

“Unstoppable”

I love fire more than I ever have. Fireplace... a real fireplace, chopping. (Axe, logs)

Jesus came to start an unstoppable fire. He said that we would be the light of the world, fire... That's an overwhelming task! We either feel powerless or unmotivated to do anything.

The disciples were overwhelmed by this challenge.

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶

When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹

Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." ¹⁴ Then

Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd ...

Acts 2:1-14 (NIV)

What is the focus? Tongues? NO! The Holy Spirit? NO! It's THE NATIONS! Jesus said go to all nations. Who was there? People from all nations. What did they hear? God being glorified in their own language. What are the tongues all about? THE NATIONS! Were they speaking in other languages? No.

They got zapped by the Spirit and that's what came out. This isn't a new thing in the Bible. When the Holy Spirit falls on someone it usually results in something coming out of their mouths. If I pound your finger with a hammer what will happen? You will probably scream. The tongues just happen. Why? It's a reminder of what the Baptism in the Spirit is all about. THE NATIONS!

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So what about the nations? They need Jesus! How do we tell them? With the help of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit/Tongues are not a spiritual achievement badge or worship toy.

Pentecostal isn't speaking in tongues! It's reaching the nations! A Pentecostal church isn't a church that just speaks in tongues! It's a church that is bringing the kingdom of Jesus to the nations.

How does the Spirit want us to use this Power? How did Jesus use it?

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed...”

Luke 4:18 (NIV)

“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

What did Peter and the Apostles do right after they got hit by the Spirit?

They spoke, gave their lives, changed the world! They went OUT! Out of their home, town, city and country.. OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONES to LOVE PEOPLE FOR JESUS.

Get out of your comfort zone and get the message of Jesus to the nations. Speak and act in the power of the Holy Spirit. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Why should Jesus fill you?

What are you doing with your life that you need that kind of power?

One of the things that I love about a real fireplace is that each log burns differently as they burn altogether. Each fire is unique. A log is consumed and new ones are added. The more logs the more fire... the bigger the burn, the more unstoppable and uncontrollable the fire becomes.

The more they tried to beat out the flames of the early church the more unstoppable it became.

Jesus wants us to be an unstoppable fire that burns this world up by the power of the Holy Spirit.