

**HARRINGAY UNITED CHURCH-BAPTIST**  
**FILL US WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009.**

Text: Acts 2:1-13

Theme focus: Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Introduction:**

This is an important event, which was going to change the world, and little did the participants know what they were getting at. Little did they who were uneducated fishermen and despised fishermen would be history makers.

“We are not going to move this world by criticism of it nor conformity to it, but by the combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God”, says Vance Havner.

I cannot agree more with Vance because the early Church did not have any of those things we consider essential for success today like education, money, buildings, political influence and social status yet, they turned their world upside down and won many to Christ because the Holy Spirit empowered them. The same Holy Spirit that worked in them that day is still available today and even now. The better we understand His work on the Pentecost day the better we relate to him and experience His power today too. The Bible is to be believed before we can experience what is written in it.

So as we celebrate this great event today, I urge you to pray earnestly open your hearts to the word of God that brings light to the hearts receive it.

Today I am going to talk about three things, the Church in waiting, the Church in worship and the Church in power.

**The Church in waiting: v1**

In Acts 1:4 they were commanded to wait in Jerusalem to receive the gift that the Father had promised. The Disciples number about 120 waited in Jerusalem  
Time and Place: This particular day was the day of Pentecost. Pentecost means ‘fiftieth’. The fiftieth day after the Passover, ( $7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$ ) the festival of First Fruits as commanded by God through Moses.

It should be noted that the Jewish festivals in Leviticus 23 are the outline of Christ’s ministry. The Passover pictures his death as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; the first fruits depict his resurrection and the

Pentecost when the law was given through Moses depicts the Church formation and when the Holy Spirit was given.

They gathered in one accord, praying and sharing things together. Unlike when their Master was with them, they were in harmony and united. There was no more rivalry, selfish ambition and arguments about who is greatest among them. Now they are in unity and when brethren dwell in unity, God commands His blessing (Psalm 133).

There is a lesson for the Church today to learn from this. Any Church where there is wrangling and discord, blessing is far from it. Therefore, if we want God's blessing, Churches and members must stop their rancour and get on board on Unity Coach of Christ. Christ prayed that the Church might be one so that the world will see that we are God's children.

The Holy Spirit came a sound like a violent wind came in to the house and they saw something like tongues of fire that separate and came to rest on each of them. Because the sound was so powerful, it attracted the attention of the people in the house and the surroundings

Let me say something about the description of what happened. It was like tongue divided like fire, if tongue divides giving rise to double tongues which may be a sign that they would speak another language and fire is a sign of purification/sanctification and power. No wonder they were different

### **The Results;**

1. They were filled with the Holy Spirit as predicted by John the Baptist in John 1:33 and Jesus in Acts 1:8-9.
2. They began to speak in other tongues. What does this one mean? It means that the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak discernible and understandable languages they have not learnt and that are why the Jews who were born in various parts of the world but took their residence in Jerusalem heard them speak in their language and fifteen of such languages were recorded. Whether all of them speak fifteen languages at the same time or each of them, one language we do not know but it is certain that they spoke other languages they have not learnt.

This is an extra ordinary event and it can only take God to do it. For me, it is a miracle to speak a language you have not learnt.

Speaking in other tongues has been abused greatly at various times in the history of the Church especially within the last 40 years or so. Some churches

teach that if you do not speak in tongues, you are not a born again Christian. Some go to the extent of teaching how to speak in other tongues. This is very wrong. Since it is a gift from the Holy Spirit, it cannot be learnt or taught, if this is OK then people will soon learn, to prophesy, do healing, work miracles.

Another thing I want to say is that we do not know those that spoke in other tongues that day understood what they were saying but as we learnt from Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, the speaker of other tongues may not understand what they were speaking.

On the contrary, some believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have gone with the Apostles. I believe that this is not right too. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and He is still in the business of giving gifts to His Church, He heals today; He does miracles today and gives revelations to people today. It will be share unbelief to claim that those gifts have disappeared with the Apostles.

I believe that all those gifts are real because I have experienced some and still asking for more. If you want anything, ask God and he will give you if He knows that you need it.

#### **Church in Worship:**

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, they were speaking in other tongues. It is interesting to know what they were speaking. Verse 11 says that ‘.We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God’. This is simply they were worshipping God, saying how great, awesome, wonderful, glorious and spectacular God is. They were giving Him His worth and due.

When this is done, God inhabits the worship and praise of His people, exercise his power and shows His glory.

I do not suggest that the ten days prayer was solely responsible for the filling of the Holy Spirit, but waiting on God and dwelling in His presence through prayer and meditation is a powerful means of communicating with God and hearing from Him. This also does not mean he cannot speak to us in chaos or noise. In fact he often does and he has promised not leave us nor forsakes us in whatever situations we might be.

For us to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit and power we must cultivate the heart of worship. Our lives, actions, and words must worship God.

**Church in Power:**

Nothing can be compared with worshipping God spending time in His presence and enjoying deep relationship with Him, because in his presence there is fullness of joy.

After Jesus' baptism, the Bible records that He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power and He went about doing good. In addition, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were empowered to witness and miracles followed. That is why Peter was able to stand and address the people with power and conviction and 3000 were won that day.

It was not Peter's doing but the outworking of the Holy Spirit through him that made this possible.

You know something Church, if we are able to return to the way the people of Old worshipped God, we would get their results.

There is a song in Yoruba that says 'God exists like of old, it is we that do not worship Him as of old.'

**Conclusion:**

On this note, I charge you Church to be more prayerful, spend time with God in worship, stay together in unity and wait to see what God will do in our generation.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us every time.