

Dedication (Believer/Church)

8.19.18

Dedication Series

Acts 2:1–12 (NIV)

2 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 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, 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?"

1. Acts 2 tells of the birth and dedication of the Church.

A. It is God's plan for His people to come together and worship God together.

1. The Church is God's idea.

2. There is something powerful when we come together, in the name of Jesus, for the purpose of worshiping God and knowing Him better.

B. Before Jesus left this earth, He told His followers to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on High.

1. This waiting period was to be a time of preparation and anticipation.
2. This was a time of preparing for the presence and power of God.
3. **In the Kingdom of God, the best things do not happen by accident.**
 - a. When you see something that seems to happen spontaneously, often what you don't realize is all of the prayer, worship, study, and preparation that went on before the miracle happened.
 - b. Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the power from on high.
4. The Early Church didn't wait like we wait.
 - a. When we have a few minutes of "waiting" time, we pull out our phones, check Facebook, reply to some messages, or check the internet.
 - b. It seems to me that the worst thing that can possibly happen in our day and age is to be bored.
 - c. When Jesus told His disciples to wait, they didn't take that as wasted time, or boredom but as a time of preparation.
 - d. In anticipation, they went to an upper room of a building, close to the Temple, and they prayed and worshipped the Lord.

C. On the Day of Pentecost, the Lord showed up in a powerful way.

1. On that day, the Father poured out His Holy Spirit upon the 120 who were preparing themselves for a move of God.
2. **The Spirit of God was not poured out upon a lazy people or a bored people but upon a prepared people.**

3. And on that day, God made known His plan:

a. In the days of old, God inhabited a tabernacle and a temple.

b. In the days of the new, God would live in and among His people.

D. On the Day of Pentecost, God transferred His presence from the Temple to the believer and Church.

1. 40 years after Pentecost, in the year A.D 70, the Temple of Jerusalem would be completely destroyed.

2. But God's presence was not confined to any one place because He had placed His Spirit in His people.

E. The purpose of today's message is to help us realize that the Lord has called us to be people of His Presence.

1. When we give ourselves to God, He gives Himself to us.

2. He lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

3. God has called us to be dedicated to Him and for Him.

4. Let's begin by looking at the imagery in Acts 2 and how the first Church experienced God at their dedication.

2. The Symbols of Pentecost were meant to connect the New with the Old.

A. First, a violent or mighty wind "filled" the whole house.

1. At the dedication of the Tabernacle and the Temple, God's presence was signified by His glory, something akin to smoke.

a. At the Tabernacle and the Temple, it said the Glory of the Lord "filled the Temple".

b. Luke uses similar language to communicate God's powerful presence.

c. Just as God announced His presence by filling the temple and tabernacle with His presence, God was announcing His presence by sending the wind of the Spirit.

2. The Greek word for wind is the same as spirit, "pneuma".

a. What we have are some play on words.

b. In the Old Testament, the Presence of God came like a cloud and filled the buildings dedicated to God.

c. In the New Testament, the Presence of God came and filled the believer.

d. In the Old Testament, God limited himself to a specific place and specific time.

e. In our day, God has sent His Holy Spirit to live in us each and every moment of every day.

B. Then the 120 saw what looked like tongues of fire.

1. At the dedication of the Temple and Tabernacle, fire came from heaven to consume the sacrifices.

2. This was God's sign that the offerings were acceptable and pleasing to God.

3. As the 120 believers prayed and worshipped God, God came upon them in a powerful and visible manner.

a. The fire of the "Spirit" came into the room.

b. But instead of consuming sacrifices, the fire of the Spirit separated and rested upon each believer individually.

c. The fire that consumed animal sacrifices empowers believers to live for the Glory of God.

C. The third sign was that all the believers spoke in other tongues or languages.

1. Of all the signs mentioned in Acts 2, this is the only one repeated elsewhere in Scripture.

2. The significance of this sign on the day of Pentecost is found in the crowd of people.

a. Pentecost was a Holy Feast day.

b. Jews from many languages and nations had gathered in Jerusalem to worship and celebrate.

3. At the dedication of the temple and the tabernacle, God showed up in sight of all the people.

a. His presence was not hidden from the people that day.

b. When God dedicated the believers and gave birth to the Church on the Day of Pentecost, He did not do it in secret.

c. He did it in front of representatives from people from all the known world.

4. The Church was not to consist of only those from Jerusalem but from all nations and walks of life.

a. **We are Pentecostal not for our sake but for the sake of our community.**

b. We need the Holy Spirit and His gifts because people need to encounter the power and presence of God in a real way.

5. Jesus made this clear to His followers.

1. The reason they needed to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was so they could effectively witness to the world.

2. Acts 1:8 (NIV) 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."**

3. We need the Holy Spirit today because there are still people who need to know Jesus!

a. We don't pray for spiritual gifts to flatter ourselves.

b. We don't anticipate moves of the Spirit just to make Church interesting.

c. We anticipate the moving of the Spirit BECAUSE we have friends, families, and neighbors who need Jesus.

3. The Lord is calling out for people who will give themselves to the Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit.

A. At the dedication of the Tabernacle, Temple, and the Church, there was a group of people who had given themselves to the work of the Lord.

1. At the dedication of the Tabernacle, there came a day when Moses had finished the preparation.
2. At the dedication of the Temple, there came a day when Solomon had finished the preparation.
3. On the Day of Pentecost, there came a day when God's people were ready.
4. God is still looking for people who are willing and ready to be used for His Glory and His purposes.

B. Preparation always precedes presence.

1. Are you ready to be used by God?
2. When God looks upon you, does He see someone who is willing and ready?
 - a. You don't have to be perfect for God to use you.
 - b. But you must be willing.
 - c. And you must be available
3. We so often fill our lives so full of stuff that we aren't as available to God as He would like for us to be.

C. We are in a season where we have been preparing for a move of God!

1. God wants to do a great work in us and through us.

2. He wants to pour out His Spirit and empower us to do His work.
3. Next weekend, we celebrate that this building is ready for God to use.
4. But more importantly, I hope we are announcing that WE are ready for God to use.

Close:

A. This morning, I want us to pray one more weekend and ask the Lord to prepare us!

1. Prepare our hearts for His presence.
2. If there is unconfessed sin, let us confess it.
3. If we are broken, may we be restored.
4. If we are fearful, may God give us boldness.
5. If you have never been Baptized by the Holy Spirit, then ask for Him!

B. May our prayer today be, Lord prepare me for your work and power.