



“The Miracles of Pentecost”

May 31, 2020 – Acts 2:1-4

We are going to spend some time in Acts Chapter 2 this morning. Today is Pentecost Sunday, and we are going to spend some time thinking about what that means. We will do so as we read about one of the greatest gifts that God has bestowed upon His people. It is an astonishing gift.

I wonder how many of you have ever been super excited to give somebody else a gift. I remember back about twenty-years ago when I purchased an engagement ring for a young woman by the name of Kristy Michelle Beck. After I bought the ring, I held on to it for close to a month before finding the right time to give it to her. I was going nuts the whole time that I had that ring in my possession! The time finally came when I discerned the right night and place to give it to Kristy.

My plan was to drive her to a spot we like to go to on the beach just south of Laguna Beach. I took that little ring box and put it in the glove box of my car. I picked Kristy up and off we went. As we were driving to that beach, I was thinking what if she opened the glove compartment, and was praying that she did not do that! Once we arrived at the beach, I realized that I had a dilemma on my hands. Somehow I had to reach into the glove compartment and get the ring without spoiling the surprise I was going to pop on her once we were at the romantic setting on the beach. I wondered how I would get the box out without Kristy seeing it. So, charming man that I am, I looked at her and said, Kristy, aren't you going to open the door for me? She said, Excuse me? So I repeated myself.

Kristy was just looking at me. Then sweet woman that she is, she said okay. She walked around the vehicle and when I saw that she could not see what I was doing, I grabbed that ring and put it in my pocket. Down the beach we went. There in the beautiful moonlight of Southern California, I asked Kristy to be my wife, and she said yes! And we have enjoyed close to two decades together, approaching our nineteenth wedding anniversary very soon.

In the pages of Scripture, we see that there was a gift that God was so very desirous of giving His people, though there was some time that passed before He actually gave it in all of its fullness. We read in the prophecy of Joel how this gift was prophesied some eight-hundred-years before it was actually given. We read in Ezekiel how it was prophesied about five-hundred and seventy years before it was actually given.

When we get into the life of Christ and see that the Lord Jesus spoke of it, we see that Christ Himself was most desirous to give this gift to His people. He spoke of it with such frequency in the days leading up to His crucifixion. Then after being raised from the grave, during that period of forty-days, He continuously told His church about the gift that was to be given.

The giving of this gift was a supernatural event in history that pertains to every person who is a follower of Christ and every church that belongs to Him. I'm sure that you have figured it out by now. We have been talking about it all morning. The gift that we are talking about is the gift of the Holy Spirit, the indwelling presence of the Spirit of the Living God permanently within His people

This morning as we open up the Word of God, we read about that moment that God was looking forward to throughout all ages past; that sovereignly selected point in time when this gift would be poured out upon His people.

With these things in our hearts, let's look at what is written for us in Acts Chapter 2. It is the days following the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. He had ascended to the right hand of the Father. Jesus told them to wait. His disciples were in an upper room. Then something wonderful happened.

Let's read about it in Acts Chapter 2 and Verses 1 through 4:

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Brothers and sisters, the paragraph that we just read was a massive shift in world history. Acts Chapter 2 records for us one of the great transitions recorded for us in the pages of Scripture.

For throughout the days of the Old Covenant and the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was with the people of God and the Holy Spirit would come upon the people of God, but here at that moment, the Holy Spirit came to permanently indwell the people of God.

The Holy Spirit would come to reside within each and every humble-hearted, repentant follower of Christ, brought to such repentance by the work of the very Spirit who entered into them permanently. We have a picture of the Spirit coming within the people.

I gave Kristy a ring, and eventually on June 9, 2001, she gave me a ring too. We gave each other rings as symbols and seals of the covenant that we were making together. So the Holy Spirit has been given to the people of God as a seal of the covenant that we have with Him by His grace in Christ Jesus.

In Ephesians Chapter 1, the Holy Spirit is spoken of as a deposit that is permanently given to the people of God, guaranteeing the promised inheritance that is to come. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter. He is the Guide. He is the Teacher. He is the Counselor. He is our Keeper. He is our Friend. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit, given the people of God.

This morning I want to share with you three miracles that occurred at that point in history when the Spirit was given in this way. As we examine these things that took place, I pray that it will fill each heart with living hope.

There are a lot of people in this world, maybe even in the church, that are discouraged as they look at the world around them and the chaos that seems to be unfolding. These are distressing times, but I want to give us all a reminder that God has broken into the world. God is present in this world and He is within the hearts of His people. He seeks to empower His people to shed light in a dark world that there is a Savior and that there is a way of transforming grace that comes in Christ and in Christ alone.

So this morning I want for us to look at these three miracles of Pentecost. First we will see that there was a miracle of sound. Then we will see that there was a miracle of sight. Finally, we will see that there was a miracle of speech.

Each one of these miracles manifested on that day were unique in the early church in an uncommon way. The miracles that took place signaled ongoing realities that pertain to every follower of Christ in every local church. These things carry great significance for all of us.

We will dig in and look at three miracles that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who now indwells the church of God. First, notice with me that there was:

1. A Miracle of Sound (2:1-2)

That miracle of sound was a signal of the power that was being brought to the church. Let's take a look at this as we read what is in Verse 2. Let's start with Verse 1, however:

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

There was a sound of wind. I don't understand it to actually have been the blowing of wind, so that their hair was getting windblown in that house. Verse 2 says that it was a sound of mighty rushing wind that filled the entire house where they were sitting.

The Greek language indicates that this sound was something powerful and fearsome. The word that was used to describe it, even had the connotation of something violent and turbulent. It would have been something that was awesome and powerful!

A couple of weeks ago, the United States Airforce saw fit to honor and recognize the first responders, hospital workers, and the people that were working on the front lines during the Coronavirus concern. The United States Airforce, they dispatched a squadron of Thunderbird Jet Fighter planes. We followed the schedule, trying to determine exactly when they would be within sight of our home, so we had our chairs out front under the shade.

We were waiting and waiting and waiting for them. I went into the kitchen for some reason, I don't remember why. I knew I had to be quick. Suddenly from the west, I heard the sound of engines roaring. I ran outside into the front yard just in time to see these planes fly pretty much directly overhead of us.

It was awesome! As impressive as the sight of these planes were, the sound of them was more impressive still. It was so loud. It was so powerful. It says in this text that there was this mighty rushing wind and it was the sound of it. There was a miracle of sound that occurred signaling us all to the power that comes to the people of God by the presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

The Holy Spirit comes to us with creation power. He comes to us with resurrection power. He comes to us with almighty power to empower the witness of the church of the Living God. It is an amazing thing that we are looking at.

In the world that we are living in now, isn't it true that we need God's help and that we as the church, we need God's power filling us up, so that we can effectively be witnesses for the Kingdom that is to come in Christ Jesus?

You look through the pages of the New Testament and it is interesting to me how different New Testament writings give emphasis to the different aspects of the power of God that the Holy Spirit brings to His people.

While each of these books of the New Testament, they speak of all different aspects of the Holy Spirit, it occurred to me that some of them have a special focus. In the book of Acts we see the Holy Spirit's power in the witness and evangelism of the church.

We read in Acts 1:8 that Jesus said:

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The Lord Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, helps us to testify to the saving grace that comes through Christ alone by His shed blood on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.

Brothers and sisters, it is only through Jesus Christ that true and thorough transformation can come to the sinful fallen human condition. We have been given this message of redeeming, forgiving, transforming grace in Jesus. We need to go before the Lord anew daily, asking to be empowered as witnesses for Jesus Christ. How are you doing in this? Are you going before the Lord daily asking that He would empower you as a witness to the Kingdom of the Messiah?

The book of Acts, it has this special emphasis on the power that the Holy Spirit brings to witness. Moving to the next book in the New Testament, you have the book of Romans. While there is much teaching about the power of the Holy Spirit, there is also a wonderful emphasis on how the Holy Spirit brings us power for sanctification.

By that, I mean power to put to death the propensity of lingering sin within even the people of God and to grow in the practice of righteousness instead. In Romans Chapters 6 through 8, we read how it is by the Holy Spirit that we put to death the misdeeds of the body; that we, by God's power alone, can stop offering the various parts of our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness

It is when we are filled with the Holy Spirit that we are renewed in such a way that we offer the different parts of our bodies, hands, brains, speech, feet, our everything as instruments for righteousness. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We need to pray that God would freshly empower us so that we might grow in holiness.

Going to a couple of books later in the New Testament, to the book of Galatians, we read that it is the Holy Spirit that bears the fruit of Christ-like character within the people of God. It is when we are keeping in step and filled with the Spirit that He starts to produce in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

After the book of Galatians in the New Testament comes Ephesians. There we read of another work that the Holy Spirit empowers among the people of God. It is that he brings unity and love and harmony, even among people now united in Christ, who are of different ethnic backgrounds.

In the First Century world, you had Jews and Gentiles, the Judeans and the Romans, people who would have previously despised one another, now loving one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord, being joined together in unity as they had their hearts fixed on the saving mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to unite the different cultures and people groups and ethnicities of this earth together in the bond of love in Christ. Brothers and sisters, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it ought to be something unique and wonderful that stands out.

In this day where we are being reminded that there is racism in this world, I pray that we in the church would have this renewed understanding of the beauty of the different ethnicities that King Jesus created and that we would be meshed together in the bond of love as we keep our eyes on Christ, filled with the power of His Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us with power.

These were just a handful that were on my heart on this day. Brothers and sisters, Bethel Grace, Church of God here in Bellflower, let us pray for fresh wind and fresh fire from the Holy Spirit that we might be those who are effective witnesses to Him, verbally and visibly.

It is His work in us. We can't conjure it up of ourselves. We are fallen sinners who need the power of the Messiah on us in every way to bring about these results, so we pray that the Spirit will fill us individually and as a church to make these things so.

There was a miracle of sound. That miracle of sound signals us to the power that the Spirit brings. We also see in this text:

2. A Miracle of Sight (2:3)

We see a miracle of sight that signals us to the holiness that is brought to the church by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The very holiness of God comes to us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. Did you notice the miracle of sight that occurred there in that room? It says in Verse 3. There was the loud sound of the rushing wind, then something became visible.

³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

The language here in this verse indicates that there was something singular that then separated and was portioned out into pieces. As we try to imagine being there and what this was like in that room, we can imagine that there was tongues of fire, all clustered together at first in the middle of the room.

Maybe these clusters were elevated up so that everybody could see. I kind of picture it as a visible manifestation like a chandelier in the middle of the room. They were hearing all this, then they were seeing it.

Then a portion of fire separated. There were a hundred and twenty people in that room, then there were a hundred and twenty portions of fire. And one portion of fire came to rest upon each and every single one of them. No man, woman, or child was left out.

The Holy Spirit came and talk about being on fire for the Lord! It is hard to know exactly what it looked like but for some reason, I get the picture of a birthday candle with fire resting upon each of them. The second miracle of Pentecost was the miracle of sight.

This sight was signaling us all to the holy and divine presence that comes to rest upon each and every follower of Jesus Christ. Throughout the pages of Scripture the imagery of fire is a picture of the holiness of God. We think about how the prophets testified to the refining fire of the Lord that would come to be at work among the people to continue to purify us in the ways of holiness.

I think that every Jewish person who read this, and all of us who have studied the Bible, and every Sunday graduate knows very well that fire was a symbol of the presence of God. We perhaps go first to the account of the burning bush in Exodus Chapter 3.

Moses was forty years into his exile. He was out tending the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law. Moses was out in the wilderness near Horeb, the mountain of God, where he saw the strange sight of a bush that was burning, yet even with the fire consuming the bush, the bush was not being consumed.

The bush was on fire, but it was not being burned up, not being consumed. Moses went to see this strange sight and once he got close, what did the Lord say to him? Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground.

Likewise, here in the church, we have this fire resting upon human beings, but those human beings are not being consumed. Instead they are being internally lit up with the holy presence of the Living God.

This is an awesome picture that should produce reverence in our hearts. The God who comes to reside within us by the Spirit is holy! Brothers and sisters, we want to be those who are filled with the holy fire of the Lord.

We are reminded of this as we look at different things that are written in the pages of the New Testament. I read this and I went to a statement in the book of I Thessalonians Chapter 5, where Christians were exhorted, *Don't quench the Spirit*.

Do you remember that series of commands, the ones that precede might be more familiar to many of us. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19:

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

Other translations have it: don't put out the Spirit's fire. We need to be careful that we do not diminish the power and the passion that the Holy Spirit desires to bring to our hearts. The way that we can diminish the power and the passion would be through the practice of sin, breaking the commands of God, either by omission or commission.

It could be that the Holy Spirit is prompting us, urging us to go and do something. And when we don't do it, we are putting out the Spirit's fire. It could be that we are tempted in a particular area to break the Law of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is telling us not to do it! What do we do? We transgress and we do it anyway.

Did you know that Christians do that? Christians commit sins of omission and commission. And to be filled with the fire and the passion of the Holy Spirit, we need to be pursuing a life of holiness. We need to go before the Lord honestly, pouring out to Him the condition of our hearts in reality—the fallenness that still remains in us.

We go to the Lord in saving grace as those who confess, Lord, I am a sinner. I can offer you no righteous deeds of my own. I am a sinner in of Your justifying grace. I need a Savior. Thank you that Jesus is the One who paid the penalty for my sin when He endured the wrath that my sin deserves on the cross.

There is still more humble approaching of the Lord, because there is lingering presence of sin within us still and as followers of Christ, we need to be constantly going back to the Lord saying, There is still this pull within me. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. There is this tendency within me still, this remnant of sin where I want to walk away from Your way and to do my own thing.

We need to go back the Lord, asking Him to fill us with His Spirit. We need to be mindful of what Paul encouraged Timothy with at the beginning of II Timothy, the last letter that the Apostle Paul would ever write, when he said to Timothy in II Timothy 1:6:

⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of hands

He went on to say in Verse 7:

⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

We need to fan into flame the gift of God! Brothers and sisters, it is that self-control that is so often the key to increased power and love.

When we stumble in sin and walk in it in an unrepentant way, there is a sense in which we are walking in ongoing guilt. But it is when we come before the Lord confessing our sin and being those who, by His grace, are forgiven, cleansed, and are walking in holiness that that power and love begins to get flamed up within us.

The church of the Living of God is to be a church pursuing holiness. It is as we walk in that holiness that we are walking in the power that the Lord has for us. We need to be those pursuing sanctification by the grace of God.

There was miracle of sight. These tongues of fire signaling the holiness brought to the church. Finally, there was:

3. A Miracle of Speech (2:4)

This miracle of speech on that day was a signal of the worldwide message of the church. The Gospel message that was to go out to every tongue, tribe, nation on the face of the planet earth, bringing in the elect of God that they might be saved into the church of God.

We see this miracle of speech in Verse 4:

⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

As we reflect on this third miracle, there is something that occurred to me as to how it is somewhat distinct from the other two miracles that preceded it.

In the first two miracles there was a sense in which they were external. There was a sound that they heard with their ears. It was a sound that was outside of them that was powerful. Then there was a sight that they saw of the fire. It was something they were seeing outside of them with their eyes.

As I am sure they were just experiencing awesome fear of the Lord in their hearts, wondering what was going on in that room, as they were experiencing holy fear, suddenly a sensation rose up within them.

There was an upwelling of joy from deep within them. Words of worship and gratitude began to pour forth from their mouths as they declared the wonderful works of the Lord. It is as if there was a fountain that was broken loose within them by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As they continued to speak, I don't know when it dawned on them that they were not speaking in their native tongues. They were speaking in different languages. This was on Pentecost Sunday, the Feast of the Pentecost. By the way, that was fifty days after the Passover. There was a harvest festival called The Day of Pentecost. Pentecost means fifty.

It was on that day that they were gathered. It was a joyful occasion. They were celebrating the barely harvest that had just concluded, and the wheat harvest that was to come. It was a joyful time, but the joy that was being experienced in that upper room was a joy that would have outdone all the joy that was filling the streets in Jerusalem, because this was the Holy Spirit that was producing the fruit of joy that was powerful, gushing, flowing like a river from within them.

But they were speaking in other languages. What does it say, Verse 5:

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

On this day of Pentecost, you have a mighty miracle that took place, where suddenly and spontaneously, they were able to speak foreign languages that they, I would imagine, had not studied before. There was so much diversity and it was a miracle of speech.

Imagine if all of a sudden and out of nowhere, you were fluent in German or French or Spanish or Mandarin? Right now my high school son is learning to speak Spanish. It has taken hours a day to just get it down. However, here they were instantly speaking fluently in other languages by the power of the Living God, by the mighty works of God! I have to imagine that they were preaching the works of His great deliverance, culminating in the great work of deliverance from sin that occurred at the cross of Jesus.

There are all kinds of discussions about the gift of tongues, and whether it was only for that point in time in the First Century, or whether it is something that has extended all throughout the ages. My personal take on it is that, on the one hand, I don't see a place in Scripture where the verdict has been rendered, where it says that the gift of tongues was only for the First Century.

I don't read that anywhere and it has been something that I have been taught through the years. But I don't see it in the pages of Scripture. I think the Holy Spirit is free and sovereign to manifest any miracle He wants to manifest at any time, at any place, and in any age. The Holy Spirit and Scripture has not closed the door on that.

That being the case, I see what takes place on lots of religious television, and I think there are great abuses, all kinds of wild things, that are happening, supposedly speaking in tongues. And it is not that at all. It is bunch of foolishness. That is my feeling.

We must be careful because there are some people who are spiritually abused. There are some churches that say that if you have not spoken in tongues, you are not a mature follower of Christ. That is hogwash! That is malarkey!

Just read I Corinthians Chapters 12 through 14. The Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes His gifts to who He wants. Certainly in Corinth, some were given tongues. Others were given interpretations, and others different gifts.

So there are all kinds of good conversations that we can have about the gift of tongues. But I want to bring it back to the main point. Here you have the Holy Spirit giving them utterance so that they could declare the wonders of the Lord to all the nations of the earth, so that a global church of all the ethnicities would be brought together in the Messiah who created them all.

This ethnically diverse, beautiful church, this blending of cultures, is brought together in Christ with love for one another, as their hearts were filled with praise to the King that redeemed them by His blood. It is beautiful!

The gathering of God is filled with different shades of skin, with different shapes of eyes, with different heights, so that some of us will be five-six and others will be six-six. The Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh, as we have read, on all kinds of different people. and they are all made by God. Any hint of racism is sin against the Living God who created every last ethnicity on this planet.

We in the church, not only do we need to be nonracist, but antiracist. It is a sin that needs to be declared, as we seek to live in joyful harmony with one another. I praise God for the limited way that that is happening here at Bethel Grace. I pray that there would be more diversity as people are brought to the Lord, where have a multiethnic family of believers praising King Jesus together, because that is His design.

Bringing this message back home, how is the church built? The church is built through the preaching of the Gospel, through the testimony of the shed blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse sinners, and we are sinners in need of cleansing. Every last one of us, we need to be purified of sin that we might dwell in the holiness and the love of the Lord and in the shed blood of the Messiah, as that is what brings that purification.

We need to proclaim His shed blood and His victory over death, calling people to repentance in faith in Jesus. With all the discussion of all the other tongues, how about the five words that conclude Verse 4?

⁴...the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Spirit gave them utterance. We need to go back to the Lord daily asking Him to help us speak. We have been studying the Gospel of Luke for some time at Bethel Grace. In the Gospel of Luke, we have been observing the Messiah and His work that involved so much, but one part of His work was to cast out demons.

I remember when we were studying about Jesus once He cast out what was called a mute demon, some dark spiritual force that somehow rendered a human being mute that hindered that human being's ability to communicate. Every now and then I asked the Lord if I am somehow being afflicted by a mute demon.

There are times when I know I am supposed to speak up, but keep myself bottled up. I don't know if it is because of a mute demon afflicting me or just in my fallenness, I am being timid. But we need the power of the Holy Spirit to give us utterance that we would speak forth and give verbal testimony to the saving grace of Jesus and that by His Spirit, we would live lives that testify to Him.

This is the calling of the church. We are an outpost of heaven here on this earth to proclaim the glory and the Gospel of the Kingdom. This world is dark and fallen. There is a kingdom of light manifesting on earth, and the Holy Spirit is empowering its witness. We need to be those who pray to the Lord and say, Lord, Help me to be vocal with speech, with writing, typing, with various forms of communication.

The Holy Spirit, He gives us utterances in so many ways. He helps us to utter forth words of Gospel truth, not only to people outside the church, but to people inside the church as well. I appreciated that reminder from Pastor Chris last week.

We tend to think that the Gospel is for the people who are unsaved. No, we all need to be reminded that we are saved by grace, and that we are sanctified by grace. It is by the grace of God that, in the end, we are going to be resurrected and glorified.

The Gospel is for the church as much as it is for the unbelieving world. We need the Gospel. We need to encourage one another in these things, coming along side one another, speaking words of life.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. Colossians 3:16

Not only do we speak words of Gospel truth, but we speak words of healing grace as well. Do we tell each other that we love each other enough? Do we express to people how we see God working in their lives?

What I have noticed about so many people is that so many of us are discouraged, and we don't see the good that God is doing. Sometimes it takes somebody to come along side of us and say, Here is something of worth that God is doing through you. Be encouraged!

We need to express love to one another. How is it that so many men in the church are too much like the Fonz, Arthur Fonzarelli? Maybe this illustration is going way far too back, but those of you who have ever seen Happy Days, there was a man named the Fonz.

Fonz rode a motorcycle. He wore blue jeans and a white t-shirt and a black leather jacket. Fonz was the ultimate cool dude, but what happened whenever he was trying to say that he loved somebody? He would get all tongued-tied and could not spit it out.

The Apostle Paul expressed love to the churches. How about Jesus? As the Father as loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in my love. How about words like: I was wrong. Will you forgive me? Have we agreed yet that the church still deals with lingering sin and sometimes we do stupid and messed up things?

Yet, all the humility that was at the beginning of the Christian life when we admitted we were sinners and were wrong, how come it is so hard to spit it out in the midst of the Christian life? What I did was wrong, and I am sorry. What about saying, I forgive you.

There are so many healing words that the Holy Spirit wants to give us utterance to. We need to be people whose speech is full of grace and seasoned with salt, as it says in Colossians Chapter 4 and Verse 6. That is the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

These are three miracles of Pentecost. There was a miracle of sound with that sound of powerful wind. There was a miracle of sight with that fire of God's holy presence. There was a miracle of speech with the speaking of diverse languages.

All those things attested to a very, very, very special day in human history that came. The power and the purity and the proclamation that was manifested that day, they signaled what was to be true of all the church age, what is directly applicable to us even at humble Bethel Grace Baptist Church.

The Holy Spirit has been given and we need to go back continually before the Lord, saying, Lord, let us be filled with Your Spirit and let us be filled with Your power and presence. Let Him come to us with fresh wind and fresh fire.

With that, we will close in a word of prayer.