

Why Pentecost Matters – Still Matters Acts 2

Dr. John Carmichael

[Act 2:1-21 NASB95] 1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we each hear [them] in our own language to which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our [own] tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine." 14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. 15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is [only] the third hour of the day; 16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

- Pentecost Sunday is often overlooked in the modern church calendar, but for a Pentecostal church, it should never be treated as a minor moment. Pentecost matters because it marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the already-existing church, empowering believers for witness, ministry, and supernatural demonstration.
- At North Church, we do not view Pentecost as merely a historical remembrance. We see it as a present call to recover hunger for the Holy Spirit, boldness in ministry, and expectation for the supernatural. Too many believers affirm the Holy Spirit doctrinally while resisting His demonstration practically. Pentecost reminds us that the church was not designed to function on human ability alone.
- The church does not need less of the Holy Spirit. The church needs a fresh awakening to why Pentecost still matters.

If the Holy Spirit was poured out in power upon the church in Acts 2, why do so many churches today settle for form without fire, doctrine without demonstration, and gathering without supernatural empowerment?

In Acts 2, Luke does not merely record a dramatic event. He shows us that Pentecost was rooted in the purposes of God, manifested in supernatural power, and interpreted by Peter as the beginning of a last-days outpouring for all kinds of people. If we are going to understand why Pentecost still matters, we must see three great truths in this passage.

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I. Pentecost Matters Because It Was God’s Appointed Moment

- a. Acts 2:1 — “When the day of Pentecost had come...”
- b. [Lev 23:15-21 NASB95] 15 'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. 16 'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. 17 'You shall bring in from your dwelling places two [loaves] of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths [of an] [ephah;] they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD. 18 'Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD. 19 'You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 'The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest. 21 'On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.
- c. Pentecost was not a random day chosen by chance. It was a God-commanded feast in Israel’s calendar. Long before Acts 2, Yahweh had already established Pentecost as part of His redemptive pattern. What happened in Acts 2 was not accidental enthusiasm; it was divine timing.
- d. This means the outpouring of the Spirit was not man’s idea. It was heaven’s plan.
- e. The same God who ordained the feast also ordained the fulfillment. Pentecost teaches us that the outpouring of the Spirit is part of the revealed purpose of God, not a fringe experience for a select few.
- f. Application: We must stop treating Pentecostal experience as optional or secondary. If God emphasized Pentecost, the church must not minimize it. North Church should never apologize for being a Spirit-filled church. We should embrace what God Himself established and fulfilled.
- g. God planned Pentecost before the church experienced Pentecost. The Spirit’s outpouring is rooted in covenant purpose. Pentecost is not excess; it is fulfillment.

II. Pentecost Matters Because the Spirit Came in Supernatural Power

- a. Acts 2:2–4 — wind, fire, and speaking in other tongues
- b. [Luk 24:49 NASB95] 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- c. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- d. Acts 2 is deeply supernatural. There was a sound from heaven, tongues as of fire, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues. Pentecost was not merely inward inspiration; it was outward manifestation.
- e. Notice the visible and audible dimensions of the event. What happened was undeniable. Heaven invaded earth in a way that could be heard, seen, and experienced.
- f. This matters because the church was never meant to live by intellect, organization, and effort alone. Jesus said they would be clothed with power from on high. Acts 2 shows that power arrived.

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- g. Too many churches want the ethics of Jesus without the empowerment of the Spirit. Too many leaders say they believe in the gifts of the Spirit, yet create service cultures where no manifestation is welcomed, expected, or given room. That is a contradiction Pentecost exposes.
- h. Application: We must not become comfortable with a version of church that has excellent structure but no room for supernatural ministry. North Church should hunger not only for sound preaching, but for the active presence and power of the Holy Spirit in worship, altar ministry, healing, prophecy, and bold witness.
- i. Wind speaks of heavenly movement. Fire speaks of divine presence and purity. Tongues speak of Spirit-empowered utterance. Pentecost was not quiet formality; it was supernatural empowerment.

III. Pentecost Matters Because the Outpouring Was for All God's People

- a. [Act 2:5-11 NASB95] 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we each hear [them] in our own language to which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our [own] tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."
- b. [Act 2:16-18 NASB95] 16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.
- c. [Joe 2:28-29 NASB95] 28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
- d. Peter stood up and explained the event by quoting Joel: "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... your young men... your old men... even on My bondslaves, both men and women..."
- e. This outpouring was inclusive in a remarkable way:
 - i. Gender inclusion — sons and daughters
 - ii. Generational inclusion — young and old
 - iii. Social inclusion — servants and handmaids
 - iv. Ethnic inclusion — the nations heard the mighty deeds of God in their own languages
- f. Pentecost matters because the Holy Spirit was not poured out for a spiritual elite. He was poured out upon the whole body. The empowering presence of God is not reserved for a platform few, but promised to the people of God.
- g. This is one reason Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity has spread so rapidly around the world. It is not built merely on formal systems, but on the conviction that the Holy Spirit is active, present, and available among ordinary believers. Scholars and

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major research centers regularly describe Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity as one of the fastest-growing forces in global Christianity.

- h. Application: Every person in the church should see themselves as a candidate for the Spirit's empowering work. The Holy Spirit is not just for preachers, scholars, or singers. He is for sons and daughters, young and old, men and women. North Church must be the kind of church where all generations are invited into Spirit-filled life and ministry.
- i. Pentecost broke narrow expectations. The Spirit came upon all kinds of people. The church is strongest when all generations and all people are empowered and engaged.

IV. Pentecost Matters Because It Empowered the Church for Witness

- a. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- b. [Act 2:14-21 NASB95] 14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. 15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is [only] the third hour of the day; 16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'
- c. Peter did not stand up confused and timid after Pentecost. He stood up bold, clear, and scripturally grounded. The same disciple who once faltered publicly now proclaimed Christ publicly. Pentecost did not merely give an experience; it produced a witness.
- d. The outpouring was not given so believers could merely say, "We had a moment." It was given so the church could preach, testify, prophesy, and carry the Gospel to the nations.
- e. This is where Pentecost must confront us. The Holy Spirit was not poured out merely to make services more emotional. He was poured out to make the church more effective in witness.
- f. Application: North Church must not seek Pentecostal experience without Pentecostal mission. If we want the fire, we must also want the harvest. If we want the Spirit's presence, we must also want souls, bold evangelism, transformed lives, and public witness to Jesus Christ.
- g. Pentecost turned fear into boldness. The Spirit's power is missional, not ornamental. A Pentecostal church should be a witnessing church.

V. Pentecost Matters Because We Still Need What Acts 2 Provides

- a. [Act 2:17 NASB95] 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;
- b. [1Co 14:1 NASB95] 1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual [gifts,] but especially that you may prophesy.

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- c. [Eph 5:18 NASB95] 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
 - d. Peter said, “This is that.” He did not treat Pentecost as an isolated moment with no future relevance. He interpreted it as the beginning of last-days outpouring. If the church is still in the last days, then the church still needs the empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We do not need less of Acts 2 in the modern church. We need more biblical understanding of it and greater openness to it.
 - f. Many churches have become embarrassed by the very things that once marked Spirit-filled Christianity. But what we are embarrassed by, we eventually neglect. And what we neglect, we eventually lose.
 - g. Pentecost still matters because the modern church still faces the same need: power, boldness, spiritual utterance, holy fire, divine help to reach our generation
 - h. Application: North Church should not live with an inferiority complex about Pentecostalism. We should not retreat from the demonstration of the Spirit because of cultural pressure, intellectual pride, or fear of excess. Instead, we should pursue biblical order and biblical fire together.
 - i. We are still living in the age of the Spirit. We must not be doctrinally Pentecostal and practically cessationist. The answer is not fanaticism, but faithful expectancy.
- **Pentecost still matters because God poured out His Spirit upon the church to empower believers for supernatural witness, Spirit-filled ministry, and last-days harvest.**
 - Pentecost still matters because it reveals the heart of God for His church. God did not leave the church to struggle through the mission in human strength. He poured out His Spirit in power.
 - Repentance for Spiritual Passivity; Fresh Hunger; Bold Witness
 - Pentecost still matters because the church still needs the Holy Spirit. We do not need to apologize for being Pentecostal. We need to be biblical, hungry, bold, and open to the empowering presence of God.