**Power from Pentecost**

**Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

* **Acts 1:8** – power comes from the Holy Spirit.
* Testimony of my upper room experience.
* **Acts 2:2**.
* The mighty rushing wind shows us that God desires to fill us with His Holy Spirit.
* There are some interesting differences between this Pentecost and the first Pentecost when the Law was given.
  + In **Exodus 19:17** the people stood.
  + In **Acts 2:2** the disciples were sitting (**Acts 1:15** tells us that Peter stood up – the Greek means he arose from sitting).
  + Servants stand, children sit.
* In **Exodus 19:17** they were at the foot of the mountain.
* The disciples were in the upper room in Jerusalem (Mt. Zion).
* God desires to elevate us.
* In **Exodus 19:16** there was thundering and lightning causing the people to fear.
* In **Acts 2:2** there was only a wind.
* God’s judgement was placed on Jesus so we can experience the power of the Holy Spirit.
* This power fell upon the 120 (**Acts 1:15**) causing them to speak in tongues.
* In **2 Chronicles 5:12-14** there were 120 priests who fell under the glory of God.
* 120 shows a divinely appointed number of people to experience God’s presence in a new way.
* All of this shows that God desires to elevate His children to experience His glory through the Holy Spirit.
* **Acts 2:3** – ‘upon’ = to cover, to envelop.
* **Ezekiel 1:26-27** and **8:1-3** - Ezekiel had a vision of God.
* In the visions God had the colour of amber with fire surrounding Him.
* This is like the old *Ready Brek* advert.
* This compete covering is what baptise means.
* From the Greek *baptizo* (G 907) which means to immerse, to make fully wet.
* This word is usually used of baptising in water but the first mention of *baptizo* in the New Testament is in **Matthew 3:11** where the exact same word is used for baptism in water and baptism in the Holy Spirit.
* **Acts 2:5-12** – Hebrew was spoken but people heard the words in their own language – Latin, Greek, Syrian etc.
* This was a temporary reversal of the effect of Babel (**Genesis 11**).
* Star Trek – universal translator.
* Tongues in Russia.
* Tongues are good – **1 Corinthians 14:39**.
* Tongues are from God, not the devil.
* I spent 20 years living like the devil but not once did I speak in tongues!

**Speaking in Tongues is a Gift**

* **2 Timothy 1:6** - Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him.
* What is Paul talking about here?
* You might have heard people say that the gift was love or maybe the gift of the Holy Spirit.
* But was it?
* Notice that the gift was given by the laying on of hands – love does not come that way, but what about the Holy Spirit?
* The word for ‘gift’ here in **2 Timothy 1:6** is the Greek word *charisma* (Strong’s 5486) which is always used of a gift given **by** the Holy Spirit.
* This is showing that this verse is talking about a gift **of** the Holy Spirit and not the Holy Spirit Himself.
* But which of the gifts is being referred to?
* In **Acts 19:6** when the Apostle Paul laid hands upon the disciples they spoke in tongues and prophesied – that narrows it down to two.
* Of these two only speaking in tongues operates under the will of the individual (see **1 Corinthians 14).**
* Speaking in tongues is the only gift that operates under the will of a person, therefore we can stir it up.
* The result of stirring up this gift of praying in tongues will be the manifestation of love, power etc. as **2 Timothy 1:7** tells us.
* But when the Holy Spirit was given **as** a gift the Greek word used is *dorea* (Strong’s 1431). We can see this in **Acts 2:38, Acts 10:45** and **Hebrews 6:4**.
* The first time that *dorea* is mentioned in the Bible is in **John 4:10** when Jesus is speaking to the woman at the well about Himself.

**Why Tongues?**

* Why did God choose to anoint our tongues NOT our eyes, ears, hands or feet?
* **James 3:2-10** – just like the rudder gives a ship direction, so our tongues will direct our lives.
* Today we might say that a steering wheel directs a car.
* When we speak in tongues we are speaking God’s Heavenly language and enabling Him to direct our course.

**The Transferable Anointing**

* **Acts 19:6** – the New Testament evidence of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands was speaking in tongues.
* The people mentioned in **Acts 19:6** were believers but had not heard of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 19:1-5**).
  + **Acts 19:1-5** shows the people were baptised with John’s baptism of repentance, then baptised in the name of Jesus – two water baptisms!
* We have seen that the way to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is through the laying on of hands.
* The anointing is transferrable.
* **Acts 19:11-12** – Paul’s special miracles.
* A handkerchief and a horse.
* **Acts 8:20-23** – Simon wanting to buy the anointing.
  + Not charlatans – give me money and receive an anointed handkerchief.
  + Red for healing, green for prosperity.
* **Acts 19:13-20** – the seven sons of Sceva.
  + Vagabond Jews who were exorcists – they had some success.
  + They did not know this Jesus who Paul preached.
  + This resulted in a severe beating.
  + DON’T TRY AND DO THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHOUT HIM – you can’t.
  + Is your name known in hell?
  + Yes, our names are known and written in heaven but are you such a nuisance to the devil that he knows your name?
* **2 Kings 2:9-12, 13-15** – Elijah’s anointing was passed on to Elisha.
* **2 Kings 4:29-37** – Elisha’s anointed staff was given to Gehazi to effect a miracle but was unsuccessful. Why?
  + Gehazi’s heart was not right.
  + **2 Kings 5:20-27** shows that his heart was not after God but after things.
* Upon Elisha’s death there was no transfer of the anointing to Gehazi.
  + So what happened to the anointing?
  + **2 Kings 13:20-21**- the anointing stayed on Elisha’s bones and caused a dead man to be resurrected.
  + This shows the importance of mentoring.

**Conclusion**

* The power of Pentecost is available for us today.
* It is not just a history lesson but a practical lesson to teach us to live a victorious Christian life.
* So let us put into practice the power of Pentecost. Amen.