

Covenant Life

- TODAY at 4pm, join us for a special Pentecost Prayer Meeting.
- After our Pentecost Gathering, we will have a small reception to honor Neil Coward for his lifetime of Community leadership service. If you are able consider bringing an individually wrapped appetizer or dessert to share.

Reflection - As I reflect on nearly fifty years of covenant community, we have experienced ups and downs, good times and difficult times, joy, and hardship...but through it all God was present in His people. I can see many examples of the *Parable of the Sower* (Math 13: 3b-9). Reflecting on this I pondered the question, what enabled some seed to prosper in rich soil returning 30, 60, 100-fold?

Clearly the first step in the answer is recognizing the love of the Father and accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. When our life emanates from our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we are transformed into a new creation. The power of this encounter with the person of Jesus Christ cannot be understated.

But there is a second step in the answer. Jesus explains in John 16:7 that He must go for the Holy Spirit to come. We know the reason for this is that God has a plan for all His children to be with Him and we cannot return 30, 60, 100-fold of our own accord...we need His power, the power of His Holy Spirit.

This two-part answer is captured in the phrase *Disciples on Mission*. We are called to be Jesus' disciples AND we are called out on mission. We are not going to be successful on mission as a timid Church. The glory and power of Pentecost is a Church set on fire with love, boldness, and zeal to be a light to the nations, a light to the ends of the earth. A life transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit is a life washed clean by the living waters of the Spirit where these living waters transform us from the inside out. We are not transformed by the outside culture but rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit's living waters within, we are able to transform the culture outside us. What makes this possible is the grace of the Spirit at work in us as temples of His Holy Spirit.

This is what has enabled a humble group of charismatics in Dallas to stay together for nearly fifty years. We recognized God's love, we gave our lives to Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and we asked for and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are now equipped to respond to the last words Jesus (Math 28:19) to go 'make disciples of all nations.'

In the first reading ([Acts 2:1-11](#)) I was drawn to two phrases '*they were all in one place together*' and '*they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*'. Today at 4pm we will all gather at one place together, under the spout where the glory comes out and will claim the promise that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. I hope to see you there.

God bless,
David