

Reflection & Prayertime – Finding and Keeping the Burn/Love Languages

May 24, 2021

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 – The Day of Pentecost

Acts **2: 1** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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

⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

¹² And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

¹³ Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of 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:

¹⁸ And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

²¹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The Day of Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Pentecost is a day of rushing winds, tongues of fire, and strange communication – people speaking in different languages and yet able to understand each other. I'm left with two thoughts for this reflection – how do we connect despite differences and how do we keep the spiritual fire burning in us? I think we continue to rely on the Spirit of God.

My daughter just graduated with her Master's degree in conservation biology and sent me her thesis on dolphin foraging and please don't tell her but I kept trying to read it and getting pretty sleepy with it. I decided I needed to get "in the zone" to fully appreciate the thesis so I watched National Geographic "Secrets of the Whales" on Disney Plus this weekend.

I'm not nearly as interested in whales as my daughter but admit I found it fascinating and today there is a New York times article about her supervisor's work in studying the sounds of humpback whale songs in the New York estuary that I'm for sure going to read.

One example from the "Secrets of the Whales" was about orca whales who capture manta rays and flip them upside down which puts them to sleep, where they can then become dinner for the orca. A wildlife photographer dives in the ocean and an orca brings him a manta ray and drops it right in front of him as if to welcome him invite him to eat with it. After a little while, the orca comes back and retrieves the manta ray as if to say, "Well if you're not going to eat that, then I am."

How in the world do we communicate when there are barriers? I would argue that the Spirit of the Lord leads us back to our commonalities and even orcas can recognize that we all need to eat. I believe when we practice hospitality and remain open we find ways to connect.

The other thought I have about Pentecost is how do we sustain spiritual passion? How do we remain "on fire" without burning out? How do we find that sweet spot? I encourage you to identify what you've learned about this and share it with each other.

Below is a Pentecost song sung by Mark and Kathy Thompson (Kathy is a former VOA Mid-States employee at Unity House) and may we all burn with the love of God for all of our days. Thanks be to God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkMwnm-L-jw>