**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, May 31st, 2020**

**Title: Embracing Pentecost**

**Text:**

*1  When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
2  And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
3  And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.
4  And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.***Acts 2:1-4 (NASB)**

After 10 days of Prayer – God moved.

What was the day of Pentecost?

Originally a time of celebration of harvest, kind of like our Thanksgiving celebration in the Fall.

Over the years, and certainly at the time of Christ, Pentecost, within contemporary Jewish culture, was a time of remembering Moses receiving the Law on Mt Sinai.

**At Sinai –**

**God descends by fire**

18  For you have not come to *a mountain* that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,
19  and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which *sound was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.
20  For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED."
21  And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."
**Hebrews 12:18-21 (NASB)**

Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins.

**Galatians 3:19 (NLT)**

**The Prophet –** Moses as the single voice to declare God’s truth and Word**.**

According to rabbinic tradition, the soul of every Jew throughout history was present at Mount Sinai when the Law was given, and each person heard the giving of the Law in their own native tongue. - <https://www.chosenpeople.com/site/the-giving-of-the-law-the-giving-of-the-spirit/>

The fire of God’s presence at the calling of Moses at the burning bush. – Exodus 3

The Fire – God’s Presence among His people!

The Tongues of Pentecost were a sign.

-At the tower of Babel, God hindered the evil of man by confusing the languages, creating unique groups

 At Pentecost, God gave tongues to demonstrate that this Gospel of Christ is for all.

 -Each tongue, or language, represented a unique ethnic group.

 -All spoke, no longer is there just one prophet, Moses, but all

16  but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
17  'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;
18  EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

21  'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'
**Acts 2:16-18, 21 (NASB)**

1. Acts 2:6, When this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.
2. The fire of God, His presence is not on a mountain or the bush but on His people and they are not burned up. His presence filling them.
3. A church of prophets speaking the Word of God, Acts 2:17b-18 …I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of MY Spirit and they shall prophesy.
4. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Acts 2:21

In the modern era all Spirit-filled churches in the USA trace their roots back to a revival in 1906 at the Azusa street mission in Los Angeles, CA. A black man, Elder William Seymour, was invited to speak at a church pastored by an African American woman, Julia Hutchins, (14 years before women had the right to vote). He was padlocked out of her church, moved to home, then to a converted stall where the Spirit of God was moving. Many white people began to attend and 114 years later the movement is still moving around the world in Missions, Church Planting and Praise to God.

Because all are fallen in Christ the basis of fellowship is given.

We are all in need.

No one can condemn another because we are all condemned

Fallen individuals, fallen law-enforcement officers, fallen protestors, fallen attorneys, fallen news media, fallen court systems, fallen defendants, fallen prosecutors, fallen moms, fallen sons, fallen dads, fallen political parties, fallen schools, fallen social media, fallen culture, fallen laws… you get the picture.

Who can cast a stone at the fallen without themselves being stoned?

There is needed a great humility.

Maybe God is speaking to us through Covid-19 and now the horrible death of George Floyd, the peaceful protests, and even the riots which have happened after most of the protests ended.

Our deliverance is not to be found in new laws.

Our deliverance is not through law enforcement and the court system.

 Even though I am all for victims of racism seeking redress through the courts.

Our deliverance is not through anarchy and riots which bring random destruction.

Our real deliverance must begin with God, a re-ordering of conscience, repentance, love for God and love for one another.

What if God wanted to pour out His Spirit but there was no one waiting in a prayer meeting.

 No one repenting

 No one weeping

 No one crying out to Jesus

 No one interceding for our fallen humanity

 No one

The first disciples waited for 10 days in prayer.

There must be a humbling of ourselves and a seeking after God.