

Pentecost Sermon & Conversation - May 31, 2020

Pastor Dayna 0:06

Welcome to our sermon today. It's exciting to have all of our perspectives and this kind of launches me off into the exciting thing about Pentecost for myself is that when I read the prophecy in Acts 2 that says, in the last days it will be God declares that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams, even upon my slaves both men and women in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And when I think about prophecy I think about the Old Testament and we often think about like prophets, as men in the Old Testament who hear from God. There's lots of, you know, those long passages from Jeremiah as you do that we think of as prophets, but there's also females who are prophetesses. Miriam and Olga in 2nd Chronicles and just a number of people who had the Spirit upon them to give words of who God was and to speak and call people to repentance to speak image of who God was to the people and this prophecy for me has been one that allows me to understand that all people whether you're rich or poor, you're male or female whether. Whoever you are, we all have experiences of who God is, we all have unique positions and things that tell us who God is and it's really important for us to hear from one another in order to have a fuller and more deeper image of who God is, whenever we exclude people from that sharing and calling people into repentance, we're missing out on an image of who God is and i think that that is really important for us to recognize that just because the pastor is speaking, doesn't mean that we're the only ones that have a full understanding of who God is. It's helpful for us to remember that we need other people to give us that, and to help us understand who God is.

Pastor Rick 2:06

I understand the role that we play. A lot of times we hear people speak, and we do not know the influence we have sometimes we want to be influential but it's how God uses it and I really appreciate those words, when I hear about Pentecost, I think, a great a lot about the full visible and tangible and evident part of it, because it's very loud and dramatic as it's read in Acts 2

and I do think, as much as it's loud, we do have to remember that the Spirit was talked about for a number of times in the Gospel of John already, and as my class with Darrell Johnson at Regent pointed out, there's not just one Pentecost--there's three. If you keep reading through the beginning of Acts. It goes without saying that it's our role to be attentive as well; not only for opportunities for us to testify, prophesy and speak, as God would lead us, but that those who are the recipients of it can be attentive and present and listening. Sometimes we miss what people have to share on behalf of God speaking through them, because I didn't prepare or wasn't as present as I should be and ready to listen. The visible and tangible is very loud in Acts 2 but it's up to us to be attentive. Especially when we see the explanation given by Peter, with Joel's prophecy from Joel is used to highlight this event.

Pastor Chad 3:56

Yeah, and obviously from Joel right that there would be Spirit poured out upon the church, and upon all believers has always fascinated me because it actually harkens back to a number of different things that happen in the Old Testament, but one of the, one of the stories that I love is this story from Numbers 11, and it's its told just as the people have just left Sinai, so have just received the law they've been given this incredible blessing to be people they've committed themselves to following him. They leave Mount Sinai and they start to complain about not having meat, like all they have is this manna, right? And so, Moses is walking around the camp and years everybody complaining at the entrance to their tent and then he goes back to God and God's mad because they're complaining and he's mad because he has to deal with all these people like he says, Why don't you just kill me if I have to deal with all of these things that like, I'm not the person who gave birth to these people I'm not the one that has to deal with all these things and God says okay fine. I will give you some helpers, he says, Call together 70 elders, and I will put my Spirit upon them. So Moses does, he calls together these elders and appoints them they bring them to the front of the Tent of Meeting, except for two, apparently two of them stay in the camp, and then God pours out His Spirit upon the elders, fascinating is the Spirit, then is also poured out on those two that are still out in camp. And they all start prophesying, it says, I wish I knew what that meant. It's hard to

know sometimes the Old Testament what that means but whatever so they started prophesying, and people run into the tents of meeting and they say, hey, these people that are still out in the camp, they're doing the same thing and Joshua says we should stop them. Moses says no, I wish that all God's people would have his spirit and prophesy that way. And then you see that promise from Joel saying in the last days. This will come true with this. There's longing for God to be as present with his people, as he was with Moses, with those elders would come through with your declaring that actually happened because of what Jesus did, has been fascinating that the Spirit is there and pressed for us, no matter where we are more nor less time but call Jesus Lord and follow him, and get this Spirit poured out on us.

Pastor Jake 6:21

This whole idea of the Spirit being poured out you know we. For me it is always takes me to what Peter says at the end there, you know, the people are saying wow you know this is all happening and what do we do now, because the Spirit pours down on us. Now this whole idea of prophesying and speaking God's word for us and everything else and it's so meaningful but. But this is also a heart change this is a life change. This is about. We can't stay the same after the spirit is poured down on us and. And that's why the people say, Hey, what do we do, like, what does this mean what's, what's the next steps and I love how Peter says you repent and be baptized and there's these two sides to that there is this repentance stuff this whole change in life. And I remember when I went to see, you know I was young I was 17 years old and left home. And, and I just, I didn't like it at all. I didn't like it in my church I didn't like it in my school like like anything else just was kind of miserable, to be around and I just took off, and the Navy is probably not the best place for kind of a disgruntled guy to be because he gets sucked into all kinds of stuff and there was a part of me on board ship that. That said, You know what, who are you, and do you still really believe in God? and he gave me this challenge. On a night where I'm sitting doing, watch over, over the ship and I'm sitting on the stern and I've made sure nobody falls overboard and if they do I got thrown the life raft, and it was one of those nights where the Northern lights were shining, and it was reflecting off a calm sea and, and he came back and he said, you know

what? Take a look and tell me that there's no God. And, and he asked us to watch for five minutes well I kind of thought about that. I'll admit it, I was 18 years old then. And I just went to get a cup of coffee a bowl of soup. I'm just saying somebody changed the watch for five minutes that's great for me. But, walking back to where I was standing watch. I stopped for a moment. And then I saw it and then all of a sudden it really, really hit me. You know there is a God, and I can't deny that there's a God told me that he said, Now you have to make a choice you admit there's a God. But now you have to change and you actually have to follow God, or you stay the same, and you keep going this path that you're on. But you have no excuse anymore. And for me Pentecost is. You've got no excuses anymore. You know God's put his Spirit into us and he's changing us and baptism is washing our whole life, moving into a new life. And it goes by stages. I, I came across a saying years ago saying God loves us so much that He accepts us for who we are but he loves us too much to allow us to stay the same. And, and for me that really is become kind of a model for a personal model for me. I don't want to stay the same. I want the Spirit to guide me to lead me, and I don't, I don't want people to, to just say you know Pentecost is this cool day and as a special name it's a birthday and everything else. I want people to experience it and I want people to experience a flow in the Spirit into their lives. And that's why, Dayna. You talked about the curtain of the temple and I love that image that you have.

Pastor Dayna 10:14

And that idea that, so thanks Jake for that sharing of your story like there's a real sense in which the Holy Spirit, you know draws us in I love that idea of the, of the Holy Spirit drawing us in and confirming to us that like that we say, Abba, or daddy right and when we're embraced in that kind of love and that kind of kindness of God that we are drawn into transformation and, and that idea of Galatians 5 right, where the fruit of the Spirit blossoms in us as a result and it's not just sometimes I think that some of these, like, the patience and kindness and goodness like they sound really nice and maybe even like one of my friends, who is also a pastor some kind of like feminine, but like they're not for females like their caller calls for men to to be kind and patient and good and I think that that's an important reminder is that we are drawn into the kindness and love of God and that is what brings

us transformation right through the Holy Spirit. And that happens because yeah, as Jesus dies the temple curtain is torn in two and we get all these passages later on that say that, though, that God's presence and God's Spirit doesn't live in temples made of human hands but lives within all of us that we are the temple of God, which has been really fascinating thing because like I said earlier, like we carry around God's presence like we're symbols of that in our world and, and, yeah, wherever we're going, we bring that with us and so what does it mean, as we're transported to actually carry God with us into the world is a very interesting thought.

Pastor Chad 11:58

And for so many of us encountering the Spirit and such a foreign thing right like I still remember there's a couple of times in my life when I've had like this direct God's showing up in my space. Kind of messing me up for lack of better way of putting it, but I was a seminarian and I was preaching a sermon and one of the churches in Grand Rapids. And after the sermon this lady comes up to me, she says, I have a word from God for you. It's like, totally threw me for because she clearly had a gift. She kind of said appreciates things that that, like, she wasn't telling me things that I've been hiding but she had something that spoke so deep into my soul that we had this like really holy moment, right in between, actually it was between two services because they had two morning services so I was like trying to get ready for the next sermon and she's like throwing this on me and I'm just this farm boy from southern Alberta, who doesn't really hasn't had too many encounters with the Holy Spirit and so this is pretty odd and weird but powerful spiritual moment that like, I can't deny that that was something I had a direct encounter with God, but for for so many of us it's so outside of our comfort zones and we don't always get to talk about it but it's just amazing to see so many things happening through different people in different ways, even today,

Pastor Rick 13:25

You know for what for boy to the extra as I have to there. You know, not much is introduced, especially at a conservative Reformed context which I was brought up on the dairy. And one of the influential things that someone shared with me once is about all the religions that are birthed in this world.

There's only one that is alive and well because its leader, died, and came back to life. And the evidence that this person shared in this story, which profoundly influenced me was how the Holy Spirit has moved throughout history from one continent to the other and you can see through the course of history, revival taking place because of the Spirit's birthing, you know, first, in the Middle East area and then of course, Europe, you see it here in North America, Latino, Africa and there's no other religion, in which the leader that surfaces re inspires of reverse. A sea of people in different places of the world. It's beautiful. I appreciate what people share the stories like you do Chad confessional and then allow ourselves to be a little vulnerable but also testify to how God spoke to us.

Pastor Jake 14:47

And what I love about Pentecost is how it draws people together. You know the *unintelligible* on board ship. He wasn't Christian reformed. We're from three different churches here. We all have different kind of ways of approaching ministry. But my experience in working with other churches, especially in Montreal was, was we have so much more in common because of the whole experience just draws us together. And we all have different backgrounds and they all come from different ways of of kind of growing up in the church and I guess this morning. Four of us are here, sharing the same same word the same experiences, and it just draws us together and I guess that's really my prayer for the church is that, you know, the Pentecost reminds us of the unity that Jesus prays for there, and that last night before he went to the cross, that they be one in me, and I think that's what Pentecost, you know that's the spirit of it. That's what a lot of it's about.

Pastor Dayna 16:07

I didn't grow up CRC, and I grew up, amongst many different denominations and actually when I was at Regent all of my roommates for four years were Pentecostals. And there's like some dangers in emphasizing the Holy Spirit just as there are dangers in emphasizing just Jesus or just the Father or the Creator. And I saw some of those firsthand. And I think that there is an arrogance that we can have about the Holy Spirit as well that we've heard from the Spirit and therefore this is the right

way and so one of the interesting things for me was to both to watch these Pentecostals who were so immersed in like spirit language and that kind of thing really sense that like the spirit was around us, but that they just had to like become awake to it, in some ways, or like have their eyes open to it to as Chad was saying like be trained to see it, which in some ways is like why we come to church right is to tell that story and to be training ourselves to see where God is and how God is at work and and shaping and forming us, but also to be recognizing that we also have to be really humble when it comes to the spirit or we we've known the church to say that, you know, the Holy Spirit has guided us and that you've created. Like done great atrocities and great harm in the name of God and so it's an interesting balance of like learning to hear from the Holy Spirit, but yet being humble enough to be corrected, as well, which is a really hard place to kind of exist sometimes.

So we trust that the Holy Spirit is at work, and all of us in the world, and you. So, Wherever you are, may you know that God's Spirit is there and share with each other how you understand Pentecost to be something how it's intersected with your life how it touches and impacts your understanding of who God is and to our life. Thanks for joining us.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>