

**Pentecost**  
**Word & Spirit**  
Acts 2  
June 8th, 2025

**I. Introduction: Reformation & Revival**

At the beginning of Acts, when the disciples were assembled together with Jesus, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). In other words, will you now revive your people? Will you now restore the ruins? Israel, the people of God, were left desolate. Jesus was raised from the dead. But God's people were scattered – and God's people were wicked. Jesus was about to leave, returning back to the Father, and yet the kingdom of Israel was in shambles. They longed for reformation and revival. This question should likewise pest us, especially as our nation wavers in her loyalties. Will there be revival? Will Christianity be restored to America?

Pentecost was the first of many reformations, of many revivals, for the Spirit remains with His Church still. And though our sins cause Him to hide His face, yet His covenant love for us means that He will never forsake us. But regularly throughout the history of the Church, the Spirit is pleased to work renewal in His Church, followed by renewal in this world. The Spirit is poured out upon us from on high and the Kingdom is strengthened and restored. Times of refreshing follow barren winters.

**II. Pentecost**

Peter, filled with the Spirit of God, began to preach; he preached the \_\_\_\_\_. Peter took God's Word, from the prophet Joel, and applied it to what was happening in his own day. In other words, he began *expounding* the Scriptures. Peter recounts what God recently did in their midst, but he doesn't stop here. He takes this, and he connects it back to Scripture.

This what Jesus said would happen. For instance, in John's Gospel (ch. 16), in the Upper Room, on the night He was betrayed, the Lord spoke to His disciples about the coming of the Spirit. He spoke to them of \_\_\_\_\_. And he said that the Spirit of truth will come; that He will guide you into all truth. He does not say that the Spirit will guide them into *new* truth, not into His *own* truth; not in some revelation that is apart from Scripture, or apart from Christ. No, the Spirit will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak. He will glorify \_\_\_\_\_. He will take what belongs to \_\_\_\_\_, and declare that to us. The Spirit took Jesus, the Word of God, and He opened the eyes of the Apostles, so that they could understand. And then they preached that Word to us, and He works in us so that we can understand.

Back in Acts 2, what was the result of Peter's preaching? At the end of his sermon, when his audience's ears were full of the Word of God, Luke writes, "When they heard, they were \_\_\_\_\_ to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37). They repented and were baptized, and God added that day three thousand souls to the number of His people. These men were pierced through by the Word of God, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (Heb. 4:12-13). So Peter, filled with the Spirit of God, enlightened by the Spirit of God, expounded the Scriptures, and

those who heard were pierced through by it, and delivered by Almighty God. This happens at the beginning of Acts, and down through Acts, the same pattern can be seen: men filled with the Spirit wield the Word of God and God graciously brings reformation and renewal to His people and to this world.

### III. Word & Spirit

Pentecost and the period following was the first Christian revival, the first Christian reformation. And it was effected by Word & Spirit: by the Spirit took the things of Christ and made Him known to us. It was the Spirit wielding His own Sword and saving His elect, cutting them down and rebuilding them in Jesus. That is what revival is. That is what we see at Pentecost. That is what we see down through the centuries as God graciously visits His people with His refreshing and renewing presence.

So, how do we get Reformation & Revival? We need the Word and we need the Spirit. We need God's presence with us to revive us and we need His truth to enliven us. We are born of the Spirit and the Word (Jn. 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:23), and we also grow by the Spirit and the Word. Paul says in Ephesians that Christ Jesus sanctifies His Church, in order to present her perfect before Him; and He does this by "the washing of water by the Word" (Eph. 5:26). The Spirit of Christ in our midst takes the Word of God and cleanses us from sin, frees us from dead works, gives us courage and strength to stand in the day of adversity, ignites in us a love for God, purifies us, and makes us new. We ought to continually ask for this work, and we ought to put ourselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God gracious work of revival. There are three ways in particular that we should seek this grace from God.

*FIRST*, if we desire reformation and revival, we should highly \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God and the ministry of His Word. This means we should personally and in our families prize the Word. We ought to make a culture in our home of reading the Word, studying the Word, discussing the Word, memorizing the Word, singing the Word. This also means being attentive to the Word of God preached. It means giving ear to the Word read, heeding the exhortation, listening to the sermon. In the proclamation of the Word, God is addressing His people. We ought to give heed to the Word, not because the preacher is someone special (he's not), but because of the One who addresses you. That One is \_\_\_\_\_.

*SECOND*, don't just listen to the Word, but \_\_\_\_\_ the Word. Let it be written upon your hearts. When the Old Testament prophets spoke of revival, when they spoke of Pentecost, they didn't just describe men prophesying, they didn't just speak of Christ and His resurrection. They spoke of the Spirit filling His people and writing His law upon our hearts (e.g., Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 36:26-27). The Word cannot just be *out there*. We must be united to Him—to the Word of God. We must love the Word of God and cherish the Word of God. And as we do so, the result will be fruit. The Word of Christ abides in us, it conceives, and we bear the fruit of a righteous life.

*THIRD*, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God with boldness. The Spirit enlightened the minds of the apostles. He united them to the Word. He wrote the Word upon their hearts. And then He opened their mouths to speak it with boldness, and so also must we.

### IV. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ