

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

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One Jesus, One Spirit, All Nations

In the Book of Acts, Chapters 2:1 – 41, Luke recounts the event after Jesus's ascension into heaven. Jesus had a mere 33 years on earth, a ministry that lasted 3 years and ended dramatically and suddenly with his death, but to everyone's surprise, three days later, he rose from the dead.

For 40 days, Jesus appears to the disciples and a further 500 people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6) until we get him ascending to heaven (Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:4–12), leaving his disciples seeing him transcend. This should have been the end, but it was the beginning instead. It was 50 days from the resurrection, during the Jewish festival when a gathering of 120 people was in this upper room. In the fulfilment of Joel: 2:28-29, the spirit of God moved, and the Church was birthed. People began to speak in other languages and boldly preach the gospel.

This remarkable moment saw over 3,000 people converted that day under the unction of the Holy Spirit. What had started with twelve men, one betrayal leaving only eleven, then in an upper room early one more of 120 persons, resulted in an expeditious growth that took place instantly. Imagine seeing something they had never seen before, never experienced, but suddenly felt like a rushing wind. We cannot see the wind but feel and see its impact.

Catholic Priest and author Henri Nouwen wrote, "Without Pentecost, the Christ-event - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus dwells within us so that we can become living Christ here and now."

The birth of the Church was not limited to one race or gender but to all people who had one thing in common: they believed. In summary, we can see some common denominators that impacted this moment. Firstly, they were in one place.

Pentecost is about the coming together of people. Secondly, they were from different nationalities but of one accord: there was unity in diversity. Lastly, God's power was a witness to many.

Let us today be of one accord to and for the glory of God as we celebrate One Jesus, One Spirit amongst All Nations.
