

Introduction:

- Living from the Presence of God, creating the same atmosphere on earth as it is in heaven. (Might I suggest that is revival)
- "I want to talk about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is so intimately involved in the birth and establishment of the early church that we cannot overlook His importance to the church today.
 - If the Holy Spirit was need to birth the church, He is also needed to advance the church.
 - **The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit. And this unique relationship is to be an ordinary way of life for believers. We become 'anointed trouble makers' right at the very gates of hell.**
- *"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:1-4, ESV)

I. Heaven Touches Earth At Pentecost

- A. The Church was born at Pentecost! The church was to be the carrier of the Presence of God! What an honor! What a privilege...to be a carrier of the Presence of God!
 1. What was God after?
 - a) God was after His church experiencing Him! Having more than a theology.
 - b) God was after His church having Him/His Holy Spirit. In intimacy and in power.
 2. God was after real people having a real experience with heaven that would result in people become real carriers of His presence!
 3. It happened to Jesus. *"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."* (Mark 1:9-10, ESV) Jesus obedience to be baptized and His trust in the Father tore open heaven and gave both JTB and Jesus and new perspective of God! (Tore open is the same word used of the Temple curtain being torn.)
- B. The church is not buildings it is people being built up together to form the House of God. God housed on the earth—in people. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. That means that God was after a dwelling place on earth...that was mobile! That the church, like Jesus, would be a portal of heaven into the earth! *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"* (John 7:38, ESV)
- C. A powerful combo:
 1. Obedience, Faith and Presence and Presence, Faith and Obedience. KaBoom!
 2. Acts is our model of Obedience, Faith and Presence and presence faith and obedience.

- a) 120 brought Pentecost through their faith and obedience! 120 brought heaven on earth at Pentecost through their faith and obedience. Result 3000 saved!
- b) Samaria saved at Philip's preaching. Acts 8:17 Samaritans received Holy Spirit!
- c) Spirit says to Philip, Go over by that chariot. Ethiopian is saved, baptized, and Philip disappears!
- d) Ananias hears from God. Go to Saul, lay hand on him and prophesy. Acts 9:17
- e) Cornelius and Peter both have visions! Gentile and Jew. Peter is told to go into a gentile house by Holy Spirit and he preaches Christ. While he is preaching Holy Spirit falls on them. Acts 10:44.
- f) Acts 13:2 Holy Spirit says send out Barnabas and Saul, vs. 4 and being sent by Holy Spirit they go!
 - (1) Saul declares a man blind who is trying to deceive others.
 - (2) Acts 13:49 The word of the Lord spread through out the whole region!
 - (3) Acts 14, in Iconium many believe and signs and wonders are done there. In Lystra a lame walks
- g) Acts 16, Paul has a vision a man from Macedonia saying come here! Ie. I had a vision of a black man in aviation sunglasses say, "Welcome we have been waiting for you!" Jesse and Heather.
- h) I could go on and on...
- 3. What would happen today if more of the church were committed to carrying the Presence of God, Hosting the Presence of God?
 - a) If more of the church were thinking the same thing - Kingdom! We would see more of God's Kingdom in our world.
 - b) If more of the church gathered in a common interest - Revival and Awakening! We would see more of the life of God in our community.
- 4. The church is people who welcome the Presence and carry the Presence of God!
- 5. And it is done through faith and obedience!

II. Pentecost The Gate of Heaven

- A. *"Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.' And he was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'"* (Genesis 28:16-17, ESV)
 - 1. So he is by himself and he calls the place the house of God and this is the gate of heaven! THE HOUSE OF GOD IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN.
 - 2. You are a living stone! Being assembled into the house of God. *"you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, ..."* (1 Peter 2:5, ESV) Spiritual house=the church, priest = carrier of God's presence.
 - 3. And the House of God is the gate of heaven! God works through His church!

4. We are the House of God and we are the gate of heaven! We must carry the reality of the Holy Spirit!
- B. Bill Johnson speaks of this and says that, "a gate is a transition point between two realities. Heaven and Earth!" Revival! Bill Johnson, Open Heaven. Ie. Growing up on the farm, I have many memories to gates: 1. Grandpa Fry, the gate from the yard to the barn yard – two different realities. 2 Grandpa Franklin, the gate from the yard to the chicken yard – two different realities. 3. The gate from the garden to the cow pasture – two different realities.
 1. Picture this: 120 believers were the gate between two worlds, two realities!
 2. Next thing we know is, that there is a **sound from heaven!** God's breath came roaring into that upper room.
 3. There is wind! And there is fire! What happens when wind and fire mix? WILDFIRE! *"Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.""* (Hebrews 1:7, ESV) John the Baptist said, *"...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."* (Matthew 3:11, ESV) Church you are that gate! Don't be like Jacob...God is here and I did not know it!
- C. The "roar" produced a sound that the whole city heard! When it heard a crowd came!
 1. Those who mocked earlier, come now, and they cry out *'What must we do?'* Acts 2:37
 2. 3000 are saved that day!
 3. Heaven came to earth!!!

III. Revival Is Normal Christianity!

- A. We must carry the presence!
 1. The Presence must rest upon His church/His people.
 2. We must labor together to see the fire fall again upon us and upon His people.
- B. We must bring freedom and Life to people and glory to God!
 1. People on whom the Holy Spirit rests bring freedom and life to others.
 2. When we bring freedom and life to people, God gets all the glory!
- C. When the Holy Spirit came in powerlessness went out! We need a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to blow upon us again and upon our nation.

Conclusion:

- "Perhaps if we viewed Pentecost as the ultimate Christmas morning, where together we open gifts from a Father whose delight in us is extreme and generous, then we could once for again become like children and receive what He designed for our welfare and His glory." Bill Johnson, Open Heaven.