

### **Genesis 11:1-19/Acts 2:1-21/John 14:8-17**

**“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”**

For the past few years of COVID-19, Pentecost has not been the same, we have diverted from our usual and convectional ways of worship. This alone make some of us to feel uncomfortable, we feel as if it's not proper because sometimes tradition is inseparable from us. However, the Pentecostal event proves to us that the spirit of God knows no physical, we can receive it right even in the comfort of our homes.

Reading the book of Genesis, at the tower of Babel people wanted to abuse the privilege of a common language to equate themselves with God, then God gave them different languages to confuse them. The same God in Acts is giving the Apostles the gift of common language so that his mission can be accomplished. God works in mazing ways. Both in Genesis and Acts we see the power of language, the power of communication, the power of unity. It is only in academia where the united fall but in any other spheres of life the united will always stand. Pentecost is a call for us to be united as a people of God, for God's mission.

David Wilkerson once said, **“When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost.”** The writer of Luke-Acts tells us that when the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were in the upper room where they had locked themselves and most probably fearing to be persecuted by the Jews. The same person, Peter, who had denied Jesus three times is the one now giving testimony fearlessly to thousands and thousands of people-Pentecost means power and life.

What amazed the hearers most was the fact that all those who were speaking were Galileans, but they could hear them in their native or local languages. The sophisticated city dwellers were shocked to hear the underrated, uneducated, and rural Galileans speaking fluently in diverse languages.

The Pentecostal event proved the city dwellers wrong; the Pentecostal event proved the educated wrong, the Pentecostal event proved the rich wrong, the Pentecostal event proved the privileged wrong-The spirit of God respects no physical boundary,

no social boundary, not economic boundary, not even political boundary- this God is amazing and just God, and every Church which should fit in this Pentecostal template. I pray for a Church that treats people the same regardless their social status, I long for Christian family that turns a blind eye to member's economic, intellectual, and political status. **"How is it that we hear each of us in our own native language?"**

A Church is not deemed Pentecostal because of speaking in incomprehensible language- The listing of languages in Acts is a clear testimony that this supernatural communication was known human languages, i.e., existing languages and not ecstatic speech. A Church is deemed Pentecostal for emulating the Christ who presented Himself clearly on the Pentecost Day, as a God treats people the same regardless of their social, economic, political, and intellectual status-a Just God.

When they heard the sound of the rushing wind, the multitude came together in the vicinity of the upper room. What they found when they arrived astonished them with each one hearing his own language being spoken. The supernatural signs had their desired effect, and the attention of the crowd was riveted on Peter and others. As it is regularly the case when God's truth is presented, some in the crowd accepted it, while others rejected. And this should give us comfort as Christians, we preach but God converts people. Thus, others were mocking them saying "they are full of sweet wine". Like the Pharisees who heard Jesus' message and saw the miracles but still concluded that He was of the devil (Matthew 12:24), these scoffers at Pentecost rejected the evidence of God's grace at work through the apostles but Instead, they proposed a ridiculous hypothesis that the apostles were full of sweet wine. They tried to explain away the miracle of speaking in tongues as a drunken folic. Anglican is a Church of order, but no one should stop you from glorifying God in the manner you understand better-sometimes some of us are quick to judge other's behaviour as drunkenness but forgetting that we received grace differently hence our worship behaviour differs.

Patience Johnson wrote a very interesting book, **"Why does an orderly God allow disorder?"** What happened on the day of Pentecost exhibits profitable disorder. In this book, Patience alludes that **"Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do and doing it at the right time to get the desired result. It is also the correct application of knowledge."**

It was on the day of Pentecost that God's sovereign timetable called for the spirit to descend. It should be noted that the spirit was not induced into coming because the believers prayed or met certain spiritual requirements. Luke's account points only to the sovereign timing of God as the cause of the Spirit's descent. Luke describes this sovereignly designed event by taking us to the upper room, where the believers were gathered. Suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind. Luke's used the word "suddenly" to emphasises the element of surprise. Even though the believers expected the spirit's coming to be imminent (Acts 1:5) they were caught by surprise. We are Christians not because we have done anything special but because of God's grace and timing so no need to condemn nonbelievers. Our intellectual, social, and political status should never be a barrier for us to relate well with others because we are what we are not because of anything special on our part but because of God's grace and grace has been described by others as everything for nothing to those who do not deserve anything. My colleagues let's celebrate Pentecost wherever we are, be it in our homes or in the church because the spirit of God is not limited by any physical, social, economic, and intellectual barrier.

**You might be physically challenged, but Pentecost means power and life!**

**You might be facing terrible social challenges, but Pentecost means power and life!**

**You might be intellectually disadvantaged, but Pentecost means power and life!**

**You might be economically disadvantaged, but Pentecost means power and life!**

**May the spirit of Pentecost give us the needed strength and revival to conquer the cruelties of life.**

May God bless us. Amen