

History's Most Powerful Prayer Meeting

Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-13, (14-39 summarize Peter's sermon), 40-41

Resurrection: Many Convincing Proofs slide

Ascension of Christ slide: Because Christ ascended to the right hand of God and sent the Holy Spirit the events recorded in this book are possible.

Intro: *Like a Mighty Wind* - the story of the Indonesian revival. Acts 2 was repeated in Indonesia 1965. I read the book when I was in high school in 1975. It had just been published in paperback. I was a new Christian. I believed what I read in the book with simple faith. Indonesian believers preached the Gospel, healed the sick, raised the dead, revealed people's secret sins, commanded demons to get out, were guided by angels, and even walked on water. Real supernatural events!

Unified Prayer Acts 1:12-14: ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ **All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The apostles and other disciples (1:15: 120 people) were praying with one accord for the HS to clothe them with the power needed to preach the Gospel in the face of opposition across all conceivable barriers (E-1, E-2, E-3). Main Point: Unified prayer is a prerequisite to breakthrough revival. Believers devoting themselves to prayer with one mind and purpose will see the HS move in a special way.

Pentecost Phenomena 2:1-4: When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pentecost is the GR word for "fiftieth." It is a harvest festival 50 days after Passover. Jewish people presented to the Lord the firstfruits of the annual

wheat harvest (Exodus 34:22). The timing was no mere coincidence. The phenomena got people's attention. Wind and fire are audible and visible symbols of the HS.

Miraculous Tongues 2:5-13: ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

The tongues were real languages. This makes sense because Jesus commands us to "Go and make disciples of all nations." The tongues are symbolic of this command. The HS gave the gift of tongues to remind the believers to obey Christ's command to go to all nations. God wants the Gospel shared and written in every human language. (*Wycliffe Bible translators have been working on this since 1942. As of 10/2018 the NT and other portions of the Bible have been translated into 3350 of 7350 known languages.*)

Prophet Joel's Last Days 2:14-21: ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on 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 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

"In the last days..." The first Pentecost was a unique historical event that initiated the last days, but "Pentecost" as an outpouring of the HS is a present reality. The last days go from Christ's ascension to his second coming ("the

day of the Lord”). Pentecost is also a continuous outpouring and movement of the HS throughout the last days. Church history records many similar outpourings of the HS, many revival breakthroughs. The focus must be on the purpose for outpourings of the HS - the completion of Christ’s command. Pentecost is harvest festival and the harvest has been happening for 2000 years.

Joel’s prophecy didn’t end with Pentecost in the first century because we are in the last days. Characteristics of the last days: outpourings of the HS, prophecy, visions & dreams, signs & wonders, salvation for anyone who calls on the name of the Lord. The natural phenomena are more related to the last days of “the last days.” (See Revelation.)

Peter told the Jews that they killed their Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, but God raised him from the dead. Christ at the right hand of God sent the HS.

Harvest 2:38-41: ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

What was the result? They were “cut to the heart.” (*GR = a painful emotion which penetrates the heart as if stinging.*) The Pentecostal outpouring of the HS produced stinging conviction of sin, repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. 120 to 3000 saved and baptized in one day! That’s the work of the HS. (Kanye West recently had a worship service in Baton Rouge at Bethany Church and several thousand attended. 1000 raised hands to receive Christ!)

Main Point: Unified prayer is a prerequisite to breakthrough revival. Acts 2 and the history of outpourings of the HS demonstrate this.

Here’s how breakthrough revival works: It begins with the sanctification of believers and then moves to the salvation of unbelievers.

At the beginning of the 20th century there were worldwide outpourings of the HS - replications of Acts 2. One of those Acts 2 replicates was the Korean-Pyongyang revival of 1907. It is referred to as “The Korean Pentecost.” The revival started with the sanctification of God’s people. It started with confession of sins and repentance among Western missionaries and Korean Christians as they prayed for an outpouring of the HS for revival. There was specific repentance of ethnic hatred - Koreans hated Japanese. (*There’s no record of speaking in tongues or wind and fire with this Pentecostal revival.*) Koreans were ‘born again’ by the conviction of the HS. 50,000 new believers by the end of 1907. The HS fire spread to other villages all over Korea and 3000 churches were planted in 40 years. It also introduced key aspects of Korean Christian spirituality, such as early-morning prayer and all-night prayer combined with fasting. Pyongyang became known as “Jerusalem of the East.” Satan fought back with the Japanese invasion of Korea 1940s and then the Korean War 1950s.

The largest church in the world is Yoido Full Gospel Church in S Korea - from 5 people in 1958 to 800,000 members as of 2018. The key to Yoido’s growth is the power of the HS and prayer. The church has a fasting and prayer mountain. Yoido’s discipleship is done in cell groups.

Indonesian revival of 1965: The Indonesian revival began at a Presbyterian Church prayer meeting with a confession of secret sins and repentance. The believers repented of occult practices, visiting witch doctors, trusting in amulets and charms, alcoholism, and sexual immorality. Wind and fire appeared over the church building. People saw the fire and rang the village fire bell. People came with buckets of water but were amazed that the fire didn’t burn up the church. The speaking in tongues were real languages. Illiterate people who knew only their tribal language were praising God in perfect English. The HS told the Indonesian believers to share the Gospel with other villages. They went out in teams to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and called people to repentance, burning their amulets, charms, books of incantations, and other occult objects.

One team had to cross a swollen river during the rainy season. They walked on water; that is, they walked across the river and the water was never higher than their knees. The believers didn't realize they had walked on water until the villagers on the other side said, "How did you get here - the river is 20 ft deep and 300 yards wide and the water is rushing very strong?" A few villagers tried to do what the believers did, but were almost swept away by the water. The river-crossing miracle and raising a man from the dead prepared the villagers to receive the Gospel.

Susuk (amulets embedded under the skin) miraculously emerged out of people's skin after conversion. Indonesians had gold or silver needles, stones, or other objects embedded under their skin, after first undergoing a ritual by a witch doctor (shaman).

A woman had a prayer meeting at her house. The woman made one bucket of tea and two loaves of bread. Tea and bread multiplied to feed 100 people. She broke the one loaf in half and the half in her left hand became a whole loaf. This happened until everyone had bread and tea.

On one occasion a 15-member team was traveling by boat from Timor to Rote on an evangelistic trip. The boat they were on was owned by a Muslim. During the 30-plus mile boat trip, a storm developed. The Muslim man said, "If your God will answer your prayers and calm this storm, then I will believe in him." The team prayed, and within a few minutes the sea was completely calm. The Muslim man subsequently was converted and renamed his boat "New Life."

200,000 converts were won to the Lord between 1965-1970. The HS revival that started in 1965 is still going. Indonesia is now about 30% Christian.

We don't seek signs and wonders. The signs and wonders happened to support the preaching of the Gospel. God is omnipotent. His Spirit can perform miracles to confirm the Gospel.

Korea – Indonesia – Middle East

I believe we are in the last days of the "last days" because Jesus is active in the Middle East - Jews and Muslims are coming to Christ.

Unified prayer is a prerequisite to breakthrough revival - the sanctification of believers and the salvation of unbelievers.

At the Saturday prayer meeting there were only 3 of us in the English prayer group - Pastor Choi, Pastor Yau, and me. When we have 100 people in the sanctuary praying on Saturday morning, then we will have breakthrough revival and see the power of the HS to save even more unbelievers. Why? Because it will be a sacrifice; that is, it will cost us something. We are offering a sacrifice to God. We are following King David's example: 2 Samuel 24:24 (1 Chron. 21:24): King David's example: 2 Samuel 24:24 (1 Chron. 21:24): *But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*