



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Pentecost Empowers Your Purpose June 4th, 2017

(Acts 2:1-21)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

1. Share a time when you did some evangelism, and it either went really well, or really poorly (in your eyes, at least!)
2. Look at the first 6 verses of Acts 2. What are some different hints that the events that took place on Pentecost were not naturally occurring phenomena?
3. **Agree/Disagree:** The miracle of Pentecost confirms the validity of churches who practice/strive for the gift of “speaking in tongues.”
4. **Explain:** Pentecost is sometimes referred to as “The Birth of the Church.” This obviously wasn’t the first time there were believers, but in what way is Pentecost the birth of the church? What are the differences between the pre-Pentecost church, and the post-Pentecost church?
5. **Agree/Disagree:** If God still poured out the Spirit on his people in such powerful, visible ways like happened at Pentecost, more people would be drawn to the church and the message of the Gospel.
6. **Respond:** A friend of yours says that the Spirit can’t be all-powerful, because so many people who hear the Word of God don’t come to faith.
7. **Agree/Disagree:** God has called all people to share the Gospel with the world. Therefore, every Christian will be a good evangelist.
8. Why is the day of Pentecost so important for your life as a 21st century Christian?