

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. 21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

(Jesus said) "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

It was a very windy day, a great storm of the spirit rolled through Jerusalem. One hundred and twenty people were filled with the breath of God and what has never happened before or since happened that day. They told the deeds of God's power and people from all over the world heard them speaking, each hearer hearing in the language she or he knew best. God met them where they were, God spoke to them, not in some heavenly speech, but in words they could understand.

They were common people. Not prophets trained in years of desert wandering, nor kings, born to royal privilege. They were not priests, educated, certified, but they were fishermen and tax collectors and

women who were married, and women who were not. There was nothing that they had in common except they believed in JESUS Christ. On that day the Holy Spirit came down sounding like a great wind, and filled the house where they were, and divided tongues as of fire rested on them and the Spirit gave them words to speak that they never knew before.

And those who heard were amazed and perplexed. They did not know what to think.

Then Peter preached. 3000 believed and were baptized. And it never happened just like that again.

The wind blows where it chooses and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

I never know what to say on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is like wind, we cannot see wind, only its effect. The effect that day was speaking and understanding. The effect that day was three thousand believers. My desire is to bottle the spirit, contain and control the spirit of God with my words so that I could tell you how to get results. Then you could make a believer of yourself when faith is weak, or of your husband or wife, son or daughter, friends or foe. IF we could just bottle God's spirit then we'd have four easy steps to follow to transform your life and to be happy.

But before that day when the spirit of God sounded like a tornado two blocks away, they were waiting, and praying. 120 believers were together day by day praying, waiting then God acted.

We try to do that day still. When you and I tell others of JESUS, we speak their language. We try to meet people where they are as we tell them of Jesus.

We do a lot of praying. For friend, for family, the more serious the situation, the more we find praying and waiting for God our very best response.

We gather. Here we gather.

No we cannot bottle the spirit of God. But we do have this promise.

When you were baptized God's spirit took up residence in you. Not just in priests and kings and pastors but in you God's spirit, the Holy Spirit lives.

What all that will mean for your life I do not know. But I do know that fed by the word of God and the body and blood of Jesus that God's Spirit will be great in you.

The other day I asked someone to tell me about the Holy Spirit. HE told me of God clinging to him, not giving up on him, making a believer of him. It did not happen all in a day, but over a lifetime.

So many of you would tell me a similar story, of God speaking to you in this place, or through people you met just once. So many times it is only in looking back that we see how the Spirit has guided us, changed our path.

What I hope that you will each go home with today is trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to do so. Wherever the road of life takes you, the Spirit of God within you will bring you to Christ.

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