

RENEW – REVIVE – RESTORE

We are going to reflect on that powerful moment in history and we are going to pray from that, for more of that! We are going to spend some time in each picture/ word and intercede as a community.

So before we read, reflect and pray let's be still, finding that walking + talking pace with Jesus.

PRAY

Holy Spirit we invite you to come

You are so welcome

Open our ears to hear what it is you are saying and our eyes to see you at work,

To gaze upon your beauty and to know you more

Still our hearts to a rhythm of peace

That we will be still and know that you are God

In Jesus Name Amen

Let's get a bit of an overview on the context of that great and wonderful day of Pentecost....

READ ACTS 2 – link below

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=MSG>

Easter allows us to reflect and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Following Jesus resurrection he hung around for 40 days with his disciples (Acts 1:3) Imagine that – Jesus who a few days ago you mourned the loss of is now with you walking, talking and sharing more of His Kingdom with you! (Luke 24:39-43) But Jesus can't stay long, He must ascend to be with His Father and establish His everlasting reign. (Luke 24:44-51 + Daniel 7:13-14)

Watching Jesus ascend to heaven the disciples again must have journeyed the loss of their friend and their savior. Yet Jesus promised them that He would send His spirit and He did not fail on keeping that promise!

On the 7th day after the ascension, the disciples gather to pray, to wait and to celebrate an annual festival.

The lead up to this festival was marked at the conclusion of Passover, the first sheaf of the barley harvest would be offered before God in the temple, anticipating the greater harvest that was to follow in the summer. On the fiftieth day after Passover all Israel would come to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate in God's presence. Parents, children, male and female servants, sojourners, the fatherless, and widows would all give thanks and feast in memory of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 16:9–12).

So back to the disciples... 7 weeks after Passover and Jesus has ascended to be with His Father in heaven, and as they wait, as they pray the Lord fulfils the promise of sending His Holy Spirit! We read....

"a sound came from heaven like a rush of mighty wind . . . and there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were

all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2–4). Then Peter preached a sermon and said, "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel, 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams'" (Acts 2:16–17).

Peter begins the declaration of the gospel – The Messiah has come, He accomplished redemption on the cross, He defeated death and now sits with God and that now begins the days of the out pouring of Holy Spirit.

Whilst Jesus reigns and Holy Spirit is available to us we live in that window of time between Acts and Revelation where the promise is of God breaking forth. Pentecost calls us to look back and remember the promise that we live in now, but to look to God who is continuing to move towards the restoration of all things.

So we too wait and we pray and we actively open our lives up to that filling of His Power, His Spirit.

We are part of the worldwide mission of Jesus
We live in the outpouring of His Spirit
We are called to overflow wherever we go

We have been hearing three words reoccurring as we've tuned into God over the last weeks of intercession. We really sense their significance at this time. And with this being the run up to Pentecost they carry such a strong connection to what occurred on that day of in Acts, when the Spirit of God was poured out like never before.

NEW WAVE

At Pentecost the disciples experience the Holy Spirit like never felt before, it was new, it was fresh it was a force.

The word and picture we have been getting that we feel God wants to do across the nations, in us and through us is A NEW WAVE.

Interesting fact, While solar energy might yield 150 watts per square meter on a sunny midday and wind power could produce 300 watts during a similar time period, wave energy has the potential to create 30,000 watts per square meter.

God isn't calling us to paddle and splash about the shore, no, He calls us into a wave that is so big, beyond our control, one we have to surf in out of depth learning how to trust, lean on and rely on Him.

In this NEW WAVE is encounter with that power of the Holy Spirit. A power just like that we read in Acts, one that is earth moving and heart transforming!!

READ

Ezekiel 47:1-12 (MSG)

1-2 Now he brought me back to the entrance to the Temple. I saw water pouring out from under the Temple porch to the east (the Temple faced east). The water poured from the south side of the Temple, south of the altar. He then took me out

through the north gate and led me around the outside to the gate complex on the east. The water was gushing from under the south front of the Temple.

3-5 He walked to the east with a measuring tape and measured off fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water waist-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet. By now it was a river over my head, water to swim in, water no one could possibly walk through.

6-7 He said, "Son of man, have you had a good look?"

Then he took me back to the riverbank. While sitting on the bank, I noticed a lot of trees on both sides of the river.

8-10 He told me, "This water flows east, descends to the Arabah and then into the sea, the sea of stagnant waters. When it empties into those waters, the sea will become fresh. Wherever the river flows, life will flourish—great schools of fish—because the river is turning the salt sea into fresh water. Where the river flows, life abounds. Fishermen will stand shoulder to shoulder along the shore from En-ge-di all the way north to En-eglaim, casting their nets. The sea will teem with fish of all kinds, like the fish of the Great Mediterranean.

11 "The swamps and marshes won't become fresh. They'll stay salty.

12 "But the river itself, on both banks, will grow fruit trees of all kinds. Their leaves won't wither, the fruit won't fail. Every month they'll bear fresh fruit because the river from the Sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

Psalm 147:5-7 (TPT)

"How great is our God! There's absolutely nothing his power cannot accomplish, and he has infinite understanding of everything."

PRAY BIG

ASK GOD WHAT DOES HE SEE + WHAT DOES HE SAY

That we step in deeper

That we lean back in surrender

That a NEW WAVE of God floods through our community, our nation, this world

For a NEW WAVE of REVIVAL as people turn back and turn to Jesus

NEW ROAR

When the Holy Spirit moves in Acts we see Peter the disciple that throughout the gospels we read of his journey of doubt, fear and denial of Jesus, yet here.. we see a new voice rise from within him, full of courage, full of faith. A voice transformed! We see a NEW ROAR.

As we also live in the same days of the promise of God outpouring we too are called to find our ROAR. A roar that is louder than before, one that proclaims the wonder, the power, the love and the life of the King of Kings. We each have a voice and we want to offer that back to Him, for Him to tune and transform into the song that He is singing over the world. He wants our words to line up with His. He wants them to carry His power and to release His Kingdom. We want to see the very Spirit

and power of God roar over situations, over circumstances, over evil and bring what's dead back to life;

CS Lewis in *The Lion Witch & The Wardrobe* writes; "Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again."

READ

Ezekiel 36:25-27

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

PRAY BOLD

ASK GOD WHAT DOES HE SEE + WHAT DOES HE SAY

Ask for a RENEWAL of His word and His Spirit in us that we will then speak it out That His ROAR would be heard louder than before across our community, our nation, this world.

That ears will be opened to His voice

That NEW ROARS will erupt from people calling out to God and giving their yes to Jesus, and that the people of God will rise with a ROAR of His Spirit within us saying, 'Your Kingdom Come on earth as it is in heaven!'

OPEN DOOR

Acts is that moment in History where the church is birthed. They cross a threshold! As we begin to emerge out of lock down, physically we get to cross thresholds. Yet spiritually we sense God calling us in this moment to cross thresholds of those things that have previously held us back;

Fear

Insecurity

Shame

Guilt

Unforgiveness

Pride

We do this simply by confessing, Repenting/ turning, and stepping over into truth what He says.

READ

Philippians 3:13 (TPT)

I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead.

Revelation 3:20 (TPT)

Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door within, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.

BE HONEST IN PRAYER – AS YOU STEP OVER THRESHOLDS

Take time in stillness and allow Holy Spirit to bring to mind any areas that He wants you to step over and out of, then pray aloud...

Lord, I confess I feel held back by....

Instead I choose to believe the truth that there is nothing and no one more awesome than you.

I affirm that I now live with the power of the Holy Spirit within me and therefore I need not be held back by those things you call me out of

Whenever I feel tempted to (eg hold unforgiveness in my heart, fear)..... I will choose to believe your promises and your truth that you are (God who forgives and calls and equips me to forgive too, be full of courage).....

Your Holy Spirit equips me to step into the new, beyond the thresholds that have held me back.

Renew + Restore me and fill me afresh with your Spirit as I step out with you.

FINISH BY PRAYING EPHESIANS 3:14 -21

Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

