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THE HOT WINDS OF CHANGE

[Pentecost]

“On the Day of Pentecost all the Believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.” Acts 2: 1-2 (NLT)

Pentecost was one of the three major feasts of the year along with the Feasts of the Tabernacles and the Passover. Following the Passover Feast, attended, mainly by Palestinian Jews, at which time Jesus was murdered, the population of Jerusalem returned to normal size. But at Pentecost, with fair weather beckoning, pilgrims poured into the Holy City from all points of the Roman Empire.

Almost unnoticed by the jostling bands of pilgrims, the remnant of Jesus’ followers waited. And suddenly it happened – the Spirit came, like a wind, uncontrollable, mysterious, powerful; like a flame, cleansing, consuming, awesome, and dangerous. The small band of one hundred twenty was gathered in the same place, and the Spirit was given to the entire group, resting upon each of them.

Was this the first time the Spirit of God had come upon men? No! What unique thing transpired at Pentecost? The Spirit of God was made manifest in a new way. The Spirit, which was at work in Creation, fell upon the leaders and the prophets of Israel, but never in the Old Testament was the Spirit poured out upon all the people. When it was poured out, only the leaders received it and then just enough to make them desire more. Moses cried aloud, “Would God that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!” (Numbers 11:29 KJV). **Isaiah hoped the Messiah would be different because the Spirit would rest upon him.**

Ezekiel wondered, “Can these bones live?” And the answer came, “If the breath of the Lord breathes upon them.” Joel longed for the day when the Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh, not just upon a few leaders but on all (Joel 2:28-29, KJV).

...This mighty act of redemption was not only the launching pad of the church, but it suggests that Pentecost is not a thing apart from daily life nor God’s divine purpose in history. In Pentecost we see the Spirit of the Eternal fashioning, molding, and making a new people by using the “hot winds of change” in a creative manner. **In Pentecost we see the breath of God energizing his children and making the dead bones of hope and promise live again.** The church, established by the “winds of God,” was marked by a new quality of life, a society of love, joy, and hope. **We see in Pentecost the Spirit of the Eternal actively leading his people in all truth. AMEN.**

Dr. Samuel B. McKinney

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

