

# Pentecost Sunday 2019

## The Significance of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-41

Acts 2:16–21 (ESV): But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the  
Lord shall be saved.’

I’d like to begin by drawing us to think about a phrase or a colloquial saying:  
Means to an End.

Where does that saying come from?

Or what about “The ends justify the means.”

meaning what we have done (usually good or bad) was  
worth the end result.

How do we define our means?

MEANS are the tools, resources, or events that lead us to a  
fulfillment, or justification: an end.

Our issue as a culture: We have all the means in the world, and absolutely  
no end in sight.

“The first great fact which emerges from our civilization is that today  
everything has become “means”. There is no longer and “end”. We do not  
know where we are going. We have forgotten our collective ends, and we  
possess great means: we set huge machines in motion in order to arrive  
nowhere.” - Jacques Ellul

Deep in the recesses of the human heart. We accumulate in order for  
“what”? What is our end? What culminates our existence into an absolute  
fulfillment?

One of concerns we have as churches is that so often in today’s society the  
culture influences the church, not the church influencing the culture.

The American Church today specifically has many “means” but for  
what sort of ends? In the accumulation of all that we have we have  
potentially forgotten where we are going, and the truest reason for this  
revelation is that we have left our guide to the side: THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Pentecost reveals to us that the work of Jesus Christ was not simply a means  
to an end, an addendum to qualify our lives, but a calling to a BRAND NEW  
LIFE. Through the Holy Spirit we see that Christ is the both the MEANS and  
the END of our SALVATION.

Meaning the offer of Pentecost is that God invites us to enter into a  
NEW HUMANITY. This is why Pentecost is so significant: It is the birthplace  
of the church.

However, I’d make the speculation that the church today  
lives largely without the influence of the Holy Spirit in the day to day life of  
the church. I am convicted by that.

We seek to do a ministry event and the first thing  
we look to is the MEANS to accomplish and not the END that is all ready  
available to us: THE HOLY SPIRIT.

When the world approaches us with their loneliness, pain, suffering, despair,  
hopelessness, and sin, do we answer them with another “means” to add to  
their litany of means, or do we show them a NEW END?

The Scriptures should point us back to what really matters: Our life in Christ fully realized in the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is called the Paraclete: Para: alongside klete: aid, console or, comfort. His title reveals His relationship with us as the church: He never leaves us, He walks alongside us, He empowers us, He comforts us. We refuse to acknowledge him.

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the Life-Giver, no understanding without the Spirit of Truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body is without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.” - John Stott

A dead church without the Spirit is usually one or more of three things:

1. Either a dead church has forgotten the Spirit
2. A dead church is too afraid of what the Spirit might do
3. A dead church forces The Holy Spirit into man made perimeters.

All of this at a loss to the Significance of the Holy Spirit's indwelling in believers: The impact of Pentecost on today's church.

Significance of Pentecost

1. God's indwelling the believer
2. The forward motion of the Great Commission
3. Birth of the Church
4. A new humanity

**2:1-13: When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under**

**heaven. (6) And at this sound the multitude came together and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. (7) And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? (9) Parthians and Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, (11) both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians - we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." (12) And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" (13) But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."**

Luke gives us the historical location in time from the death and resurrection of Jesus to the coming of the promised Holy Spirit through the Jewish holiday of Pentecost: Pente = "50" the feast of celebration 50 days after the feast of Passover, where Christ died and was resurrected. So Luke's timeline fits consistently.

Pentecost was the Jewish holiday of harvest feasting in worship to God for provision of Life. Where Passover had to do with atonement and death, Pentecost was all about LIFE!

In a celebration of life we see the indwelling God of tabernacles and temples now find a PERMANENT dwelling in lives of men and women.

They were all together in one place: These disciples around 120 had seen Jesus ascend into heaven and had been waiting for Him in the Upper Room.

The event takes place on Pentecost: divided tongues of fire appeared resting on them (notice it doesn't say above their heads, which I always visualized), but now has more of an explanation of FILLING them RESTING upon them, the language of covering/clothing them.

Holy Spirit: GOD indwelling in the believers AND the OUTCOME: speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance:

What happened? A SUPERNATURAL OUTCOME to waiting on the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Never once does it say that the Holy Spirit was out of control, it was the SPirit that gave them utterance.

And these devout Jews and proselytes were all over Jerusalem for the feasting season: Passover - Pentecost - Sukkot

Notice something here that many of the countries mentioned here were countries of the Jewish Diaspora from their history, and this is a magnified event:

**Application:** God INVITES us into His presence. The Holy Spirit did NOT do a singular work on Pentecost, He indwelt believers, and WELCOMED those unknowns into His presence at the witness of His people. These people had come to Jerusalem to worship God at the feasts, but in a grander way the HOLY SPIRIT HAS INVITED THEM TO A NEW TESTAMENT JERUSALEM.

Illustration: I think about the O.T. In another ascension event. Elijah and Elisha story, Elijah knew his time to go to the presence of God was soon and he asked Elisha, what would he like, Elisha, "A double-portion of your spirit". His mantle falling down upon Elisha as the fiery chariot takes Elijah up into heaven.

Echoing this to NT: Jesus Ascension brought about HIS SPIRIT DOWN.

The church is worthless without the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to EMPOWER US, and it is the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring us here.

The Spirit welcomes you here. Nothing can stop Him from ministering, He goes as far as removing the curse of Babel for them to hear the mighty works of God in their own language.

You have a response to give the Holy Spirit: v.12 -13 **invitation** or **ridicule**. It's our choice church: the same offer to us today.

**Acts 2:14–21 (ESV): But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:**

**17 " 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares,**

**that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;  
18 even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.**

**19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;  
20 the sun shall be turned to darkness  
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before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.**

**21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'**

The third work of the Holy Spirit was the words of knowledge given to this Galilean fisherman: God's response to mockers is not more mocking, but a response that was BOTH logical and SUPERNATURAL.

And in turn what we are encountering here in Acts is the BIRTH of God's Church: within Peter's Gospel proclamation we witness the work of Holy Spirit propelling the command of the Great Commission

Logical: these guys aren't drinking because its only 9am, but something much more important is happening here: A 650 year old prophecy has been fulfilled for the pleasure of everyone who witnesses it.

Supernatural: When have we ever seen Peter be this eloquent!

We continue into Peter's sermon, and we don't have the time to get into each part because I want us to see here the response of the people to the Holy Spirit.

Read v.21-36

**Acts 2:37 (ESV): Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"**

Can we say this as well, The work of the Holy Spirit CUT THE HEART of the hearers, mainly, those who were mocking. Cut to the heart specifically speaks of remorse for what they had done.

Notice it wasn't their astonishment at the signs of tongues that they witnessed, rather it caused them to mock the people, the ministry of the Holy Spirit in PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL, is what changed their hearts.

This is the Forward Motion of the Great Commission, what began here in Jerusalem through the work of the Holy Spirit is ground zero event to where we are as the church today.

The work of the Holy Spirit ULTIMATELY brings salvation to lost souls. If we have great astonishing works of spiritual gifts and yet we see no lost souls claimed for the Kingdom of heaven, than we are missing something here!

**Acts 2:38–41 (ESV): And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.**

REPENT: Very possible that the people in the crowd witnessing Peter's preaching, were witnesses and participants to the persecution and death of Jesus.

Peter tells them, they must change their perspective of who Jesus is: Not is He a good teacher: IS HE LORD? The Holy Spirit reveals Him.

RECEIVE: the promised Holy Spirit. He is a GIFT, and He is gift that will not be squandered.

Promise that He is available to you now: v.39 Promise is for you and your children and for all that far off: BOTH DISTANCE AND TIME.

If you're a child of God you are part of a family that stands the test of time: You are a part of the new humanity, no longer in bondage to sin. You are part of the most united host of people for all eternity, where death itself cannot separate you from the family of God in Christ Jesus.

V.41 those that received Christ 3,000 souls.

Acts 1 says there was about 120 believers in the upper room.

The church grew 26 times its size! Meaning that those in the upper room, for those to be baptized, each person had to baptize 26 people!

Baptism is the public proclamation of your submission to Jesus as Lord.