

## THE TWO FLAMES OF PENTECOST

**Text: Acts 2:1-4**

**Key Words:** Passion for God/Compassion for People

**Key Thought:** Have You Received the Blessings of Pentecost?

A prophecy at the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California in 1906 bears repeating in our generation.

“In the last days three things will happen in the Great Pentecostal Movement:

- 1. There will be an overemphasis on power, rather than on righteousness.**
- 2. There will be an overemphasis on praise, to a God they no longer pray to.**
- 3. There will be an overemphasis on the gifts of the Spirit, rather than on the lordship of Christ.**

The Pentecostal Church (like many others) is facing an identity crisis. Many people in our churches don't understand the distinctives which have been part of our heritage for more than a 100 years. I am well aware of the need to adjust in order to maintain a contemporary voice in our society. The problem is that many of us don't know when we are reaching dangerous crossover points. This has allowed a host of new practices and teachings to be accepted without questioning the long term effects upon our faith. Certain teachings and practices are insignificant while others are the very foundation of our faith.

We can make two mistakes

- 1). To **major** on the **minors**
- 2). To **minor** on the **majors**

The major teachings must be maintained at any cost. Otherwise we will be tossed back and forth by every wind of new doctrine that blows our way. Many people's lives are so unstable and dysfunctional that the same trend is entering our churches with little opposition. The results are deadly. Many churches never even use their Bibles anymore. To some it doesn't matter whether you pray to Father God or Mother God. A number are now accepting any lifestyle because they don't want to appear as becoming judgmental.

We need **the Two Flames of Pentecost** to once again refine the gold and burn away the chaff from our lives. On the Day of Pentecost tongues of fire separated and came to rest on each of those who had gathered in unity to wait for the promise of the Father - The Holy Spirit.

**May I Suggest Two Things That These Tongues of Fire Represented in the Early Church and Also Need to Be Rekindled in Our Generation.**

### **I. THE FLAME OF PASSION FOR GOD**

### **II. THE FLAME OF COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE**

#### **I. THE FLAME OF PASSION FOR GOD**

When the Day of Pentecost came and God poured out His Holy Spirit upon the Church, there was an immediate change in those who were touched like the Apostle Peter. Here was a man who had denied his Lord three times just 52 days earlier. He had also secretly met with the other disciples after Jesus' death because he feared the Jews and Romans. This same man stood on the Day of Pentecost after being Baptized in the Holy Spirit and proclaimed a message that cut to the heart of the people. It resulted in 3,000 souls brought into the kingdom of God in one day in the city of Jerusalem.

This same Peter had such a passion for God that he made his way into the temple along with John; saw a man who had been lame from birth; reached out took him by the hand and raised him to his feet. A praise service began in the temple courts. Peter used the opportunity to declare his passion for Jesus.

#### **READ ACTS 3:11-21**

The religious leaders placed Peter and John in prison overnight and brought them before the Sanhedrin the next day to interrogate them. Once again we find **the FLAME of Passion for God** burning in the souls of these Spirit-filled men.

#### **READ ACTS 4:5-13**

According to Duncan Campbell who was actively involved in the Hebrides revival that peaked between 1949-52 and went on well into the late 50's,

“The feature of the revival was the overwhelming sense of the presence of God.”

Duncan Campbell  
Quoted by Colin C. Whittaker  
in “*Great Revivals*”  
p. 184

## **I. THE FLAME OF PASSION FOR GOD (Contd.)**

Without God at the center of revival, man will surely rise to the occasion. When man cries out to man, he can never expect God's resources to meet the need. Only God can fill the vacuum that sin has left in our broken hearts. **If we would only become consumed in the Flame of Passion for God we would then never have to fear the fire of our all Consuming God.**

Our generation needs to have a desire to meet with God without placing certain demands upon Him in advance. We need to allow God to control the encounter. Our part should be a **keen sensitivity** and a **strict obedience** to His perfect will. We must desire God more than anything else in our lives. Without that kind of passion for the One who has brought us true life we can never expect to **enter** a true revival let alone **remain** in one. There are many obstacles which must be overcome. This is one hurdle we cannot bypass.

As we continue into the Book of Acts (of the Holy Spirit), we find two names that have been imbedded into the minds of everyone who reads and studies their Bible. They are Ananias and Sapphira. During this short encounter, Peter once again becomes the spokesman for God. The apostle had such a Passion for God that he was willing to stand and support God in the midst of a clear deception.

*“Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?’”*

*Acts 5:3*

God judged both Ananias and Sapphira immediately for their lies. Their bodies were carried to their grave without the normal grieving time. God is the same today. He hates those who lie and are caught up in malicious talking that attempts to ruin reputations. Our courts are supposed to work on the fact that **we are innocent until proven guilty.** Our world's lust for gossip has (as clearly seen in the tabloids) changed the fact that **many people are often found guilty (before the fact) in the minds of a media driven society guilty.** Truth will reign when we return to a Flame of Passion for God. When God is given His rightful place in the Church, then and only then will the Church be in the right place.

“Many people want God's blessings, but they don't want Him.”

“Some people think God is like medicine; you don't need him when you're feeling well.”

## I. THE FLAME OF PASSION FOR GOD (Contd.)

“Some people are willing to serve God, but only as His consultant.”

E. C. McKenzie  
“14,000 Quips and Quotes”  
p. 209-10

“**When revival comes**, an intense spirit of conviction will be felt immediately.

**When revival comes**, the agony over sin will be so great that the thought of prolonging life in the midst of such wickedness will be intolerable.

**When revival comes**, men may expect to have their well-laid plans broken.”

Richard Owen Roberts  
“Revival”  
p. 23,24

## II. THE FLAME OF COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE

\*\*\* Billy Braithwaite was a man of God whose name has been included in the dusty books containing the Primitive Methodist pioneers. Many of these men had been given spiritual gifts to bring the gospel to a dying world.

Billy once prayed, “Lord, give me souls or I shall die.”

A farmer who overheard left his plowing to discover who was quarreling behind the hedge, but found only one man with tears running down his cheeks. It filled him with wonder and it still rings down the years as a challenge to us all.”

Two other worthies were Thomas Russell and John Ride, who once met on Ashdown Common in Berkshire in the middle of winter. Finding a secluded spot in the wood, oblivious to the snow, they threw themselves upon their knees and in agony poured out their souls to God.

“Lord, give us Berkshire!” They pleaded again and again. They prayed for five hours until at last Thomas Russell sprang to his feet and pointed to the distant horizon and triumphantly cried, “Yonder country is ours and we will have it.”

Until then the violent and devilish opposition had prevented progress, but from that day the victory was theirs and a great revival followed. \*\*\*

Colin Whittaker  
“Great Revivals”  
p. 75

## II. THE FLAME OF COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE (Contd.)

The Book of Acts clearly portrays the truth that the early Christians had a deep desire to see others come to salvation in Jesus Christ. We must see people as God sees them. Many are like sheep without a shepherd. Many are broken, bruised and robbed, left for dead along the roadways of life. There are many who have tasted the bitter cup of envy and strife. There is an increase in addiction services because of the increase of problems. The church has in some cases been the cause when it should be offering the cure.

“Recently I learned that salt may lose its savor, but it does not lose its potency. When it ceases to heal, then it proceeds to corrupt.”

Leonard Ravenhill  
“*Revival God’s Way*”  
p. 32

The early church went into the highways and byways and compelled them to come in. The first century church was known for its care and compassion NOT its cathedrals. The Welsh miner put things into perspective when he cried out, **“Bend the church and save the world.”** Using the willing instrument of Evan Roberts (and others) Wales saw more than one hundred thousand people brought into the kingdom of God.

\*\*\* “The whole of Wales was affected. Hardened unbelievers were gloriously converted. Drunkards, thieves, and gamblers were transformed. Confession of awful sins were heard on every side. Old debts were paid. Miners prayed together before beginning their shifts in the coal mines. Pit ponies unused to the new kindness and clean language, without the usual kicks and curses, almost stopped working until they adjusted. Courts had few cases to try. Whole football and rugby teams got converted and schedules were abandoned; the young men were more concerned with praying than playing. Dance halls and pubs were empty, but the prayer meetings were crowded.”\*\*\*

Colin Whittaker  
“*Great Revivals*”  
p. 112

## II. THE FLAME OF COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE (Contd.)

The flame of Pentecost as witnessed during times of great revival will always touch the lives of people in such a way that they will never be the same again. Old habits will fall away. New desires will rise up as God's will becomes priority number one.

Brazil witnessed the greatest national revival of the twentieth century. When Billy Graham visited Brazil he was asked if he knew the secret of the prenominal growth there.

“Every Pentecostal believer is a preacher.”

Billy Graham

Bernhard Johnson, a missionary with the Assemblies of God in Brazil said,

“The primary method of growth of the Pentecostal churches has been the aggressive witnessing of the believers and the planting of multiplied congregations by large mother churches.”

Bernhard Johnson

The book of Acts proves that the disciples of Jesus had a compassion for those who were lost in their sin. No believer should be satisfied until every family member, friend, co-worker, neighbor, etc. is born again by the Spirit of God and is living vibrant Christian life. The early church began in Jerusalem but quickly moved to Judea, Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. May our generation begin as well at home and move out to reach all ethnic groups of our world.

“As the only unfinished book in the Bible, obviously by design, Acts reminds the Church that God's purpose is to present the living Christ to each generation in the power of the Spirit.”

Colin Whittaker  
“Great Revivals”  
p. 22

If you have not received a **Passion for God** and a **Compassion for People**, then you have not received the blessing of Pentecost. Call upon the Lord to place a desire deep within your heart?

C:/My Documents/WPWin(X7)/Sermons.2018/The Holy Spirit/Acts 2\_1.4.wpd

Date: June 10/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Come oh Come (and Fill This Temple) - E

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*Acts 3:11-21; Acts 4:5-13; Acts 5:3*

## **II. THE FLAME OF COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE**