

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE

Acts 2:1-47 (Key Verse: 17)

““In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”

In Acts chapter 1 we learnt from the author Luke about the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised to send to the disciples, we learnt that when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, they will receive power. Now in today's passage we are going to encounter the events of the day when the Holy Spirit was poured upon the disciples, the nature of the power that the disciples received. Furthermore, the key verse says: *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...”* Therefore, we are also going to learn what it means that God will pour out his spirit on all people, and lastly, we will learn what is the result when the spirit of God is poured out unto all people. I pray that God may grant us humble hearts to hear and receive the message today, receive God's spirit and power to be used for God's glory and purpose.

The passage today begins with Jesus's disciples who were all together in one place, on the day of Pentecost. Now the day of the Pentecost represented a Jewish feast which was held 50 days after the Passover, to celebrate the first fruits of the wheat harvest. This was in accordance with God's command for the first fruits of the wheat harvest to be presented to God (*Numbers 28:26*). Furthermore, the day of the Pentecost was a great feast which attracted many Jewish people from different nations, who came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Now on the other hand, it had been 10 days since Jesus had ascended, it had been 10 days since the disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come. When Jesus ascended to heaven, he did not tell the disciples when exactly the Holy Spirit will come, but rather he just told them to stay in Jerusalem. The disciples waited patiently in Jerusalem, even in the midst of the fears about Jerusalem, they waited in Jerusalem and had faith that the Holy Spirit will come and empower them just as Jesus has promised.

On the day of the Pentecost, as the disciples were gathered in one place in Jerusalem, something amazing happened. Let us look at **verse 2-4**: *“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”* Indeed, just as Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, He came with power. Firstly, when the Holy came it was very clear that it was God himself, it says suddenly a sound like the blowing wind came from heaven. Now at the beginning of creation in **Genesis 1:2** it says: *“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”* In the same manner, the Spirit of God came and filled the whole house with power, where the disciples were sitting.

Furthermore, it says: *“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. / All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”* What does this mean? This means when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, He empowered with the power to speak, the power of language. When the Holy Spirit came upon them, He did not empower the disciples with the power of Physical strength, military power, or economic power. But rather the power of language, the power to speak. Furthermore, it says tongues of fire rested upon the disciples. Here it refers to fire, which as we all know fire is useful to refine, to burn and destroy, in gold extraction fire is used to refine the gold and burn all impurities. So When spirit came, He empowered the disciples to speak His word and bring refinement to those who receive the word, to burn all impurities. When the Holy Spirit came, He empowered the disciples speak his word to people, to challenge sin, and all impurities in people's hearts and bring them to God. This is the power that the Holy Spirit brought to the disciples, not military power, not financial power, not physical strength power, power to speak His word.

And all this happened during the day of the Pentecost. In **verse 5-6** it says: *“Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. / When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.”* This was not a coincident that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the day of the Pentecost, this was in accordance with God’s plan and vision for all people to hear his word and be saved. It was not a coincident, that the power of the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples, to speak in all kinds of languages such that all people who came to Jerusalem could hear the message. The disciples were Galileans, but when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they could speak in all kinds of languages. This is because it is God’s vision and plan that all people may hear his message and be saved. And this is the same vision that God has for us today, that all people may hear his message and be saved.

As we walk around campus, we might sometimes think some people will not receive the message of God, perhaps based on their lifestyle, attitude or anything of the likes, we might think they will not understand our language, or we won’t be able to speak their language. However, as we learn today being able to speak in a language that is appealing to campus students, our families, our friends, our colleagues, is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is only the Holy Spirit that is able empower one to speak a relevant language, to empower one with tongues of fire which will not only appeal to all people, but will transform them and refine them, and remove all impurities in their lives and save them from the power of sin and death. This is God’s plan and vision for us today, to save all of us.

Now when the people in Jerusalem, heard the disciples speaking in each of their native language, they were amazed and perplexed. They wondered what this means, some however made fun of the disciples saying, they have had too much wine. Today, we might also wonder what this means to us as well, that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, and they were empowered to speak in all native languages of the world. We might wonder, how is this applicable to us? Some might think, this was just an event that happened in history, and not applicable today.

And so to help the crowd during those times, and us today, Apostle Peter stood up with the other eleven. What did he do or say?

First, he told the crowd that what was happening was according to scripture spoken by prophet Joel: For more details on this scripture, let us look at **key verse 17:** *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* The work of the Holy Spirit that the people witnessed was not just something that randomly happened, but rather it was foretold in prophesy, it was not just something Jesus spoke to the disciples about, but it was foretold long ago. Furthermore, the work of the Holy Spirit the crowds witnessed was not a once off thing that only the disciples encountered, but rather it was something God had planned to pour out on all people from long ago. The scripture from Joel indicated that in the last days, the spirit of God will be poured out on all people. Here the last days refers to the time between Jesus’ ascension to heaven and his second coming. So since then, including today and until Jesus second coming, scripture says the Lord will pour out his spirit on all people.

Here all people literally refers to all people, all races, all gender, all ages, it refers to me and you, the Bible promises that the spirit of God will be poured out on us. Just as the spirit of God was poured on the disciples and they received power, we too will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon us. But how will we receive this power? What kind of power? Firstly, we will prophesy, here prophesy means we will preach the word of God and people from all over the world will be transformed by it, people from campus, our

workplace, our families, all walks of life will be transformed. Just like the disciples we will be empowered with tongues of fire; we will be empowered with the gift of language that will appeal to all kinds of people, touch their hearts, purify and refine them, removing all kinds of sin impurities.

Furthermore, the prophesy from Joel says: *“your young men will see visions”* What does this mean? This means when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will be filled with God’s vision in our hearts, we will be filled with God’s purpose. In this world many young people, live under so much pressure to achieve things, to get reputable degree at university, to get a good job, to travel and the likes. When they do not achieve these things, many are left hopeless with meaninglessness. But when the Holy Spirit is poured out on us, we become changed, we become filled with God’s vision and purpose. Suddenly our lives no longer depend on our achievements to be happy, but through the Holy Spirit we become filled with meaning and purpose. When Jesus crucified, Peter denied him 3 times, other disciples also ran and went in hiding, and they started having ideas of returning to their old lives of fishing. However the mood in their hiding place was suddenly sad, with meaninglessness and a sense of failure. But when Jesus appeared to them and promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and when the Holy Spirit was poured upon them, they became bold, and courageous, they were filled with meaning and purpose. When the Holy Spirit was poured on the disciples they were filled with God’s vision, they saw all people as God sees them. Hence when the people wondered what to do after they were perplexed by the disciples who spoke in their language, Peter and the other eleven stood up. They stood because they wanted to help each of those people to receive God’s word and be saved, they wanted to help each of those people to be raised as witnesses of the gospel in their respective region, they wanted to help each of those people to be transformed and live a life of meaning and purpose.

Furthermore, the prophesy from Joel says: *“, your old men will dream dreams”* What does this mean? In this world, it seems when you are old then life sort ends as well. However, scripture tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, even when we are old we can live fulfilling lives, we can be used by God as his witnesses, we can dream dreams to change the world and transform many people’s lives with the tongues of fire. I have always been amazed by Senior/Silver Korean Missionaries in the UBF ministry, who went out to foreign lands such Africa, USA as missionaries, and raised many devoted young students who grew to be great servants of God. This is indeed evidence that God has been pouring out his spirit to all people, the young and the old and empowering them to be used greatly, to participate in his vision to save the world.

Secondly, when Peter and the eleven stood up, he testified about Jesus, his gospel ministry, death and

resurrection: For more details let us look at **verse 22-24:** *“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. / This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. / But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Why did Peter give this testimony? Peter gave this testimony to the people, to reveal to them their fundamental problem being sin, and to reveal to them the grace and mercy of God in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus’s death and resurrection, means he has overcome the power of sin and death, it means in our place he stood before the punishment of sin and conquered it by his death and resurrection. For a long time, many people, lived under the power of sin and death, but when Peter revealed this truth about Jesus and the people sins, he could plant hope in the people’s hearts. Furthermore, in verse **32-33** Apostle Peter said: *“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. / Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”* And finally, Peter, revealed to the people, that because of Jesus’ resurrection we have been granted the privilege of the Holy Spirit. We have been granted the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on*

us, to empower us, to fills us with a life of meaning and purpose. The privilege to share and participate in God vision to save the world from the power of sin and death.

When the people heard, Peter's testimony about Jesus, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter's testimony pierced through the people's hearts like a double-edged sword. Peter's testimony through the word of God was filled with power, like fire burning in a furnace to remove all impurities. Deep down the crowds were yearning, to receive Jesus, they were yearning to live a life with meaning and purpose, they were yearning to receive the Holy Spirit. To help them Apostle Peter said to them in **verse 38-39**: *"Peter replied, "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. / The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.""* When Peter had said all this, many accepted Jesus as their Lord and savior, they were baptized and as many as 3000 people were added to their number. And this is how the Christian church was born, with many devoted believers who loved and cared for one another and other people in need. In **verse 42** it says: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"*

Through the Holy Spirit God established the early church, through the Holy Spirit, God empowered the disciples and all people to live a life of meaning and purpose, to have vision, to live life praising God, living together in harmony. And this is the hope that God has for us today, this the vision God has for us too. Let us therefore repent from our sins, accept Jesus as our Lord and savior, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can live transformed lives, prophesy, have visions and dream dreams. Let us not put trust on our own strength but rely on the work of the Holy Spirit which has power.