

Pentecostal Preaching

Sunday, November 25Th, 1990

Acts 2: 1-38

The Title of the message today is: “Pentecostal Preaching.” You won’t have any trouble remembering that, I’m sure. I want you to turn in your Bible to the Book of Acts, Chapter 2.

The opening words of the Book of Acts, Chapter 2 are as follows, *“When the day of Pentecost was fully come.”* When you hear the word Pentecost, what comes to your mind and off the top of your head? What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word Pentecost?

Most people think of the coming of the Holy Spirit because that is what the next few verses say. They were all together in the upper room in the place *“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire.”*

Do you see that in verse two and three? *“And it sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”* So, when most people hear the word Pentecost, this is the first thing that they think of because that is the first thing mentioned. When the day of Pentecost was fully come and the disciples were there together, *“Suddenly there was a sound from heaven and a mighty rushing wind, and cloven tongues of fire sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”* The Holy Spirit did come and fill the disciples.

Our Lord had told them back some time before, *“Tarry in Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on High.”* This was a fulfillment of that promise that the *“Holy Ghost shall come upon you and the power of God shall fill you.”*

Other people, when they hear the word “Pentecost” think of the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of tongues. This is what many people think of when they hear of Pentecost. This is what the Word says here. Look at verse five, *“They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they began to speak with other tongues (other languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Now, listen carefully to me, anytime the word tongue is used in the scripture it means either this instrumental organ in your mouth (the tongue), or it means a language. The language can be distinct, audible, and an understood language, which somebody speaks. This can be either a tongue in the mouth or a language.

That's right! You read that verse carefully. *"When the Holy Ghost came upon them, these disciples began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."* Listen carefully to this next verse, *"And every man heard them speak in his own language."* They preached the Word of God in a language that was understood.

The verse tells us that there were Jews and devout people there from every country. People were there from everywhere. They were there for the Feast of Pentecost. These people spoke different languages. They were all there to celebrate that feast of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they began to preach the gospel. Every different country heard the gospel in their own language.

One of them began to say, *"How hear we every man in his own tongue"*(and in his own language)? *We do hear them preach in our tongue"* (in our language). We hear them in our language, preach the Word of God.

So, when you mention Pentecost, some people think of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Some people think of other tongues and gifts of the Spirit. Other people, when you mention Pentecost think of the old song that we use to sing years ago:

Lord send the old time power,
The Pentecostal power
The floodgates of blessings on us
Throw open wide.

Some people, when they think of Pentecost, think of the crowds, the many conversions and the great power of God that fell in conversion. In fact, in Acts 2:41 it says; *"In the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls."* There were 3,000 conversions in one day.

My friends, what exactly is Pentecost? *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come."* Do you know what Pentecost means, what the word means? Pentecost was one of several, special feasts, given by God to Israel. You will find it in Leviticus Chapter 23:4 through 21.

You see; there are several feasts mentioned. There was the Passover and you know about it. The Passover originated in Egypt when God led Israel out of Egypt by the hand of Moses. God ordained that they were to keep that Passover every year, forever. He gave them the blood of the lamb and said, *"I will pass over you."* They kept that Passover feast until Christ came, who is our Passover. Christ is our Passover.

Then, there was the feast of the Waving of the Sheaf. This was the first day after the Passover Sabbath. The Passover Sabbath was on Saturday. The first day after the Passover Sabbath was the Waving of the Sheaf. That is when Israel brought the first fruits unto the Lord. They would wave the first fruits. It was the beginning of the harvest. They would wave the first fruits and say to the Lord, "Every product of the soil, all the results of our labor is of the Lord; the Lord has blessed us." That was the waving of the Sheaf. That speaks of Christ, too! The Passover speaks of Christ and so does the Waving of the Sheaf. The first fruits, "*He's the first fruit of them that slept.*"

Then, there is the Word Pentecost; the Word Pentecost means (50th, the end of the harvest). This means the 50th day after the Passover, the people gathered to observe the feast of Pentecost. That is what they were doing there. They were observing the Feast of the Pentecost, the end of the harvest, the 50th day after the Passover. All of these people were there. That is when the Holy Spirit came. That is when the disciples preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in other languages. That is when all these people were converted and came to God.

I've mentioned what a lot of people today think when they think of Pentecost. But the dominating factor and the chief issue raised at Pentecost was the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what the people who were there went away talking about. This gospel was that gospel which Peter preached to them in other languages under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

This was the first sermon after our Lord arose and ascended back to heaven. The chief issue and dominating factor was not the Holy Spirit coming (though it was the chief issue at first). The cloven tongues of fire, the mighty rushing wind, and the sound from heaven did at first take up all their attention.

The disciples began to speak. They began to preach and everybody there heard them preach the gospel in their own language. This is the first time that they had ever done this. There were all different people from all parts of the world that heard them preach in their own language.

That got their attention. These men were shocked and they were amazed. They said, "*We are hearing the mighty works of God in our own tongue.*" They could hear these unlearned fishermen preach the gospel in their own language. That would be like me preaching right now. That would be like people from Spain, France, Germany and Russia, hearing the gospel in their own tongue. That got their attention for a while.

Let me tell you this; the great issue and the denominating factor raised at Pentecost in this first sermon, preached by the apostle Peter, is introduced now in verse 22. Here is the issue: all of these things had attracted their attention. All of these things that had amazed them faded into the background when Peter began to preach this gospel. The Holy Spirit empowered him to preach. All who were there heard him preach in their own tongues.

Do you know what they heard? They heard the gospel. They heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Now, you follow along in your Bible and I will show you something. After all the dust had settled, the Holy Spirit had come and these men were preaching in other languages. A great crowd had assembled there and Peter stood up. In verse 22, here comes the power and here comes the message. Here comes the chief issue and here comes what God would have men to hear. *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words.”* Don’t look at the miracles; there are plenty more where those come from. Don’t look at the gifts, don’t look at the fire, and don’t listen to the wind; hear these Words.

You see; my friend, the power of God is in His Word. In James 1:18 it says, *“Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth.”* In Romans 10:17, it says; *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* First Peter 1:23 says; *“We are born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible seed by the Word of God.”* Paul said, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God unto salvation.”*

Ye men of Israel, don’t listen to the wind, don’t watch the fire, and don’t look at the gifts and miracles, *“Hear My Words.”* There is where life is. There is where the power is. There is where the grace of God is, in these glorious, blessed Words of life.

Listen to Him, this Jesus of Nazareth; there is no mistake who Peter is talking about. Jesus was the Son of Mary. They said that He was the carpenter and they said that He was a winebibber and a gluttonous man; He’s Jesus of Nazareth. *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”* Jesus of Nazareth is a man and yes He is a man, He is, *“Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, seed of a woman, born of a woman.”* But He’s no ordinary man.

“Hear my Words,” Peter said. Jesus of Nazareth is a man approved of God, a man ordained of God, a man sent of God, a man one with God, and a man approved, ordained and sent of God. *“He was approved of God by miracles, and wonders and signs which you yourselves know, which God did by Him.”* God did these miracles.

There are witnesses in John Chapter 5. *“John the Baptist bore witness of Him. The heavenly Father spake from heaven and bore witness of Him.”* He said, *“The works that I do, bear witness of Me.”* Who can make a blind man see? Who can raise a dead man?

“Search the scriptures, and in them you think ye have life. They testify of Me. Ye men of Israel, hear My Words.” I’m talking about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a man, but a man sent of God. He was approved of God and a man ordained of God among you. In verses 22 and 23, it says; *“By signs and miracles and wonders, which you yourselves also know which God did by Him, and you with wicked hands crucified Him.”*

That’s right! You all know that. You cried, “Give us Barabbas and crucify Jesus Christ.” Yes you did! You bore false witness against Him. He was nailed to a cross while you walked around His cross and laughed. You said, *“If you be the Son of God, come down from the cross.”* You crucified Him 50 days ago, right outside the city walls of Jerusalem.

But, *“He was delivered into your hands, delivered by the determinate council and foreknowledge of God.”* He was delivered into your wicked hands. *“You with wicked hands crucified Him and slew Him on a tree. You did what God determined before to be done.”* For God delivered Him into your hands by His determinate person and by His council and by His own foreknowledge and you simply carried out the will of God.

“He was a lamb slain before the foundation of the world.” Everything that they did in the Soldier’s Hall, Pilot’s Hall and on that cross was ordained of God, foretold of God, promised by God and prophesied by God. It was prophesied that they would spit upon Him, pluck His beard, and that they would pierce His hands and feet.

It was prophesied that they would crucify Him between two thieves, that they would sell Him for 30 pieces of silver and that the man who sold him for 30 pieces of silver would commit suicide and take his money right back to those who gave it to Him. This was all prophesied. *“You did what God determined before to be done.”*

In verse 24 it says; *“You crucified Him.”* They are not thinking about what language they are hearing the gospel in. They are not thinking of the cloven tongues and the rushing wind. They are listening to this man preach. *“You men of Israel, you hear Me.”* He said, *“Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God, you crucified Him. You did what God determined before to be done.”* In verse 24 it says, *“God raised Him from the dead.”*

You took Him down from the tree and you put Him in a tomb and you rolled a stone over that tomb. You got Pilot to put the Roman seal on that stone and you stationed soldiers to stand out there. It wasn’t possible that life could be holden by death. God raised Him from the tomb.

I tell you, this is the doctrine that these Jewish leaders hated more than any other doctrine, the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. That is the glorious truth we love the most. For, if He rose from the grave, it says that God has accepted all that He did in our place and in our stead. If He arose from the grave, He arose for our justification. If He arose from the grave, because He lives, we live. Paul said, *“If Christ be not risen, you are yet in your sins.”* If Christ be not risen, we are false witnesses of God. If Christ be not risen, the dead are perished.

But, God raised Him from the dead. They sure are listening now aren't they? *“Ye men of Israel, hear My Words.”* Jesus of Nazareth is a man, a God-man and He's approved of God. God sent Him and you crucified Him. *“You did what God determined before to be done.”* God delivered Him into your wicked hands and you crucified Him.

You did what you wanted to do, but it was what God willed to be done. God raised Him from the dead. In verse 25 it says, *“David speaketh concerning this Jesus of Nazareth.”* David spoke concerning Him. David said, *“The Lord said unto My Lord, sit thou on my right hand.”* Not only David spoke of Him, but also all your prophets spoke of Him. Moses wrote of Him. *“Abraham saw His day and rejoiced. To Him, give all your prophets witness.”*

“Go all through the Old Testament” (I'm sure that Peter said to them), “Go through it from Genesis to Malachi, and go through it from Moses to Isaiah to Malachi.” He probably said, “Go through the Psalms and every one of the books and you will find God prophesying of Jesus of Nazareth. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Passover, the Prophet like Moses, the High Priest, the Mercy Seat and the Tabernacle.”

David wrote of Him. Look in verse 27. Peter declared to them what David wrote, saying; *“Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, Thy wilt not suffer Thy Holy One to seek corruption.”* David wasn't talking about himself, for David is dead. “David is dead and you know it. David is in the grave. His sepulcher is with us to this day. “

David was a prophet and David spoke of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. David wasn't speaking of himself. When he said, *“The Lord said unto My Lord, sit thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool;”* he wasn't talking about himself. When David said, *“Thy shalt not suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption, nor leave my soul in the grave;”* he wasn't talking about himself. David prophesied of Him. David wrote concerning Him.

Peter brought this down to them. Look at verse 32. These men of Israel are really listening now. David was their King. He was their hero. Peter declared, "David believed in Christ Jesus. Abraham rejoiced to see His day. Moses wrote of Him. You crucified Him. You've denied Him and you rejected Him. You requested a thief in His place!"

Now listen to verse 32; "*This Jesus,*" this same Jesus whom you crucified, "*God hath raised up,*" God raised Him from the dead. Not another, but this same Jesus. This was the same Jesus who walked the same streets at Capernaum, the same one who walked through Jericho, the same one who stood with His hands bound in front of Pilot. There was blood dripping from the wounds inflicted by the soldiers. This was the same one who upon His head, you put a crown of thorns and spit in His face. You nailed Him to a cross and said, "*We will not have this man reign over us.*" This is the same Jesus, the same one.

In Acts 1:11, when the angels appeared unto the disciples on the Mount of Ascension, they declared, "*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner.*"

In verse 36, Peter said, "*God hath made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Christ.*" God has raised Him. Not only that, look at verse 33, "*God hath highly exalted Him to His right hand.*"

Where is this Jesus that you rejected? Where is this Jesus that you denied? Where is this Jesus that you nailed to a cross? Where is this Jesus now? "*He is at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*"

There wasn't anyone arguing over tongues then, were there? There was no one debating over the wind and cloven tongues, or who got baptized and who didn't. These men are in trouble. They have rejected the Messiah. They have turned thumbs-down on the King of Israel. They have rejected God's Son. They have nailed Him to a cross and are standing there listening to Peter preach. Their hands are still dripping and stained with the blood of that man whom they crucified, who was the only Mediator between God and men at God's right hand.

Peter said, in verse 34; "*David's not ascended into the heavens, but the Lord God said to My Lord, Jesus, sit thou on my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.*" They knew they were enemies. They said, "*We have no King but Caesar.*" They knew they were enemies.

Peter summed up his message and said, “Therefore, here is my conclusion.” Now, do you see the chief issue at Pentecost? The chief issue wasn’t the Holy Ghost and it wasn’t tongues, miracles or the mighty rushing wind. Who is this man Jesus Christ, whom we have crucified, whom we denied, whom we spat upon, and whom we rejected? This man says that He is in glory. *“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know, everyone of you know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom you denied, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* Here is the issue, who is Jesus Christ? If I have any gift, let me preach who He is, the God-man.

What did he do? He came into this world, was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. He was hated and despised of men. *“He was rejected, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities.”* If I have the gift of the Holy Ghost, let me preach what He did.

Why did He do it? He did it *“that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. That God may be just and justifier.”* If I have any talent or gift given of God, let me tell men the good news. Where is He now? He is at the right hand of God.

Now, verse 37, *“Now, when they heard this.”* When they heard what? When they heard the wind? No sir. The wind shocked them, astounded them and amazed them, but this gospel message that Peter preached convicted them. *“Now, When they heard this,”* when they heard the tongues? No sir. All they did when they heard the tongues was marvel and say, “Hey, those guys are speaking our language. Isn’t that astounding? Isn’t that something? That is amazing. We’ll have to tell our grandchildren about that.” This gospel pricked their hearts. This gospel crushed them, broke them and brought them down.

No, when they heard this gospel, when they heard who Jesus Christ is, they cried out, *“Men and brethren what are we going to do?”* We are in trouble with God, in trouble with the law, in trouble with justice and are alienated from God. We’ve turned our backs on Him whom God hath sent. What are we going to do? God is angry with us, what are we going to do? What shall we do?

Peter replied, *“Repent,”* and change your mind about God. Change your mind about Jesus Christ. Change your mind about yourselves. You are sinners and you are guilty. You have nothing to offer. *“Repent and turn from your idols to the living God.”* Turn from your ceremony. Turn from your tradition, and self-righteousness; turn to Christ. Cry for mercy. *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

That is the way believers in the New Testament confessed Christ. They didn't raise their hand, or walk down an isle; they went to the river and were baptized. They were confessing that when Christ died, they died. When He was buried, they were buried. When He arose, they arose. "*Repent,*" change your mind about Jesus Christ and bow to Him. Honor Him, glorify Him, believe Him, look to Him and be baptized in His name. He is your only hope.

That is Pentecostal preaching! This is not talking about the Holy Ghost and tongues; this is talking about Jesus Christ. That is true Pentecostal preaching and it won't just raise amazement, it will raise conviction and bring men to know God.