

INTRO

- What is it about the supernatural that still fascinates so many people? Have you experienced a supernatural event? Describe.

READ

Acts 2:1-4

REFLECT & RESPOND

To understand the significance of Pentecost, we need to be aware of the bigger story.

Bigger Story

From the Fall throughout the OT, God's presence was limited (think of the tabernacle and temple) and God's Spirit empowered only a specific people for specific tasks (e.g. Joseph). Yet, the prophets said God's Spirit would come again in fullness on all people like in the times of creation, this time to restore creation and transform the human heart, empowering people to truly love God and others. *Read Ez 36:26-27.*

Qu: Why is God so intent on changing our hearts not just our behaviours by His Spirit? What is the result of a changed heart?

At Jesus' baptism, we see the Spirit descend on him empowering him to begin his mission and ministry. Jesus also promised his followers that he would send the Holy Spirit to them so that they would not be left alone and could continue his work.

Pentecost

Therefore, Pentecost is a significant turning point in history as the outpouring of the Spirit is the: *Fulfillment* of the OT hopes of the return of God's presence with his people; *Culmination* of Christ's earthly work; *Inauguration* of God's new creation.

In sum, **the Holy Spirit is God's personal and empowering presence with us working on, in and through us.**

Qu: How would you describe your understanding and experience of the Spirit throughout your faith journey thus far?

The Spirit's role is to "bear witness" to Jesus. He does this by working on, in and through us.

1)The Spirit works on us *drawing us to Jesus*

By the Spirit, God is breaking into lives in a dynamic, experiential way through conviction & regeneration, affirming God's love for us and applying Christ's work of salvation to us.

2)The Spirit works in us *making us like Jesus*

Read 2 Cor 3:17-18. To be a Christian is to reflect Christ. How?

- The Spirit fills us—like wind fills and powers a boat, the Spirit powers us toward Christlikeness.
- We are to walk in the Spirit—Christlikeness is a lifetime of small steps.

The result? The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

3)The Spirit works through us *witnessing to Jesus*

The Spirit empowers and gifts us to be good news people in word, deeds and signs. *Read Heb 2:3-4.*

Qu: How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work on, in or through you recently? Share an example.

Remember, God comes where He's wanted.

Qu: In what way/s this week can you be more intentional in making room for God's Spirit to work in and through you?

PRAY

- Spend time praying for one another to be touched and filled afresh by the Spirit.
- Pray for the Spirit's work to be accelerated on, in and through our church community.