



THE COMMUNITY OF THE KING

Pentecost
AND THE
CHURCH OF GOD

Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-4

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

- i. Resurrection
 - ii. Ascension (40 days later)
 - iii. Pentecost (10 days after Ascension)
- Together these three dimensions tell the Easter story



A *Waiting*
COMMUNITY

Acts 1:4-5

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

Matthew 13:31-32

WAITING

- The community is to wait for empowerment from the Holy Spirit - "the promise of the Father"
- Not to rush ahead in their own effort
- A word we often hear, 'wait upon the Lord'

... but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

WE ARE NOT GOOD 'WAITERS'

- We want things to happen
- "The message is clear that we are largely an adolescent culture."
(R. Rohr)

WE STRIVE TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

- Success
- Security
- Looking good
- Competition/comparison

Our present age constitutes a virtual conspiracy against the interior life. That is a gentle way of saying that, within our culture, distraction is normal, prayer and solitude are not.

Ronald Rolheiser

A *Hopeful* COMMUNITY

Acts 1:6-8a

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

Acts 1:6-8a

WAIT FOR EMPOWERMENT

- The disciples are told, 'you will receive power' (v8)
- 'The restoration of the Kingdom' (v6)



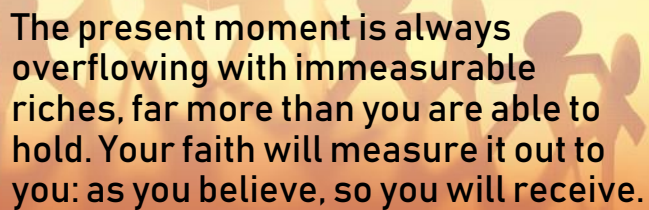
HOPE

- Not as wishful thinking
- But confidence in the future actions of God



NOT PASSIVE WAITING

- An engagement in each moment with God
- “All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer” (1:14)



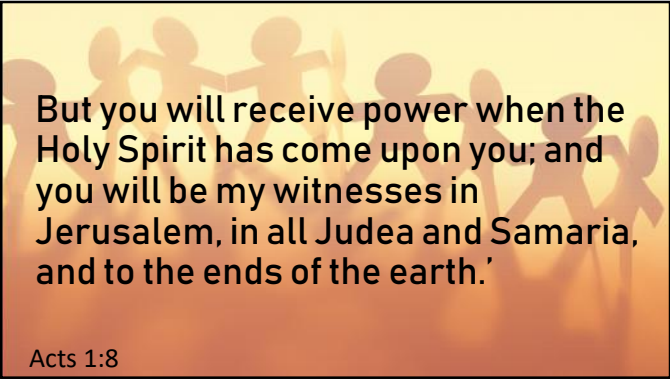
The present moment is always overflowing with immeasurable riches, far more than you are able to hold. Your faith will measure it out to you: as you believe, so you will receive.

Jean-Pierre de Caussade



A *Purposeful* COMMUNITY

Acts 1:8



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

Acts 1:8



THE DISCIPLES’ CALLING

- “You will be my witnesses...”
– in all the earth



SENT ONES

- We are all 'sent ones' by the Sender
- A true vocation – represent Jesus

Yet the fact remains that rapid church growth does not depend upon either money or buildings. It is more likely to depend on the availability of people – either foreign or national – who are ready to exercise their gifts in witness and ministry.

Howard A. Snyder



AN *Empowered* COMMUNITY

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4



ALL TOGETHER

- The second of the great Jewish festivals – Passover, Pentecost, Succot
- A harvest festival (wheat) & a celebration of the Torah given at Sinai

A THEOPHANY

- Noise – like a violent wind filling the house
- Fire – divided tongues as a fire rests upon each one
- Speech – ability to speak other languages all praising God



UNDOING BABEL

- Confusion of languages of Babel brought together in people understanding God's voice
- The birth of a new people – multi-racial, multi-national, multi-lingual (v8-11)

MOVING OUT AS A NEW PEOPLE

- From Pentecost the church moves out to every people & land
- A message of love, unity & peace

