

Intro

- Today is Monica and I 17th Anniversary
- Series: Lent= His Story, After Easter= Our Story, Today= Church Story

Acts 2:1-2

1 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 one 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 Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the 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." 14 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 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.'

- Start of the Church
- Jesus had told them earlier in Acts 1: 4-5 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- The start of the church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit

What is the church

- We call the movement that we are involved in Christianity
- The movement wasn't called Christian, until Acts 11:26, in Antioch disciples were first called that
- Referred to as the Way in Acts, Paul and him before Jerusalem council
- Talked about it a lot, The Church isn't a building
 - It's not property, It's people
 - It's not a building, It's a body
- What is it?
 - It is people
 - You, me, other followers of Christ

- It is a body
 - place of refuge
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
- It is a Holy Spirit Filled Movement
 - We are to MOVE
 - Jesus told the disciples to wait to receive the Holy Spirit and then.go be my witnesses to all the world
 - We are to GO and be the church
- If you noticed I don't say Christians a lot
 - Why
 - Negative connotations all over the world, especially in the United States
 - I meet and talk to people all the time that speak about "Christians" as a stereotype and in a negative light
 - I say 'Followers of Jesus/Christ' b/c unfortunately there are a lot of people that identify themselves as Christian but aren't very Christlike

What should the church look like?

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- Place where the Spirit is poured out on all flesh
 - Prophecy, See Visions, Dream Dreams
 - Sons, Daughters, Young men, Old men, even Male/Female Servants (slaves)= Everyone
 - The church should be a place where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are displayed
 - Difference between Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - Fruit= Listed in Galatians 5-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
 - This is fruit that should be produced as a result of a follower of Christ's life
 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - From God, cannot be produced like fruit
 - Gift= something given, can ask for but can't work hard to produce
 - Gifts= Found in 1 Corinthians 12, ironic that it is in the same chapter where Paul talks about the church being a body!
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each

is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- Definitions, taken from Lester Sumrall *Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit*
- Word of Wisdom= revealing of the prophetic future under the anointing of God
- Word of Knowledge= revealing of a fact that can only be supernaturally revealed
- Discerning of spirits= comprehending human spirit revealed by Holy Spirit
- Faith= God's bringing to pass a supernatural change on your behalf, you speak God does (danger involved)
- Healing= Supernatural healing through anointed ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Miracles= Supernatural act by the divine energy of the Holy Spirit through a human instrument
- Prophecy= Anointed speaking of words of edification, exhortation and comfort- ENCOURAGEMENT
- Tongues= Proclamation in public meeting a message from God in a language not understood by the person giving it
- Interpretation of tongues= Interpret the tongues given another supernaturally by the Holy Spirit
- These gifts should be on display in the church!
- Are these gifts here at Ebenezer, if not why, if so they need to be on display!
- Why: For the benefit of non believers, edification of believers
- Don't be afraid= Pslams 56:11 in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
 - I'm not going to be afraid of any person
 - Sermon a couple weeks ago named our idol- mine and several others=fear
 - What if someone in the church, the district, other churches the community = I don't care
 - I want to be in a church where the Spirit is poured out on men women, old young everyone
 - If not Ebenezer tell me and I'll leave
- Place of refuge/salvation
 - Psalm 91
 - Title 'My Refuge and My Fortress'
 - v. 1-2 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
 - Goes on to say, 'he will deliver you', 'he will cover you', 'You will not fear', 'The Lord is your dwelling place and refuge'
 - finishes with v.14-16 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."
 - Just beautiful!

- Eric Johnson of Bethel Church in Redding, Cali
 - We talk about "Invading the City w/ the love of God"
 - Quite intrusive if you are the one being invaded
 - Although it is Biblical, sometimes people can take it the wrong way
- Called to be Salt&Light by Jesus
 - Salt adds flavor
 - Light removes the darkness
- Church should be a place of salvation/refuge for sinners
 - World is trying to uncover their life/ expose them/ make them feel guilty
 - Us/the church should cover their life in the love of Christ to shield and protect them from the enemy, the father of lies
 - That refuge should lead to repentance/salvation
 - I'm not saying that their sin is okay by no means
 - Goodness and kindness should lead to repentance
 - Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
- Just as Peter here in Acts 2 quotes the prophet Joel in verse 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Closing

- I want Ebenzer to be a place where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are on display in everyone: young/old, male/female
 - Do we display the gifts?
 - If not, why?
 - Don't have them= desire them and pray to receive them. 1 Cor. 12:31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
- I want us to be a place of refuge for sinners, no matter what they look like, cover them in the love of Christ that will lead them to repentance and salvation
 - Are we being the salt and light for Jefferson?
 - Are we bringing people to Christ
 - If not why?
 - Again= desire and pray