Pentecost

Pentecost: The Gift of the Spirit

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Sermon in a Sentence: **God equipped and empowered you to GO!**

Application: 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus the disciples were gathered together, waiting on a gift that God wanted to give them that would empower them to change the world. Through the Holy Spirit we are empowered to fulfill the mandate to take the message of God's love to the ends of the Earth.

Me
Going on vacation, going in style, new clothes, rent a Rolls Royce, no gas…, so you push it.
You're hot tired and your knees have a hole because you fell a couple miles back.

Tension Set: It's frustrating trying to do things without the proper equipment. **Table saw**

We (Exploring the tension):
The right tool can ease the pain of doing something. Often there are massively important tasks that get put off because they're difficult or inconvenient.

God has set a task for us, what's stopping us?

1. ***Churches isolate Christians from unbelievers***
    a. a lot of Christians don't know any unbelievers.
2. ***We believe that evangelism is extraordinary***
    a. We suspect that evangelism is only for those who have the gift of evangelism, or for pastors and other professional Christians. Some simply don't feel like they are capable of sharing the gospel.
3. ***Churches don't talk about the cost of following Jesus***
    a. Many churches never confront their people with the reality that following Christ will cost them, so when it comes time to pay the price and share the gospel, many of us simply aren't willing to lose our reputations.
4. ***We look for immediate results***
    a. Many Christians have simply given up on evangelism because they made an effort and didn't see any results.

b. God has called us to plant seeds, not grow crops. That's His job!

5. ***We aren't clear on the message***
    a. We should be able to share the basics of the gospel in about 60 seconds.
    b. John 3:16- God loved and gave, if I believe I will receive

What is the big picture (sermon in a sentence):
[SLIDE] God equips the called, and He's called you!

God
Series Recap, Background on Text
Today we're celebrating Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks. For the Jews, this day represents Israel being given the law. For us, it's 50 days after the greatest event in history. Jesus taught people in the 40 days following His crucifixion, and now we pick it up on day 40.

Acts 1: 4-5, 8 (NIV)
4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- This verse (8) is played out throughout the book of Acts. It's the story of what a God-empowered people look and act like.
- In His name we will see lives changed and people transformed for the glory of God!
- We see people healed, delivered from literal prisons, people selling their possessions and giving them to the needy, and the gospel being preached to the ends of the Earth.
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you
- We have access to that same power!!!
- **Luke 4: 18-19 (NIV)**
  18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
  He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
    - Anointing was the process by which some(one)thing was set apart for God's work
    - Jesus came to do these things, and now in Acts 1 He's giving that responsibility to us.
    - God has equipped you with power from on high to accomplish His plan!

But what is the power for?

[SLIDE] God has empowered you for a reason, to be His witnesses
There's a pretty big trial going on right now, and both sides are calling people up to the stand to bolster their case. They're pointing fingers left and right, and eventually the jury will have to decide on the facts of the case.

What is the witness's role in a trial?
A witness's job is to relay to the jury the things they've seen, heard, and experienced, along with other relevant details about character.

Your job is to relay to the world the things you've seen, heard, and experienced, along with other relevant details about God's character.

This is called a testimony and we are called to testify about the goodness of a God who loved the world so much that He sent His only son that we might have life.

We are 3 weeks into President Trump's trial in New York. Depending on where you get your news coverage certain witnesses have been described as damaging or desperate, convincing or corrupt.
The media certainly has thoughts about the witnesses testimonies, and we'll see where the jury ultimately decides.

It's interesting to me that the jury gets to hear from so many different witnesses. No one witness will convince or convict on their own, it takes hearing similar things from many different people to build a case.

In the same way, we're called to be witnesses, not to convince. The Holy Spirit does the convincing. Jesus called Him our teacher and guide. John 15 says that the Holy Spirit also gives testimony towards who God is and what He has done.
We plant and God makes it grow in it's season.

CHALLENGE: Write out your 60 second testimony.

- John 3:16- God loved and gave, if I believe I will receive

Transition Story: How is this working in my life?
[IMAGE] Ping Pong Ball Display
Kids ministry, great commission. God is calling us out of our comfort zone. Are you going to let the kids in the church lead the way?

You
If you make it everyone's job, it becomes no ones job.
In an emergency situation, you never say "Someone call 911". They all assume someone else is doing it.

In the same way, you are called to be a witness. Not the general you, but [Name people].

[SLIDE] God equipped and empowered you to GO!

- God wants us to spread the gospel to the ends of the Earth
- Through the Holy Spirit we are empowered to fulfill the mandate to take the message of God's love to the ends of the Earth.

10 days after Jesus gives this challenge they are waiting in the Upper Room

Acts 2: 2-4 (NIV)
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.

- This is a free gift that God offers to everyone.
- Tongues of fire was God's way of symbolizing that they were being set apart for a purpose
- This is different than salvation. The Holy Spirit indwells us at salvation and empowers us when we are baptized in the Spirit.
- We don't seek the gift, we seek the gift giver.
- Speaking in tongues is how God empowers our prayers. Even when we don't know what to pray, God speaks through us. Our spirit calling out to His Spirit.

Altar