

Consider your ways! 8Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified,” says the Lord.(Haggai 1:7, 8)

4 But now take courage,‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts. (Haggai 2:4)

20TH JULY 2014

THE EXPERIENCE OF PENTECOST

ACTS 2:41,42

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Acts 2:41-42 - *⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

When people talk about what happened at Pentecost, they say there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That was a new move of the Lord. Pentecost for the new believer is the speaking of new tongues but to the Jews it was one of the seven big feasts. There was an outpouring and there were many signs – tongues of fire, spoke in new tongues, mighty wind, and the place that they were seated in were shaken. 120 people were gathered there. That is what the experience of Pentecost is. Yet there was an outcome of Pentecost that no one realized.

AN EXPERIENCE OF PENTECOST

AN OUTCOME OF PENTECOST

What was the outcome of Pentecost? The people heard from the upper room that sounded like they were drunk in the morning hour and they gathered to see what was happening. Then Peter stood up and the 11 with him and declared that there would no other name by which man would be saved except for Jesus Christ. If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, one of the things that would have happened will be that you and I will be declaring that we have been touched by the love of God.

WE NEED TO BE BOLD FOR GOD

There was a second result of Pentecost. **Acts 2:42** - *⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

They devoted themselves to four things:

- **They got devoted to the apostles teachings and to God's Word** – in a Jewish mind, Sabbath was non-negotiable. Sabbath was not a day where you did other things. The church wasn't planted by God to entertain you with scriptures. The plan for God's church was much more than that.

People fell madly in love with God and His word. Every act of worship will cost you. Your act of worshipping anything will cost you. Whatever you worship, you will give your life for.

- **They were devoted to prayer** - In the Bible there is no such ministry called intercessory ministry. All the disciples were devoted to prayer. Intercession was not meant for women. Men want to be where the action is. But God wants us to pray. We're committing to the experience of the Pentecostal church. The Bible says, "They were devout to the Word of God." Prayer was a requirement and a result of Pentecost. There is an anointing when you pray. You cannot outsource prayer to your wives. You should be here because of the mercy of God and the responsibility you took. The church became **DEVOUT. Devoted to prayer.**
- **They devoted themselves to breaking bread and remembering what God has done for them.**
- **They devoted themselves to fellowship - FELLOWSHIP.** It is going to take a lot of your effort or energy. When the anointing came upon them, these people decided that just like they listened to God's word and prayer, they decided they would be devoted to fellowship. Fellowship is very powerful.

DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP

Many people don't come because of the fellowship. They actually come for just one part of fellowship. When we come to fellowship, our nature is challenged by fellowship that God brings us into. When somebody hurts them, they desire to isolate themselves.

In the story of Cain and Abel, Cain killed his brother. There were certain things that happened. **Fellowship tests your limits.** Undealt self-righteousness leads you to lawlessness.

What is lawlessness? It's not the absence of law. In the Bible, **it is to have your law above the law.** The Bible says that lawlessness is driven by a spirit. The spirit of lawlessness is at work in the land. God said to Cain, "*Watch out! Sin is at your door.*" Cain went into deception. He got deceived. A deceived man does not know when they were deceived. Others would know but you wouldn't know. Deception led him to offense against others. Deceived people just keep getting offended. What does it matter to you?

DECEPTION LEADS TO OFFENSE

If I am offended, then I am deceived that the Word of God isn't enough to transform me or the love of God is not enough to change me.

Hatred led to murder. Abel was a victim in the process of deception. Once he murdered Abel, he began to run away. When you hate or murder someone, you run off into isolation/alienation. Why do I like alienation? Because I'm offended with something or the other. God's plan of fellowship is: *What can I give to the church? It's not, What is in it for me or what can I get out of it?* These questions arise in fellowship, but God put you there so He can put an end to that and you start to think, '*What can I give?*' **Lust demands, love gives.** He, who isolates himself, seeks his own good. In church, east-west express is you stay at home and you think nobody even called me. **Fellowship challenges our heart.** Whether we love or we lust. God calls people to be devoted to fellowship. **Deception makes me get hurt. Hurt leads to offense and offense leads to hate. Hate leads to murder and that to isolation.** You begin to think that you can only hang out with people who you can agree with. It leads you to be a vagabond. A vagabond is someone who moves around thinking there are people out to get him, creating fear in them. You won't find a perfect fellowship. If you found that perfect fellowship, don't go there, because the moment you are there it ceases to be 'perfect!' That's why God put us in fellowship.

When God begins to transform your life,

- **He causes you to grow (personal growth)** – Unequally yoking to unbelievers. You have different belief systems and that causes you to struggle. When you get married you are marrying a belief system. It helps you to grow. You grow in faith.
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. You will never get sharp unless you are in fellowship. Unless you know someone who has been hard on you.
- **It gives you companionship** – God places you in fellowship so you will have friends.
It brings provision into your life. God moved the hearts of some people to bless someone else. Someone likes you just because you are you. By provision I don't mean just financial provision. Fellowship opens doors for you. It brings you to a place of companionship and provision.
- **The anointing comes upon your life** - The oil flows from the head, beard and on your robes. There's an anointing that is imparted just because you are in fellowship. God said, because of Pentecost, you learn to forgive one another. It begins to release an anointing on your life. They are surviving in fellowship.
- **It brings you to accountability**- When you are in fellowship with one another, people watch your life. It brings accountability to where you live, how you live etc. Accountability is a love word. Submission is a love word. Accountability is a love word only when you feel loved. Being in fellowship brought accountability. Being in fellowship people will pray for you. Peter was thrown in prison, the church got together and prayed. Difficult people can fellowship. When you come to fellowship it will be a place where you can do a ministry. Fellowship puts the call of God and mission on your life.

- **It teaches you to love one another- Luke 13:34** ⁻³⁴ *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.* If you isolate yourself, you have no challenge to love anybody. The greatest commandment is to love one another. Truly, they shall know about you when they watch you love one another.

The result of Pentecost was that they were devoted to fellowship. They prayed for one another, they prayed together and remained in fellowship.