

WHAT IS NEEDED TO WITNESS HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN

Acts 2:1-12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Thinking back to when the "church" really got it's start, we go back to the Day of Pentecost. Just a week or so before, Jesus had ascended back into heaven. He had accomplished what He had come here to do, bring salvation to mankind. Now He was gone but He had left His followers and He had given them instructions to be witnesses to all the world for Him. However, they were still lacking something, they were not yet ready to be the kind of witness-bearers they needed to be. True they were believers in Jesus, but there was still something lacking.

I. THE DISCIPLES GOT AT PENTECOST WHAT THEY LACKED TO BE WITNESSES

- The disciples of Jesus had gathered together as instructed in a large room and waited for what they lacked in being the kind of witnesses they needed to be.
- They needed power and a fullness more than what they had and without it, they would have eventually returned to their former ways of life, fishermen, businessmen, etc.
- They needed to be better equipped than they presently were. They needed to be able to witness better, they needed something special for the mind-boggling task of winning the world to Jesus.
- They needed what Jesus had.
- What the disciples needed was symbolized with tongues of fire and the sound of a rushing wind on that great day of Pentecost.

II. PENTECOST WAS A TYPE OF "REPEAT" OF WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS

- Jesus was born through a virgin woman by means of the Holy Spirit.
 - The disciples were born again by means of their belief in Jesus via the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus lived a beautiful, perfect life for 30 years, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, yet He was waiting, tarrying for that special power from on High.
- When John baptized Jesus, Jesus was endowed with that special power from God (remember the dove) for the purpose of His stupendous task of bringing redemption.
- As the fullness of the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at the time of His baptism by John, so came the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus in that upper room on the day of Pentecost.
- The disciples had already been born again, saved, and had they died, they would have gone on to heaven, but on that day of Pentecost, they were given the power they needed to be the kind of witnesses they needed to be, and were equipped for their work.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus on the day of Pentecost was what the disciples needed and thoroughly adequate equipping for their task of evangelizing the world.

III. THE FIRST "PROOF" OF BEING ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED

- The disciples quickly began to speak to those on the street as the Holy Spirit equipped them to speak.
 - They spoke with different tongues/languages.
 - People from all around the world were there and each one understood what the disciples were saying, in their own specific language.

- Somehow, through the power of God, people were hearing their own language being spoken.
 - Racial barriers were broken, ways cleared, entrances gain instantly to hearts that just days before had been closed to words about Jesus.
- Paul, later on, speaks about the gift of tongues, but this is not the same things as impassioned and ecstatic utterances which nobody could understand except through an interpreter.
 - At Pentecost and the day after, the Holy Spirit was the interpreter.
 - The Holy Spirit, in a sense, had gathered a crowd of people from many countries and He so inspired the disciples that everybody who heard them understood and felt that the message was for them.

CONCLUSION:

- That day of Pentecost has come and gone and will never be repeated for what happened on that day has had its lasting effects.
 - The Holy Spirit came and brought the disciples the ability and power to be the kind of witnesses they needed to be to reach the world for Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit still comes to believers in Jesus and equips and empowers them to be the witnesses they need to be to continue to reach the world for Jesus.
- What happened that day when the disciples spoke to all those people from all over the world and those people understood in their own language is still happening today.
 - The rich, the poor, the gentleman, the beggar, the old, the young, the saint, the sinner when hearing the gospel message, understand in their own "tongue."
 - The Holy Spirit still enables people of all ages, societies, cultures, lives as separate as the North pole is from the South pole, to hear in his/her own tongue.
 - The Holy Spirit still breaks down barriers and when the Gospel is spoken, people hear and understand.
- Every believer in the Lord Jesus is indwelt as was Jesus, as was the disciples with the presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - It is up to each believer as to how free the Holy Spirit is, to use him/her in being the kind of witness he/she needs to be for the Lord Jesus.
- Are YOU fulfilling your duty to the Lord by being the kind of witness He wants you to be?