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Unwrapping Our Gifts, Part 6

Text: Acts 2:1-4

We will better understand Acts 2:1-13, if we would reread Acts 1:4-8. The resurrected Christ told His followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Promised One, the Holy Spirit. When we see the disciples in chapter 2, they are in waiting.

Note the posture of these people:

...with one accord

...in one place

We who welcome the Pentecost experience must be unified. Not much of note happens among those who pride themselves on their discord. This week, I noted something I had not seen before in this passage. These believers were told to wait for the Spirit to descend upon them(1:4-5). They were in anticipation/waiting mode. “And suddenly...” Those gathered knew the Spirit was coming, but there is still this element of surprise and the unknown.

1. A sound- from heaven(2)

*Like* a rushing wind

This was no one-or-two-people-got-it experience. No. This wind-like sound filled the whole house.

2. A sight- divided tongues, *like* fire(3). Many times in the first testament, the presence of God is manifested in the form of flames or fire(Exodus 3:2-6; 13:21-22; 19:18; 40:38[closing verse of the book of Exodus]). Jesus promised there would be fire.

Matthew 3:11

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with* ***the Holy Spirit and fire.***

3. A touch- the tongues sat on each one of them(3).

4. The *house* was filled(2), now so are the *disciples*(4). This filling must have been exhilarating. At no other time had the followers of Jesus felt so much like conduits. Something was coming *through* them that they had not experienced before.

I have addressed the experience of tongues speaking in a previous installment in this series. Let me return to it. The disciples, on that day, spoke known languages, not gibberish. We know this from 2:7-11. There are different languages but there aren’t different gibberishes. This was no stringing together of nonsensical syllables. The Greek word used is verses 6 and 8, where the English word *language* appears, is *dialekto.* It means *dialect.* The centerpiece of Pentecost is not ecstatic utterances. The glory of Pentecost is that our unity is enhanced, and our mouths are opened and our lives are set ablaze with the energy of the Holy Spirit. This is the gift to all believers!

Everyone one of us needs this multi-sensory experience of Pentecost duplicated in our lives. We need the wind to blow.

**Illus.**

Let me take you to Ezekiel’s of the dry bones, in Ezekiel 37. In verses 1-10 there is the great drama of assembled bones and no life. The bones are lifeless...until the wind /breath gets in them. Likewise, you and I are useless to God until the wind of Pentecost, the breath of God, gets in us. Blow, oh wind, on us!!! We need the fresh wind. We do not need humans blowing on us as if *their* breath has power. Humans who blow on us or wave their hands as if *they* are the wind of Pentecost are frauds and clowns!

We need to see *God’s* fire. We need our tongues loosened, that we might declare “the wonderful works of God”(verse 11).

At Pentecost something happens ***to*** the followers of Jesus. Something also happens ***through*** the followers of Jesus.

For the past five weeks we have been looking at the catalogs of spiritual gifts found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Perhaps you are wondering what your gift is or gifts are. I was going to make an assessment tool available, but I want to go in a different direction. I want to suggest a three D approach to finding out what your spiritual gift is.

1. **Dabble**- try out some different ministry opportunities. Stay in it for 3-6 month, then evaluate.
2. Check the areas/ministries in which you **delight**. What you genuinely enjoy is often your area of giftedness.
3. Check the areas/ministries in which you are **disappointed** and **disgusted**. You don’t like what going on in the hospitality or teaching ministries? Maybe you're supposed to get in there, with your gift, and make it better.

We who have been literally fired up, take that Holy Spirit fire into the world and with Pentecostal fervor, declare the wonderful works of God.

Amen