

**“LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT”**

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

**PENTECOST / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

**TEXT:** ACTS 2:1-21

**GOD’S WORD:** ROMANS 8:14-17(a)

**I – TEXT**

Listen this morning to the story of Pentecost...

**Acts 2:1-21 (NLT)**

The Holy Spirit Comes

<sup>1</sup>On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup>And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

<sup>5</sup>At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup>and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup>Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” <sup>12</sup>They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. <sup>13</sup>But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

## Peter Preaches to the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. <sup>16</sup> No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days,’ God says,  
‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,  
and your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> In those days I will pour out my Spirit  
even on my servants—men and women alike—  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will cause wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below—  
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will become dark,  
and the moon will turn blood red  
before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.

<sup>21</sup> But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD  
will be saved.’

## II – THEE HOLY SPIRIT COMES:

At his last meeting with the disciples, after the resurrection, Jesus gave them instructions to go to Jerusalem and stay there until the Holy Spirit came to them, and that’s what they did. They stayed in Jerusalem and gathered together, and Luke, who wrote the Gospel and the book of Acts, tells us that they were full of great joy and spent their time in the Temple praising God.

On this particular day it tells us that they were all together in one place when the Holy Spirit showed up. There was a violent wind that blew through the place they were at and then what appeared to be tongues of fire appeared and one came to rest upon each of them and they were filled with power they didn’t even know was possible for them to have.

They started speaking in foreign languages that they had never spoken before. That they had not grown up around, or studied. It tells us plainly that the Spirit gave them the ability to do so. The people outside who had come from all over took note that they were hearing the message in their own language.

Then it's like turning on your TV today and finding that it was the same event, but different sides had different opinions. One side was amazed at what they were witnessing, the other side chalked it up to the disciples being drunk.

### **III – PETER LISTENED:**

But Peter listened to the Spirit. Peter who was the rash disciple...Peter who was always sticking his foot in his mouth...Peter who had denied Jesus 3 times after Jesus was arrested. Peter who had fled in tears and thought he would be forever disowned by Jesus. That Peter, emboldened and led by God's Holy Spirit, stepped up and preached to the crowd.

And what a sermon it was, by the end 3000 people came to believe, were baptized, and the church was born!

Part of his sermon quoted the prophet Joel, 2:28-32, and I want to look at that just for a moment. Peter quotes Joel and tells the crowd that the disciples aren't drunk, but that this very day the prophecy is coming true!

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and they will prophesy.

Here is the message I want you to receive on this Pentecost Sunday...You are those Sons and Daughters, you are those Young men and woman, you are those old men and women.

You are the one God's Holy Spirit is calling and empowering to do his will, to spread his Gospel and grace in these last days. The question is...ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT?

#### **IV – ROMANS:**

You have the same Holy Spirit in you that came upon the disciples that day. Paul says it this way in his letter to the Roman church. In Romans 8:14-17(a) he says:

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.<sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

You have received **THE** Spirit. Not the spirit of the world or any of its factions. You have received God's Holy Spirit. The one that makes you one of his children. The one who gets you adopted into the family and makes you a child of God and a brother or sister of Jesus. AND he pours out that Spirit upon you and blesses you with gifts so you can fulfil the words of Joel and Peter, and the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. The only question is, ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT. And if so, are you being obedient.

#### **V – CONFIRMANDS (AT 10:30 SERVICE):**

To the confirmands this morning I add this and I remind the confirmands from previous years, you are the future of the Church and the Christian Faith. This world is in dire straits. It seems it's falling down around us and all the old men and women seem to be able to do is argue about it.

You truly are the future of the church and the world. I charge you to listen to the Holy Spirit. To stay attuned to God's Spirit and leading and change it all. Don't forget what you've learned. Keep learning, keep maturing in your faith, and then change the world!!

Do it by listening to and being empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

AMEN