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“It’s Time to Embrace the Holy Spirit”   
Acts 2:1-47  
SERIES: Stretch Your Nets (Acts) – #6

WBC Sermon Notes 07/03/2021   
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**Introduction**    
God has called us to “stretch our nets”. If we are to effectively fulfill this vision, we need to be empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit.  
  
Ernest Baker on the significance and impact of Pentecost

**Pentecost in perspective – 3 Jewish Feasts**

* Passover – Easter Friday  
    
  Celebrates the “passing over” of the angel of death  
    
  Jesus, the “Lamb of God” is crucified  
  1 John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7
* Feast of First Fruits – Easter Sunday  
    
  Jesus rose from the dead – “first fruits” - 1 Corinthians 15:20
* Pentecost – 50 days after Passover / Easter Friday  
  (“Feast of weeks” – after 7 weeks of harvesting)  
    
  Jesus sends the Holy Spirit and the church is established

Setting the Scene: Acts 2:1-4  
During the 10 days of waiting, the disciples would have becoming increasingly aware of Jesus absence and their need for their Master’s presence.

**Why is it time to embrace the gift of the Holy Spirit?**

**1. The gift of the Holy Spirit fulfills ………………………………………  
 ………………………………………………………………………….(v14-21)**

God had not forgotten his promise, given through the prophet Joel, 800 years earlier, in Joel 2:28-32.  
  
What had God promised?  
  
“Pour out” (chosen out of 5 possible Hebrew verbs) links up to the words of Jesus in John 7:38-39, that to all who believe, *“rivers of living water would flow out from deep within.”*  
Those who believed were baptized by the Spirit and became part of Christ’s body, the church.  
  
1 Corinthians 13:13  
The outpouring of the Spirit was …

* A distinctive experience  
    
  **3 signs:  
  —the sound of rushing wind (v2)**Hebrew “ruah” & Greek “pneuma” can mean “wind” or “spirit”  
  Ezekiel 37:9-10 **-- tongues of fire (v3)**A sign of God’s holy, divine presence  
  One difference – flames on individuals   
   = the presence of God comes to individual believers  
    
  **-- the gift of tongues for witnessing (v4)**  
  A known language - for people to know that the Good News” was   
   for all nations. (Acts 1:8)  
    
  A reversal of Babel  
    
  *“The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we must become.”* -Henry Martyn
* An inclusive experience (v17)  
    
  “for all people”
* A personal experience  
    
  The difference after Pentecost was that the Spirit would not just come  
  ON people TEMPORARILY, but PERMANENTLY live IN them.  
  John 14:16-17

The difference between the baptism and the filling of the Spirit:

* We are never commanded to be “baptized” by the Spirit, but are commanded to be “filled by the Spirit”.
* The BAPTISM of the Spirit means I belong to Jesus’ body, the Church;   
  the FILLING of the Spirit means that my body belongs to Him.

**2. The gift of the Holy Spirit draws our attention to …….……………   
 (v22-36)**

John 15:26  
  
Peter preached about Jesus:

* His ministry on earth (v23)
* His burial (v24-28)
* His ascension (v33)
* His present ministry (v34-36)

**3. The gift of the Holy Spirit guides us to …………………… and   
 turn from …………………… (v37-42)**

The Holy Spirit changes people!

The offer of forgiveness and the gift of the Spirit.

The “Gospel Condition” (J. Stott): The Gospel demand is a radical turn from  
sin to Christ, which is what we do when we inwardly repent and place our faith in Christ, and outwardly express it by …………………………………………………..

**4. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the foundation of Christ-centered   
 …………………… (v42-47)**