

“Perpetual Pentecost”
Acts 2:1-4; 16, 17; 41 (KJ)

By Kip Box

I. The Introduction

A. It was a tough time to start a church.

1. The Roman Empire was permeated everywhere with greed, degeneracy, and a constant pursuit of pleasure at any and all cost.
2. Tough times.
 - a) Human life meant nothing, and unwanted babies were discarded the way one would throw out trash.
 - b) Innumerable gods were worshiped along with the emperors, and preaching of any kind of monotheism whether Judaism or Christianity could often provoke harsh reprisals.
 - c) No printed New Testaments, no church buildings, no legal protection from the courts; this was life in the Roman Empire.
3. It was into this world-the Roman dominated world that Jesus would inaugurate His church.
4. The times weren't good - pagan, corrupt, narcissistic.

B. Sound familiar? (Pluralism, pragmatism, and Politically correct).

1. The early church was inaugurated in tough times, and the opposition hasn't changed in 2018.
2. Recently we celebrated Pentecost, a Jewish festival commanded in the Old Testament book of Leviticus.
 - a) The political and sociological landscape of America isn't much different from that first Day of Pentecost in the Roman dominated Jerusalem.
 - b) Our highest court, the Supreme Court, has redefined marriage.
 - c) To accommodate and promote Islam, an increasing amount of information about Islam is now being placed in school textbooks.
 - d) Anti-Semitism is at its highest since the 1930's. And yes, in the land of the red, white, and blue, there is a strong anti-American sentiment.
3. *New American*, Nov. 2, 2017, "Millennial Madness: Paganism on rise in colleges." One student said, "Paganism is exactly what you want it to be." Couple that with with the rise or relativism (Barna only 6% of teens believe in an absolute standard) and we need revival.
4. We need a massive revival, a spiritual awakening. The early church thrived and even brought mighty Rome to its knees. How?
 - a) Through the power of Pentecost!
 - b) Pentecost Sunday is definitely worth celebrating once a year, but it's also important to be mindful of it everyday. Perpetual Pentecost!

C. The early church had a dynamic.

1. Notice the promise.
 - a) Luke 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."
 - b) Acts 1:4, 5 "And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

c) Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me . . ."

2. This dynamic would be the third Person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost.
3. These Scriptures that I read were some of the last words of Jesus on earth.
 - a) Last words aren't wasted words. Last words are forever words.
 - b) The last thing on Jesus' heart was for His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they were clothed with the power of the Holy Ghost. Don't even begin ministry without this power.
4. The twenty-eight chapters of Acts illustrate a church that spread the Gospel through the power of the Spirit.
 - a) Power in the Greek means "power in operation; in action - a dynamo."
 - b) The power that came on the Day of Pentecost-the Holy Ghost power-would turn the world upside down.

D. Furthermore, this church would pray.

1. Not everyone wanted the power of Pentecost then, nor do they today. Jesus told 500 people to tarry in Jerusalem, but only 120 were present in the Upper Room when the Spirit came.
2. What were they doing?
 - a) Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren."
 - b) Their status was unity-"one accord." I will talk about that later.
 - c) Their activity was prayer.
3. Pastor Jim Cymbala has a huge prayer meeting that is the driving force behind the Brooklyn Tabernacle. He writes, "Prayer begets revival which begets more prayer. Persistent calling upon the name of the Lord breaks through every stronghold of the devil, for nothing is impossible with God. For Christians in these troubled times there is simply no other way."
4. I cannot overemphasize the importance of prayer.
 - a) We can talk, analyze, and strategize problems to death! Our first resort must be to pray.
 - b) James had been killed, and Peter had been imprisoned. How did the church react? Acts 12:5 "Peter therefore was kept in prison, was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."
5. A praying church was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The early church thrived in spite of an antagonistic culture. Tonight, let's see why Pentecost must be perpetual.

II. The Status on the Day of Pentecost Was Unity, v. 1.

A. A striking characteristic of the early church was its unity.

1. The Scriptures Declare
 - a) Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication . . ."
 - b) Acts 2:44 "And all that had believed *were together* and had all things common."
2. The 120 were gathered in the Upper Room in love and unity praying to receive the Holy Spirit.
3. While there was unity among the 120, there wasn't uniformity. Uniformity is sameness — cookie cutter. This church was made up of distinct individuals.
4. Today our congregations, pastors, staff, and evangelists are varied. People have

preferences and styles.

- a) Some like guitar-driven praise and worship while others like a choir.
- b) Some like a conversationalist in the pulpit while others prefer a fiery evangelist.
- c) And sad to say, many churches and believers have become divided over preference.

B. They were in "one accord."

- 1. What does the term "one accord" mean?
 - a) This term has a variety of meanings such as "togetherness, with one mind, harmony, united in purpose, unanimity."
 - b) There is also a meaning that refers to "at the moment of unity."
- 2. Jesus prayed for the church's unity?
 - a) Jn 17:21 "That they all may be one; Thou, Father art in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us, that the world believe that Thou hast sent Me."
 - b) The Spirit would not come to a divided church.
- 3. Jesus' prayer was answered on the Day of Pentecost.
 - a) However, before it was answered some things had to be overcome.
 - b) The disciples were on a kick for pre-eminence. They argued over who could be the greatest. By the Day of Pentecost this division had been overcome.

C. What brought the 120 into this unity?

- 1. It wasn't what brought them in one accord; it was Who!
- 2. Their real sense of community centered in their personal knowledge of the risen Christ and their devotion to Him.
- 3. They were convinced . . .
 - a) Jesus was and is the Son of God.
 - b) Jesus came to earth in a body and lived a sinless life.
 - c) Jesus ministered under the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - d) Jesus went to an old rugged cross and died for a world of lost sinners.
 - e) Jesus rose on the third day triumphing over death, hell, and the grave.
 - f) Jesus would have a church in planet earth and that He would build His church.
 - g) Jesus promised them the power of the Holy Ghost was coming to live within them.
 - h) Jesus had left them a mission to be a part of His church.
 - i) Jesus would come again in the clouds of glory just as He had left!
- 4. Peter and John are no longer struggling over being number one. Jesus had united them.

D. Church, we can come together in 2018.

- 1. It's all about Jesus.
- 2. Jesus is the center piece of Christianity.
 - a) The Bible is His story: "These (Scriptures) are they which testify of Me" (Jn 5:39).
 - b) From Genesis to Revelation He is woven into the fabric of every book of the Bible. He is the incarnate Word!
- 3. He is worthy.
 - a) He is the Avenue of God's power by whom the world was made.
 - b) He is the radiant Representative of God's glory shown to man.
 - c) He is the Sustainer of all that exists in this universe.
 - d) He is the Savior from sin and the Redeemer of sinful man.
 - e) He is Noah's rainbow. He is Elijah's mantle. He is Ruth's handfuls on purpose. He is David's sling. He is Jeremiah's balm in Gilead. He is Malachi's Son of Righteousness with healing in His wings. He is Abel's lamb. He is Job's Daysman.

He is Ezekiel's wheel in the middle of the wheels. He is John's Lamb of God that takes away sin. He is Paul's message, and He is the Cornerstone of the Church.

f) To those who walk the lone dark night, He is the bright and morning Star. To those who travel in the desert, He is the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon. To those who are engaged, He is the Bridegroom who cometh for the Bride.

g) And He is our Coming King!

4. He is the Christ that brings us together.

III. The Signs on the Day of Pentecost Were Wind, Fire, and Tongues, 2:2-4. **AN OBVIOUS PENTECOST**

A. There was the sound of a rushing mighty wind.

1. At Pentecost there were three observable manifestations that the Holy Spirit was descending upon the 120 disciples in fulfillment of Acts 1:8.

2. The origin of the sound.

a) "There came a sound from heaven."

b) Please notice from where it came. It didn't come from hell; there are those who say speaking in tongues is of the devil. This sound came where all good things come from. VAUDIE PARRIS

c) James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . ."

3. The Bible says, "Suddenly." The word *suddenly* in the Greek means "unexpectedly; without warning."

a) If we aren't careful our church services can become so predictable.

b) We need to see the unexpected in our churches again. We need a move of God to sweep this place without warning.

4. The wind filled all the house, not just part of the house (First Alabama Camp Meeting)

5. The wind gives life.

a) Ezekiel 37:7-10 We need what Ezekiel saw in the valley of dry bones; the wind brought life to the bones.

b) We cannot live without the life giving Spirit of God.

B. There were cloven tongues as of fire.

1. Fire is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

2. John the Baptist promised a baptism of fire.

a) Mt 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after Me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

b) Lu 3:16 " . . . He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

3. There are some things about fire . . .

a) Fire purges and purifies. Oh Lord, may the fire burn out the dross in our lives.

b) Fire warms. Can't you feel the warmth of the Holy Ghost?

c) Fire illuminates. The Holy Spirit reveals things to the people of God.

d) Fire attracts. My grandparents married in 1928. As young newly weds my granny and papa would go to the back of the New Georgia COG and watch them shout and listen to them speak in tongues. Oh Lord, may they come watch us burn again!

e) Fire spreads! From the outpouring at Sherer Schoolhouse in 1896 to the year 2,000 over 600 million had been baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

4. Lev 6:13 "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out." Years

ago a park out West had a nightly attraction in which fire would fall off the side of a mountain. However, because of environmental reasons, this fire fall attraction was stopped. Nightly attendance fell drastically at the park. The park conducted a survey to find out why attendance fell. The number one response was, "The fire no longer falls; therefore, we no longer come."

5. Church, I am not willing to let the fire go out!
- C. The 120 began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.
 1. The year was 1906 at the Azusa Street revival. A little Hispanic boy said, "As I brushed the sand out of my eyes to wake up, my mother began talking fast in some language I had never heard before . . . Then the language stopped, and she said, 'Son, I have had the most glorious experience! I have just been baptized in the Holy Ghost and have been given the gift of tongues.'" The mom went on to say, "These are blessed times, son. The Holy Ghost is here on earth like at Pentecost."
 2. Speaking in tongues is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) Speaking in tongues is a Spirit-inspired utterance whereby the believer speaks in a language he has never learned. It may be an existing language or in languages unknown on earth (I Cor 13:1).
 - b) When a believer speaks in tongues, his spirit and the Holy Spirit join in verbal praise and prophecy.
 3. God linked speaking in tongues with the baptism in the Holy Ghost from the very beginning so that the 120 believers and believers thereafter would have an experiential sign or confirmation that they have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Thus, this experience could be objectively validated as to time and place of reception.
 4. Two things about speaking in tongues . . .
 - a) Speaking in tongues is a sign to an unbeliever
 - b) Speaking in tongues is used by the believer to speak to God and thus to build up one's spiritual life.
- D. These signs did not end with the early church.
 1. Many people in Christianity are ceasseionists.. Ceassionists believe that miracles and signs and wonders ceased with the early church.
 2. There is no place in Scripture that says the gifts would cease.
 - a) Those that adhere to this use I Cor 13:8 "Tongues shall cease."
 - b) However, those same folks still preach. Why preach if prophecy has failed? Those same folks still have Bible colleges. Why have a Bible college if knowledge has vanished away?
 - c) The perfect has not come yet. Therefore, God has placed tongues, prophecy, and knowledge in the church until Jesus comes.
 3. Mk 16:17, 18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."
 4. Pentecostal scholar Stanley Horton said, "Both the gifts of healing and the gifts of the working of miracles demonstrate to us and to the world around us that Jesus is indeed the Victor. At the cross the full price was paid, and Satan's doom was sealed."
 5. Sis. Lou Renfro attends my church. She shared her testimony with me.
 - a) "I was lost and dying with leukemia. I had gone to visit my sister in South Florida. She attended the COG. I went to a revival service with her. In that service the evangelist stopped in the middle of his message and said, 'There's a woman here

who is lost and dying with leukemia. If you will come, God will save you and heal you.”

- b) Sis. Lou said, “I went down to the altar and God saved, me, sanctified, me, and filled me with the Holy Ghost; and He healed me that night.”
- c) She is now over ninety years old and still shouting the victory!

IV. The Supernatural Experience on the Day of Pentecost Was the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

A. Spirit baptism is for the believer.

1. Let's go back to Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghosts is come upon you . . .”
 - a) These words were spoken to men already in intimate relationship with Jesus.
 - b) They had been sent out to preach. Jesus had said to them, “Your names are written in heaven” (Lu 10:20).
 - c) These men were sanctified; “Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken to you” (Jn 15:3).
2. The above facts show that one may be in touch with Christ and be a disciple of Christ and yet lack the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit distinct and separate from His work of regeneration.
 - a) For the disciples the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 was a post-regeneration experience.
 - b) One can be regenerated, indwell by the Holy Spirit, but still not be baptized in the Holy Ghost.
4. To be baptized in the Spirit means . . .
 - a) To be filled with the Spirit.
 - b) To be clothed with the Spirit (Lu 24:49).
 - c) To be immersed into the Spirit of God. Think about being immersed into the energizing power of the Divine Spirit.
 - d) To have an impartation of the Divine Spirit.

B. Spirit baptism brings the believer power for witness and service.

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit will bring personal boldness and the power of the Holy Spirit into the believer's life in order to accomplish mighty works in Jesus name and to make the believer's witness more powerful and effective.
2. Peter is a sterling example of Pentecostal power.
 - a) Before Pentecost Peter was fickle. When the pressure was on at our Lord's greatest trial, Peter denied Jesus three times.
 - b) But now the “wind” has blown on Peter. Peter will stand up on the Day of Pentecost and preach about this Jesus he once denied. 3,000 were saved.
 - c) Peter would tell a lame man to get up and walk in Jesus name, and that lame man was healed.
3. A witness has a story to tell, an experience to relate, a relationship to describe.
 - a) Holy Ghost baptized believers witness; they tell, “I once was lost but now am found.”
 - b) They tell of how Jesus lifted them out of the pit and placed their feet upon the rock.
 - c) They sing, “I love Him because He first loved me and purchased my salvation.”
4. Power to overcome, power to help somebody!

C. Spirit baptism is for you.

1. The Scriptures Declare
 - a) Acts 2:16 (Amp.) “But instead this is the beginning of what was spoken through

the prophet Joel."

- b) Peter would explain about the Gentiles receiving the Holy Ghost. Listen. "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning."
- 2. The Day of Pentecost was not the end; it was the beginning. The Day of Pentecost was not the apex; it was the thoroughfare. More baptisms in the Holy Spirit were to come.
 - a) Acts 8 - the Samaritan believers were filled.
 - b) Acts 9 - Saul of Tarsus was filled.
 - c) Acts 10 - the Gentiles were filled.
 - d) Acts 19 - the Ephesian disciples were filled.
- 3. Acts 2:38-39 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."
- 4. My testimony
- 5. And you too can be baptized in the Holy Ghost!
- V. The Salvation of the Lost Was the Mission from the Day of Pentecost, v. 41.
 - A. A Pentecostal church is missional and evangelistic.
 - 1. Notice what happened in this atmosphere.
 - a) 3,000 souls were saved.
 - b) The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved, Acts 2:47.
 - 2. Then in Acts 4, we find 5,000 being saved.
 - 3. The very purpose for the Spirit's power being given to us is to witness to carry out the Great Commission.
 - B. Souls were saved after the proclamation of Christ.
 - 1. Peter will begin to preach, and he preaches on Jesus, Acts 2:22.
 - 2. The early church preached Christ.
 - a) Peter preached Jesus.
 - b) Philip preached Jesus, Acts 8:5, 35
 - c) Paul preached Jesus, Acts 9:20.
 - C. Leland McCluskey
 - 1. Sis. Clara McCluskey was one of the greatest Christians I ever knew.
 - a) \$73 a month tithes
 - b) \$1 in every offering
 - c) Jim Walter House
 - 2. Her husband, Leland, was lost - 78 years old.
 - 3. She called the parsonage and said, "Leland's ready to pray."