the **power of communication or conversation**, the ability to speak of what Jesus has done for you through salvation, ##  
To speak in the same 'language' or **in a way** that others will understand?##

When I preached in Uganda, and talked to youngsters and teachers at some of the Churches, they either spoke English or there was an interpreter. Of course we prayed before hand. ##

The Holy Spirit empowered me to speak, but the interpreter was also empowered. Several times the interpreter's Ugandans words or sentences were longer than mine, he was adding things on – empowered by the Holy Spirit. Between us we raised a few Alleluiahs.## ~~

The Holy Spirit may not need to give you a **new language or an interpreter** – just get the English words you already speak into a format or way that your neighbour, your friend, the stranger will be able to understand. Those quick arrow prayers come in handy here.##

Or the Holy Spirit may give you few words and also silences with someone, as the Holy Spirit works in or with the person you are with, both of you being in Communion with the Holy Spirit.##

Peter used a 'language' and a passage of scripture the Jewish people knew, they heard his speech and understood. They all knew about Joel's Prophecy in the Old Testament, **Joel 2:28 to 32** and quoted it at them. Then he told them Jesus of Nazareth was the one who fulfilled the prophesy:##

Jesus did those miracles, wonders, signs amongst you, yet you sent him to death on the Cross. ##

God is giving you a second Chance – he raised Jesus from death, Jesus came and appeared to fellow Jews **and** their Gentile servants, we are witnesses to that. ##

We need to heed that last line (verse 21) of that prophesy. And **'everyone who calls'** on the name of the Lord will be saved. They can't call on the name of the Lord, the message of the Bible, unless we have told them. ##

Christians – You are witnesses of your own salvation in Jesus Christ.##

As a witness what have you got to tell? ##

How many God or Jesus occasions can you give witness to, since you became a Christian? ##

To have a **Jesus occasion** you need the Holy Spirit there giving you the energy and power. ##

How can other people **see Jesus in you**? ##

Can they see Jesus in you, without the Holy Spirit working in your lives. It's not scary, it's natural. **Ask for the Holy Spirit constantly.** ##

Let that asking be a **natural default** in your own lives. ##

**Lets ask him now!**

Let us Pray, and as I pause you **repeat** the words:

Heavenly Father I **thank** you for saving me through the blood of Jesus, ##

Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit promised in the Holy Bible. ##

I accept your gift, Holy Spirit come, fill me again and again in the future.##

Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come. ##

Holy Spirit **help** me be a Jesus witness,##

Holy Spirit help me **learn** to be a Jesus witness through your **Bible readings.** ##

Holy Spirit give me patience, give me consideration for others, give me words and also silence to share. ##

Holy Spirit Give me **prayer** to share. ##

Holy Spirit Come#

Fill me anew.#

Amen.

Let us just wait a few moments to take in the Holy Spirit. (count to 20) you may wish to pause the computer or TV here. #

I **trust, hope and pray** that the Holy Spirit has touched you this morning, given you thoughts and words to ponder on at least. ##

I pray that the Holy Spirit comes like a mighty wind, to move you along through difficult times, and to be Jesus' witnesses.##

I pray the Holy Spirit comes like a mighty fire to lift you and your friends and family up.

**I leave you** with a thought or a **picture.** ##

Just imagine you are a **Hot Air Balloon.** #

It needs **flames & heat** to be lifted up, it needs **wind** to carry it along. ##

The Holy Spirit is that heat and that wind, a gift from God to you. Pray continuously for that Holy Spirit in your lives. ##

Amen.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 **Pentecost Sunday** Transcript of Sermon or talk from Church of Our Saviour.