

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 - For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Today is Pentecost Sunday and I want to share what is on my heart, but on a slightly different perspective.

Let me start by reading what happened on the Day of Pentecost. We find it in Acts chapter 2.

Acts 2:1-4 - 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.

Let me say this I believe that speaking in tongues is a great gift. Your prayer language that God gives you can be such an edifier of your spirit when it seems like all hell is closing in around you. So I want to encourage you if you haven't yet spoken in tongues know that the same spirit that fell on Pentecost can fall on you today.

After all the Scripture tells us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

I think an important note to start with here is that Pentecost was the result of patience. They waited on the Spirit to come. Often times we are not willing to allow the Spirit to move because we get impatient in the process.

Look at Acts 1:4 - 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."

So the apostles waited day 1 nothing, day 2 nothing, day 3 nothing, finally on day 10 the Holy Spirit moved. See the Lord from heaven invites us into His presence.

As a matter of fact 1 Corinthians 14:1 tells us, Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

So we need to wait, I will pray in the waiting, but we need to wait.

Paul goes on to say in verse 5 I would like all of you to speak in tongues.

Now before you think that this message is just on tongues let me get back to what I really believe the Lord wants me to share with you.

Acts 2:5-8 - 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 their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

Let me just pause here for a moment and say this. When the wind of the Spirit blows, it will blow away our stagnation, religion, tradition, and so many other things that hinder the move of God.

It continues in verses 12 and 13 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."

Some were no doubt acting in such a way that some began to question, "what does this mean?" Others mocked them and said they were intoxicated.

Let me just say this, this service today may be the one that God shows himself to you in such a way that you walk out

knowing that you had an encounter and it may cause people to ask "what does this mean?" And the only thing you may be able to say is I have been with Jesus.

Let's continue Acts 2:14-16 - 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 people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Let's jump to verse 36-43 - 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save

yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 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. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

And that is where I want to start. Verse 43 everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

If you recall my opening text from 2 Corinthians 4:7 it said,  
7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

There are three very important things to notice here first you and I are jars of clay.

Isaiah 64:8 - Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

He is a Good good Father and we are all the work of his hand.

And in Jeremiah 18:3-4 - So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. 4 But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

He is shaping you and I into what seems best to Him. You may not understand what is happening, but He has you on His wheel to shape you so that you can walk out the destiny He has for you. Right now you may think it doesn't look like much, you don't have much to offer. But God is saying I'm about to put the glazing on, you are beautiful because I created you to be. You were created in my image and when I created man I looked and said it is very good.

Jesus used the lunch of a boy to feed a multitude, just offer what you have and God can use it. He is simply look for those who make themselves available and He will do the

rest.

Romans 9:21 - Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Here's the thing God wants to use each one of us. Which brings me to the second point and that is this according 2 Corinthians 4:7 you are a treasure.

Zephaniah 3:17 - The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

From the Amplified translation, The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Savior [Who saves]! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest [in silent satisfaction] and in His love He will be silent and make no mention [of past sins, or even recall them]; He will exult over you with singing.



The Lord is singing over you.

1 Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

He continues in verse 9, But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

And my last point found in 2 Corinthians 4:7 is that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

God gives you Pentecost, God fills you with His Spirit, God gives you spiritual gifts not so that we can puff ourselves up and think how good we are, but rather so that those we come in contact with can see how good He is.

When you lay hands on the sick and they are healed, it's to

show that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

When you pray peace over someone's life it is to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

When you are blessed and testify of the goodness of God it is to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

Peter in Acts 2 the same Peter that denied the Lord now seems to receive a boldness to speak to the people. Fulfilling what Jesus had spoken to them after His resurrection in Acts chapter 1.

Acts 1:8 - 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.”

The Holy Spirit is given to us to allow us to have the boldness to tell others, to show others, to allow others to have an encounter with Jesus so that they may know Him

and understand that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

Acts 4:8-10 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

Scripture goes on to say in verses 13 and 14. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

Listen to the Amplified translation, Now when they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and

perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools [common men with no educational advantages], they marveled; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.<sup>14</sup> And since they saw the man who had been cured standing there beside them, they could not contradict the fact or say anything in opposition.

Before you think God can't or won't use you, listen to this.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 - Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

God can, desires to, wants to, longs to use you. That is why you were given the Holy Spirit, and gifts so that you can give them away. You don't lose what you give away in the Kingdom you receive more so that you can bless

others. That is what Pentecost is all about receiving from God, encountering God, so that you can have the boldness to stand up and tell of His goodness so that they can also encounter Him.

Acts 3:1-10 - One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man

who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

It continues Acts 3:11-16 - While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

Now that is boldness, Peter says you killed him, you disowned him, you decided to let him go. That is what the Holy Spirit does. Gives you boldness to preach the word, heal the sick, raise the dead, tell of his goodness.

Pentecost was not just a once upon a time event.

Listen church some when God touches them may even look drunk. Peter never denied that and He still can move that way. Some will be amazed, some may make fun, but it is all to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

Let me try and wrap this up and then see what the Holy Spirit wants to do in us and for us today.

I think the King James Version translates Acts 2:1 best, And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

In one accord and one place.

There is something about coming together in one place, with one purpose. Just to magnify and worship Jesus. It was in that setting the Spirit fell.

We must learn to enter his gates with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise if we are truly going to see the Spirit of God fall.

David bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem danced before the Lord, not just danced but removed his kingly garment and danced before the King. His wife didn't like it, but David said I will get even more undignified than this.

See the ark carried the presence of God. Now we carry the presence. David bringing the ark back sacrificed after taking six steps. Should we not offer the sacrifice of praise as well.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?



1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Hebrews 13:15-16 - Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Verse 16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

We do that to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.

I love this passage in 1 Chronicles 21

1 Chronicles 21:24 and 25 - But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing." 25 So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site. 26 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the Lord, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

First off David made sure his sacrifice cost him something. When you come to the house of the Lord and everything has been crashing around you and you walk in this place and wish you would have stayed home. That is when you need to offer the sacrifice of praise.

But pastor you don't know about my day, praise Him anyway.

Psalm 22 tells us that He inhabits the praises of His people.

You want an encounter with the Holy One. Praise Him.

You need a healing, praise Him.

But I don't feel like I can. That's when it becomes a sacrifice.

But others may think I'm weird. That's when it becomes a sacrifice.

The person next to me may not like it. That's when it becomes a sacrifice.

David after he built the altar, Scripture says, He called on the Lord, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

We sing a song that says,

Set a fire down in my soul

That I can't contain that I can't control

I want more of you God, I want more of you God

Do you? Want a fire you can't control? Do you? Want more of Him?

It just may take a sacrifice of praise.

Acts 16:22-26 - The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

Surely that was a sacrifice of praise.

But look what happened verses 29-34.

Acts 16:29-34 - The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

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Surely they saw this all surpassing power from God that day. The jailer had an encounter with Jesus because of the praise of a couple men.

Your praise may allow another person to have an encounter with the Savior.

Your praise while waiting for the Holy Spirit to come, will allow the winds to blow. And when the winds blow your problems blow away as well, your anxiety blows away, your fears blow away.

And God comes in and shakes up and breaks out so that people will know that this all surpassing power is from God and not us.