



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 29, 2024

Acts 2:1-13

[1] When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. [5] Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. [6] And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. [7] And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8] And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? [9] Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, [11] both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." [12] And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" [13] But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

1. Why is it so important for Christians to understand that God's church is built on the power of the Holy Spirit? How would Hawaii Kai Church be different if every member fully embraced this idea?
2. Throughout Scripture, wind and fire are used metaphorically to represent the life giving, powerful, holy presence of God (see Gen 2:7, Ezk 37:8-14, Jn 3:8; Gen 15:17, Exo 3:2-5, 2Ki 2:11) Using these images, describe the Holy Spirit's role within the church. Why do you think the Holy Spirit came upon the early church in such dramatic fashion? Should we expect to see the Holy Spirit manifest Himself in a display of wind and fire today? Why or why not?
3. Think back to the story of the tower of Babel (Pastor Eric preached on this two weeks ago). How is what happened on the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit enabled believers to speak many different languages - a reversal of what happened in Babel? What does this teach you about the necessity of a Spirit filled church, even to this day? (See Rev 7:9)
4. In our sermon we heard that Acts 2 is NOT primarily about speaking in tongues but about Spirit empowered believers being the vehicle to unify all nations within God's church. Why do you think some Christians prefer to focus on the sensational gift of tongues and how does this hinder the church from fulfilling its purpose?
5. The reaction of those who witnessed the Spirit's power on the day of Pentecost was either amazement and astonishment or disbelief and scorn. What do you think is the main contributing factor that leads people to these different responses? What does this teach us about how to build God's church?