



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

June 9, 2019
Pentecost Sunday

Let the Fire Fall

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. —Acts 2:1-6, 33

Dark images of crowds walking along the dark roads of Yosemite fill one of my earliest memories. Unbeknownst to me, as I walked, Rangers of the National Parks Service were tending a massive bonfire high up on Glacier Point. They were preparing a nightly ritual nearly 100 years old—The Fire Falls.

Thousands attended each year, anxious to see the spectacle of fire falling like a waterfall for 1700 feet. Every ear awaited the call from David Curry, “Let the fire fall!”

Twenty centuries go, fire fell from heaven, filling Jesus’ small band of disciples and calling people from every nation, kindred, and tongue to Christ. When God’s Spirit falls on His people, great things happen.

- **God moves His people to speak:** *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- **Miraculously, people understand:** *Each one was hearing them speak in his own language.*
- **God speaks to people worldwide:** *Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven ... each one was hearing them speak in his own language (2:5, 6b).*
- **God connects His truth to life:** *But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*
- **God saves people from sin:** *And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
- **The Gospel is proclaimed in power:** *This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*
- **Christ’s resurrection is proclaimed:** *This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.*
- **God brings conviction of sin and saves souls:** *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “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.*
- **The name of Jesus Christ is exalted:** *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

God once accompanied His people in a Pillar of Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night. He spoke often to His servant Moses from that same pillar during their 40 years wandering in the desert. The same “fiery, cloudy pillar” later filled God’s temple, making His People Israel distinct and renown in the ancient world.

But after centuries of persistent sin, God departed from His people. Ezekiel watched His glory ascend from the temple, move eastward and leave the Land of Israel. By the time of Christ, it had been gone 400 years. At Pentecost, it returned.

After over 240 years of God’s blessing on the United States, our culture is systematically attempting to oust the Lord Jesus Christ from our nation. Dismayed, His Church is rallying to respond. But no amount of human effort in and of itself can avail to turn the spiritual tide. But our God is now as always mighty to save.

Pray as His people, “Let the fire fall!” To the praise of His glory.

Desiring God

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
—Matthew 13:44-46

Familiarity often robs us of understanding. Years of “doing church” easily lulls God’s people into a comfortable routine that takes the place of a vital relationship with God. Our love grows cold, as we follow our habits and established patterns of behavior more than we follow Christ. This is how things go with what matters to us most.

But love for God flows from God, and *we love because He first loved us* (1st John 4:19). God loves us enough to send jolts into our lives that shake up our world. He knows how to wake us up, so we can see just how great a treasure we have in Christ.

Ask God to fill you with a love for Him that makes you long to be in His presence. Let the love of Christ draw you to times with Him in prayer and reflection on His Word. Learn to savor time with the Savior and receive refreshment and strength directly from God.

Rejoice in the riches you have in Christ Jesus.

Pray for our leaders to enjoy the same blessing in God’s presence.

- 1. Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
- 2. Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
- 3. Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

Praise Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

—Ephesians 5:18-20