

Pentecost

△ Acts 2:1-13, Eph 3:1-13

Acts 2:1-13

The Spirit comes upon the disciples

Two sections

Section 1: The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples

△ v1-4

At Pentecost - The Feast of Weeks - Shavuot

Wheat harvest

But also commemorates the giving of the Law

The sound of violent wind from Heaven

Stayed inside the house

This sound probably attracted the attention from those outside

Divided tongues of fire

Appeared

And rested on each of them

And their speech was able to be understood by all, regardless of their language

The Spirit enables them to speak and proclaim the gospel

To all the nations. and in every language

The Law was now also in their hearts

As per Jeremiah 31:33

**“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.**

On the day that the Law was given to Moses, God gives a new Law to the disciples

Section 2: The effect of the outpouring of the Spirit

Everyone could understand them

And they heard the gospel:

we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

△ v11

This was the first time the Spirit came upon the Disciples

very dramatic way

First time: baptism of the Holy Spirit

But they will receive the Spirit upon them many different times

For preaching (Peter rest of Acts 2)

For healing Acts Ch 3, Ch 5 12-16

Ch 3: Peter heals a lame man

Ch 5:12-16: The Apostles heal many

For miracles Acts 4:31

The prayer for God to empower them and the

place was shaken

And he spoke the word of God with boldness

That is why the Spirit comes

To guide and empower the Church to proclaim the Good News

This is why we need the Holy Spirit too

Sue Wenham: Build your Kingdom here'

Note

Ephesians 3:14-21

Picking up from v3:1, where he interrupted himself

So the therefore relates to Chapter 2

As Gentiles they were now also accepted in the family of God

And he finishes:

²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

That they and we are a dwelling-place for God

How? and that is what he prays for

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians

He does not pray for people's health, wellbeing, prosperity, happiness

He prays that they will become this dwelling place for God

Prayer 1:

△ Eph 3:17-17

¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Riches of his glory

There is abundance here

There's plenty to go around

Strengthened in your inner being

Our soul, our mind, our heart

Not our bodies, wealth, or prosperity

with the Power through the Spirit

He gives us power - dynamis

Sounds familiar

But this is not power for our earthly wellbeing

It is power to have relationship with God

Because through this power:

Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

By this power Jesus himself will reside in our hearts

Yes, we have to believe (by faith)

But this is also a gift of the Holy Spirit

That we have received by grace

Rooted and grounded in love

This is the result of Christ dwelling in us

It is a double foundation: rooted and grounded

That means that our whole existence, our whole motivation for living is the Love of Christ

Prayer 2:

△ Eph 3:18-19

¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Paul carries on with the importance of this love

And he asks that they and we will comprehend and know the love of God

But that is not enough

He wants us to know it not individually but as a body - with all the saints

Every Christians everywhere
the breadth, length, height, and depth

This love is clearly unmeasurable

But he still wants us to get our head around it!

The power to comprehend this love

Clearly it is not easy, as we again need that power

But this is not dynamis

but to be eminently able, and to have full strength

Surpasses knowledge

This love cannot be understood by our minds

This love can only be known in our hearts

It becomes a deeper reality than what we can reason or think

To be filled with the all the fullness of God

More superlatives

We are filled with God

But not only with part of God

But with all of God

Can you imagine this?

Can you imagine praying this for ourselves?

But this is what Paul wants for them and for us

This is what God wants for us

Prayer 3:

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul finishes with a doxology

But it is also an affirmation

It is an encouragement

it is an encouragement

And it gives a result when Paul's prayer is answered

There are really two statements

"Now to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever."

This is the outcome!

If we understand the fullness of God and if the fullness of God resides in us

The this will result in that we (the church) gives glory to God the Father in Christ Jesus!

For ever - all generations

That is why Paul prays this prayer.

Not for themselves

But for God and the Church

For the Kingdom of God to come on the earth

But then, there's the middle bit:

who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine

1. God's power is at work within us

This is the Holy Spirit

2. God is able to do greater things than what we can dream, imagine, or even request from God

And to be honest, Paul's prayer already extends what I would have asked of God

I am at the level of praying for my health and wellbeing

And I pray for the Church, for St Andres

But to pray that I will be filled with all the fullness of God?

That is beyond my imagination

And there is more: by the power at work within us

He does not work miracles outside of us, but also inside of us, and then through us

It is this power that is at work within us that builds the church

The third person of the Trinity:

Holy Spirit

Which brings us back to Pentecost

Paul knew what he was talking about as he also received the Spirit when Ananias laid hands on Paul. And as sign of the Spirit his sight was restored

¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

Paul had his own Pentecost

And so can we

And I would like to pray for you.

I would like to pray for your own
Pentecost

That you would be filled with all the
fullness of God - that is the Holy Spirit

But would you like that
yourselves?

This is by faith

This is: do we believe that God
can and wants to do this for us

He does!

But do you believe?

Prayer Eph 3:20-21 for
ourselves

Then offer anointing