

**Aveleigh's Pentecost Sunday June 4, 2017**

**Your Year of Worship**

**Sermon: Real Christianity**

**Text: Acts 2: 1-8 p. & Acts 2:36-47 p.**

*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.” Acts 2:1-4 (NCV)*

**1. REAL CHRISTIANITY HAS SUPERNATURAL POWER.** *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you... And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 2: 8*

**2. REAL CHRISTIANITY SPEAKS EVERYBODY'S LANGUAGE.** *“There were religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who had come from EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were ALL excited, because ALL of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, ‘These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that ALL OF US hear them speaking in our own native languages?’” Acts 2:5-8 (TEV)*

**3. REAL CHRISTIANITY EMPLOYEES EVERYONE'S GIFTS.** *“Then Peter stood up and said... ‘These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning!... God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit ON EVERYONE. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will ALL proclaim my message... Then, EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Acts 2:14-18, 21 (TEV/NIV)*

**4. REAL CHRISTIANITY OFFERS LIFE CHANGING TRUTH.**

*“Peter...addressed the crowd: ‘... let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say... This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel....’” Acts 2:14, 19 (NIV)*

THE GOSPEL: Jesus is God! His Resurrection proves it vs. 22

- He died on the cross vs. 23
- God raised him back to life vs. 24-32
- This gives us gladness, joy & hope! vs. 26
- He has sent his Spirit from heaven vs. 33-35
- We must repent & be baptized vs. 36-38
- We will be given his Holy Spirit vs. 38b-39
- We must live differently from culture vs. 40 *“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day! “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...” Acts 2:42*

**5. REAL CHRISTIANITY PROVIDES LOVING SUPPORT.** “... *They took part in the fellowship, and sharing in fellowship meals and in praying together...*” Acts 2:42b (TEV)

“*they were like family to each other*” (CEV)

“*All the believers continued together in close fellowship*” Acts 2:44 (TEV)

“*they lived in wonderful harmony*” (MES)

“...*they met in small groups IN HOMES for communion, and shared meals with great joy and thankfulness.*” Acts 2:46b (LB)

**6. REAL CHRISTIANITY ENJOYS JOYFUL WORSHIP.**

“*They continued to WORSHIP TOGETHER in the TEMPLE COURTS...PRAISING God and ENJOYING the favor of all the people.*” Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

**7. REAL CHRISTIANITY MAKES GENEROUS SACRIFICES.**

“*All the believers shared everything with each other. They would sell their land and the things they owned and then give the money to anyone who needed it.*” Acts 2:44-45 (NIV)

“*They shared their meals with great joy and generosity.*” Acts 2:46 (NLT)

**8. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS A GROWING COMMUNITY.** “*People liked what they saw. So every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.*” Acts 2:47 (MSG)

**PRAYER:** Father, I pray you'll protect everybody this week. Protect their finances, protect their jobs, protect their marriages, protect their health, protect their minds from temptation and evil, protect them from all the things that try to mess up their lives. May they live this week as real Christians, representing real Christianity. I ask you to bless them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. God bless you everybody!

- FOUR FOR YOUR ROAD AHEAD:**
1. What is Pentecost?
  2. Why is Real Christianity important?
  3. What spiritual gift do you have? How do you share that gift? With whom?
  4. Does God still want today's church to be like the first church?

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Call to worship

Leader: On this day of Pentecost, as we worship,

People: May God pour out his great Spirit upon us.

Leader: May the power and promise of that day long ago,

People: Renew us and our church on this Pentecost day.

Leader: In our worship, may our hearts be set afire with enthusiasm,

People: And may our lives show forth with energy and courage as we live the Good News of new life.

Prayer of confession

O God, we confess that the Spirit has not moved us much lately: that wind and fire have been absent from our lives, that routine has blurred our prayers, that tiredness has sapped our energy and that busyness has obscured our vision. We confess that we have not taken time to open ourselves to the transforming power of the Spirit, and that we have known too little gladness and only dribbles of ecstasy.

O God, open up our lives and help us to let go of that which hinders our love for you and one another. Dissolve our foolish fears that make us grasp things rather than hold people. Ease us into a deep promise of community. Make us dwell in your healing forgiveness. Awaken us to your Spirit. Amen.