

INTRO

- How many languages can we speak as a group and, which language do you wish you could be fluent in?

READ

Acts 2:1-13

Qu: what's one thing that stands out immediately to you after reading this?

REFLECT & RESPOND

Acts is the continuation of the life and mission of Jesus now through His Spirit and His Church. Pentecost is a significant event whereby God's promised Spirit descends. What does this mean? 3 Pentecost implications for us.

1. PROMISE FULFILLED

Pentecost represented the fulfillment of OT promises (Joel 2:28-29, Jer 31:31-34, Ez 36:26-27) whereby God would transition from the old to a new covenant or relationship with all peoples and the sign would be His Spirit poured out on all flesh. Specifically, a day would come when God's Spirit would enable anyone to:

- Know God personally & intimately
- Fulfill God's will in acts of love

Qu: Reading Ez 36:26-27, why do you think this promise would be such a big deal to those of Ezekiel's day? What was their experience of God compared to what he was promising?

2. PEOPLE FORMED & FILLED

There's undeniable connection between the imagery of the Spirit at Pentecost (wind, fire) with what the Spirit has always been doing since the beginning. The Spirit was actively forming, filling and breathing new life into creation and humanity (Ge 1:2, 2:7). And fire symbolizes God's holy presence often associated with the Temple and Priests.

Now at Pentecost, the Spirit is again responsible to birth a new people (re-birth or regeneration), forming and filling us to be more like Christ wherever we go, and restoring us to our truest identity as image-bearers of God on the earth.

Amazingly, tongues of fire rested on everyone showing that Jesus' presence would now fill anyone who would trust in him. Pentecost is the birth of the church, the Body of Christ, the place where heaven and earth meet once again.

Qu: Briefly, could you share your testimony of how you came to Christ?

3. POWER & PURPOSE UNLEASHED

Finally, Pentecost also marks a new power made available to all who trust in and bear witness to Jesus (Acts 1:8). It is no coincidence that as soon as the disciples have been filled with the Holy Spirit they were given supernatural ability towards God's mission. The Spirit's power and Christ's mission need one another.

Qu: Is there a time when you experienced the Spirit's power & ministry either to you or through you to others.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for one another to receive a fresh filling of God's Spirit, for new power to be fruitful on mission
- Pray for our church to be empowered by the Spirit to be more outward focused.