

The Waiting

Acts 2:1-13

KEY VERSES

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine.

We begin our lectionary series this week with the events of Pentecost. One of seven major festivals in the Old Testament, Pentecost was a harvest festival which took place 50 days after Passover. Jews from all over the world would descend upon Jerusalem to give thanks for God's providence. Jesus ascends into heaven 40 days after his resurrection, and this takes place 10 days later. During those 10 days, we find the disciples waiting patiently and faithfully in Jerusalem, per Jesus' instructions, that they would "be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:5). The disciples wait actively, "constantly devoting themselves to prayer" during this time of waiting. **When have you found yourself waiting for something important? How did you wait? Was it in hopeful expectation like the disciples, or was it through distractions to take your mind off the time?**

To be truly involved in Pentecost and the power of God, we need to appreciate that the Holy Spirit is meant to be lived in, not analyzed and discussed - no matter how far-fetched and extreme it might seem. There is no way around the miracle and power of the Holy Spirit if we truly want to have a purpose in life. We don't have to look beyond the grace that Jesus extends to our imperfect lives to find the miracle of our calling through Him. We, too, are part of the movement of God alive in this world. **How do you sense your part in this movement? How might He be calling you to see the miracles of the Holy Spirit and share them with others?**

One of the greatest miracles of this story is that the disciples don't take control, but they wait patiently on the Lord to fulfill His promise. Perhaps you are waiting on something significant: for forgiveness, to forgive someone else, medical results, clarity in a big decision. **How does**

control work in your life? What are you waiting on at this moment? What feels the most beyond your control that you would love for God to show up for in clarity and purpose?

Craig Barnes is quoted as saying, "life is meant to be received rather than achieved." Miracles always involve waiting for those things beyond our control. When we allow God to be God, He will do much more than we could ever expect or imagine. There is power in not waiting alone, as the disciples show us, and as Jesus promised us when He said, "where two or three are gathered, there will I be also." (Matt. 18:19-20)

Who is currently waiting with you?