

## God's Grand Story pt 17 Pentecost – Ordinary to Extraordinary

**Intro:** Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

**Luke 24:44-49** He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

### A. Ordinary to Extraordinary!

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

They waited... **Acts 2:1-4** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **120 were gathered together PRAYING... having a PRAYER SUMMIT!**

People want to see an Acts Church! The ACTS CHRISTIANS WERENT SPECIAL CHRISTIANS. They were sinners, timid, fearful, doubted, were insecure... sound familiar? SOUNDS LIKE US – they were EMPOWERED BY GODS SPIRIT.

**A SPIRITLESS Church is a POWERLESS Church. A SPIRITLESS Person is a POWERLESS person.**

**OBJECTION:** ‘every believer has the Holy Spirit!’ to which I would say, “TRUE”

**Romans 8:5-11** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit... Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him... If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- **BAPTISM vs FILLING** → Yes, all believers have the Holy Spirit. BUT that does not mean that every believer is filled with the Holy Spirit or living by the Spirit!

**Ephesians 1:15-23** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from

the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- The Holy Spirit's role:
- Wisdom & revelation
- Reveal & know Jesus more
- Enlighten eyes (mysteries, Scripture)
- Hope
- Power to do God's will
- Seal of our Salvation

**Jesus was the fullness of God revealed on the Earth. He left and charged the Church - Jew & Gentile – the Body of Christ – to become the fullness of God on the earth!**

PROBLEM in WEST: The **Holy Spirit** – has been **rejected** in the Western Church. Has been **misunderstood**. Has been **abused**.

Yet, Paul says... 1 Corinthians 2:8-15 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory... For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

- Power to DO the Great Commission (Luke, Acts)
- Ability to understand Scripture

This comes as NO surprise. This is precisely what Scripture teaches.

The Cessationists often argue that it is their high view of Scripture that causes them to reject the Holy Spirit and the gifts. Sufficiency of Scripture is the claim!

My response: **It is BECAUSE of my high view of Scripture that I both BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit and PRACTICE the spiritual gifts. I study the Word AND I listen to and respond to the Holy Spirit DAILY.**

Our Churches need to come back to life. This will not happen UNLESS we REPENT & LIVE by the Spirit!

**John 14:12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

**John 14:15-18** “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

- Holy Spirit is our Advocate – be with us FOREVER
- Holy Spirit is Truth
- Lives with and IN us
- He FELLOWSHIPS with us!

**John 14:24-27** Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- The Holy Spirit will reveal and remind you of Jesus' teaching and of Jesus!
- He will even TEACH us!
- That is why we can have PEACE!! NO PEACE without RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. HS!

**John 16:7-15** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

- The Holy Spirit convict people of sin (you can see this! And also you can see when the Spirit DEPARTS someone and they no longer feel convicted regarding Sin)
- The Holy Spirit will reveal what is righteous (what is right! True! And what we are called to do in Jesus' name!)
- The Holy Spirit will remind you about judgement – and keep your eyes fixed on eternity! (something people often want to avoid! The HS WANTS us to remember!)
- The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and the Father!
- The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us!

**Do you want to know Jesus more?** Have a faith that perseveres and endures? Have the power to overcome sin? Become more like Christ? Have the power to DO what is right, despite your anxiety and weaknesses?

**The Holy Spirit can take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. Can take what's dead and bring them back to LIFE!**

## **B. The Holy Spirit in the Grand Story → OT to NT**

The OT the Holy Spirit dwelt AMONG people. He was WITH them. He was IN the Temple. People would go to Jerusalem to worship God!

**Deuteronomy 12:4-5** You must not worship the LORD your God in their way. 5 But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go ....

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

As long as God's people were under the old covenant, the work of the Spirit was almost entirely confined to dwelling with the Jewish nation of Israel and He worked with specific individuals. E.g. Moses, Saul, David, prophets, etc.

Under the new covenant, however, a new dwelling place for God's Spirit would be created in which both Jews and Gentiles were united.

**Ephesians 2:22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**This Church, made up of Jew & Gentile believers would be empowered by the same Spirit – the Holy Spirit!**

**The OT prophesied of this time! Joel 2:28-29** And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

**Acts 10:44-48** While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- The New Covenant outpouring would have been scandalous to many of the Jews!
- EVEN Peter needed correction through a dream 3x!!! Before this actually sunk into his head!

**the Holy Spirit has always been empowering his people to know God and do what he commands!** And we see him pouring himself out in greater measure throughout Scripture! With the ultimate outpouring happening at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming! With the COMPLETION of the NEW COVENANT!

### **C. Living by the Spirit!**

**John 7:37-39** On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified

- The only prerequisite for receiving the Holy Spirit is FAITH in Jesus and THIRST. **Are you thirsty?**
- Every believer has the Holy Spirit, but not every believer walks empowered by and with the Holy Spirit!

**Galatians 3:2-5** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

- **Paul charged the Galatian believers that they had started through FAITH with the POWER of the Holy Spirit and had switch to RELYING ON THEIR OWN FLESH!!**
- MANY believers do this today! In fact, I think much of the WESTERN CHURCH has done this!
- Paul would have said to us, **“CANADIAN CHURCH, HAVING BEGUN BY THE SPIRIT, ARE YOU NOW BEING PERFECTED BY THE FLESH???”**

**Galatians 5:16-26** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

- **Live by the Spirit →** Mind set on things of the Spirit – Jesus’ return! Holiness! Great Commission!
  - Why are so many uninterested in Jesus’ return? Why would believers desire to live their life before Christ’s return? What are we longing for? Flesh? Spirit?
  - Doesn’t mean we don’t love doing stuff on this earth! E.g. but ALL for God’s glory!
  - The SPIRIT motivates and empowers MISSION.
- **Live by the Spirit →** they SHOW love, they BRING joy, they PEACEMAKERS, PATIENT towards others, KIND, do what is GOOD/RIGHT, remain FAITHFUL, they are GENTLE with people! They exercise SELF-CONTROL! ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND BY THE POWER OF GOD!

**STEPS:** 1) REPENT – turn from any sin, rejecting the HS, abusing the HS, 2) ASK – the Holy Spirit to fill you with his presence! 3) ASK – the Holy Spirit to give you the gifts, abilities and power to DO what he is calling you to, 4) COMMIT – give him your, “YES” to following him! 5) OBEY – step out in faith and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit

#### **D. Practicum: Release your Spirit & Even so Come**

##### **RELEASE YOUR SPIRIT**

**Acts 4:29-31** And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

**Work through the STEPS SLIDE → Live by the Spirit:**

- Repent - turn from sin
- Repent - from rejecting or abusing the Holy Spirit
- Ask - for the desire for the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit
- Ask - for the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh filling of his Spirit
- Commit - give the Holy Spirit your, "YES", to following him
- Obey - step out in faith and obey the Spirits leading in your life!

**EVEN SO COME – MARANATHA!**

**2 Corinthians 1:22** and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

A guarantee of what? Salvation- YES! But it's more than just being saved FROM sin! We were saved FOR Jesus! To become his Bride!

**Example: someone married for 25 years VS someone who is engaged.**

- Who talks about their wedding day? And the venue? And the guests? THE ENGAGED PERSON!
- A truncated Gospel that focuses entirely on the PAST – is like the person married! They don't worry about the venue! Or who was at the wedding! They are happily married! MANY CHRISTIANS LIVE THIS WAY!!
- We are NOT MARRIED TO THE LAMB YET. We are told the Church – JEW & GENTILE – is the BRIDE OF CHRIST. When he returns? He is COMING FOR A PURE BRIDE.
- If we are merely engaged – we should be busying ourselves getting the VENUE ready! And INVITING all the guests!
- THIS SHOULD BE EVIDENT IN HOW WE LIVE.
- The Holy Spirit is the seal, or the ENGAGEMENT RING, the DEPOSIT. The PROMISE – He will come back for us! He will have his bride!

**Revelation 22:16-17** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

**AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM**

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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**SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2024**

**Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship**

- 1. Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
- 2. Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
- 3. Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom "to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel"
- 4. Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
- 5. Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers