

CELEBRATE THE NATIONS

05/19/2024 | Pastor Ron Lewis

WARM UP QUESTION: How do you try to get an advantage in competition, work, life, etc.?

READ: Acts 2:1-13

FOCUS: The gift of the Holy Spirit empowers us and gives us the advantage for life's battles.

OBSERVE:

- Jesus said it was to the disciples' advantage that He go, so that the Holy Spirit could come indwell them and empower them to live as followers of Jesus.
- The disciples were empowered to do great works. The apostles were clothed with power from on high. They were strengthened to overcome fear and to proclaim the gospel with boldness, despite the trials they faced.
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables us to bear witness of who Christ is and to operate under the influence of His power. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be God's witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit fills and sanctifies believers (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 15:16). The Holy Spirit is both our seal that we belong to God and the source of our ability to reflect and proclaim Christ.
- Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to preach about the prophecy given by Joel concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. God promised to pour out His Spirit in power upon all of His people (Joel 2:28-29). The Church began with the moment of Pentecost and every believer is equipped with the same power to do the work of Christ. God has given the church a mission to complete, and God is her source of power to complete that mission.
- Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles who were gathered in the Upper Room. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles the gifts necessary to teach and preach the gospel. Christians celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter.

REFLECT:

- Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit and received power to be a witness?
- How can you better rely on the Holy Spirit in your life as your unfair advantage?

TAKE ACTION:

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Join a discipleship class (Purple Book, Freedom, Equip) that teaches on how to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

PRAY: *Father, thank you for sealing me as your child with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, change me more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Empower me to be a witness of Jesus. Holy Spirit, help me to rely on You more in every area of my life. Amen.*