



SERMON RECAP

MAY 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Wisdom is a gift of Dreams and Visions

Acts 2:1-20

Pentecost is the only Christian holiday that is named in the Bible. It is named because it already existed as a Jewish Festival. Christians know Pentecost for it was the day that the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

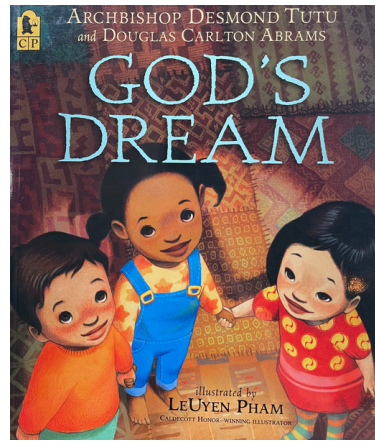
It is a remarkable and familiar story. The first disciples are in Jerusalem, in a room together. It is implied that it is the original 11 plus a few others, including women. Suddenly there is a loud noise, a rushing wind, and fire seems to alight each of them. Like the fire that rested on a bush and did not consume it when Moses encountered the great I AM the first time, these fires were not hurting anyone. They were a sign that the Holy Spirit had come. Just like Jesus promised.

And then suddenly the disciples were out in public. It is never said how they went from inside a room - presumably the same upper room in which they shared the last supper in the Gospel of Luke. I like to picture them being blown out of the room by the wind of the Spirit. Like when a door is opened on an airplane in a movie, and everything is sucked out of the plane. The disciples were forced by the Spirit out into the public, where there are already people.

People were there because it was Pentecost, which is the Greek name for the Festival of Weeks (Exodus 34:22). It's Greek name comes from the fact that it is 50 days after the Passover (Leviticus 23:15-16). This is often overlooked but I believe it is significant. The Festival of Weeks is the remembrance of the gift of the Torah. You can make the argument that the Pentecost festival is remembering when the Jews became God's people. The Torah was the instructions for how to be God's people. It was the stories, the laws, the customs, and the practices that made the Jews unique.

For Christians, Pentecost is the same gift. It is the moment we became a people. The Holy Spirit provides the power, the strength, and the discernment that makes Christians unique. Christ redeemed us to be God's people. The Holy Spirit provides the power to live as God's people.

The Holy Spirit is fire. The Holy Spirit is wind. the Holy Spirit swept through the room, pushed the disciples out into



God's Dream, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams, is a delightful book about God's delight when people share, grow, and learn to live in peace. God's dream knows no barriers of race, language, or even religion.

the public sphere and gave them the first gift: Understanding.

This is the fundamental gift that the Holy Spirit provides - the ability to understand each other. Is there any more gift that we need today?

There were people there in Jerusalem from all over the Empire. The Jewish diaspora was far-reaching, and this group of Galilean Jews were suddenly understood by all. In the midst of the confusion and ecstasy of the moment, they misunderstand. The people think it's a trick, or an act. They think they must be drunk, but Peter rises.

"This isn't what you think," he says (my translation). "This is God's action. This is God doing what was promised a long time ago." He quotes the prophet Joel:

**In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.**

Miraculous communication, opening up a message to all people regardless of race, culture, or language. Holy Spirit poured on all people, regardless of age or gender. This is an all-encompassing gift that is going to renew the earth.

This is how the people will complete the mission that Jesus already gave them - to make disciples of the nations, teaching them to obey all he commanded. Before he ascended, he told 120 gathered to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Now with the gift of understanding, it might be possible. It is the gift of empathy, compassion, and healing for all. It is a gift we need now more than ever. We have dreams. We have a vision. This is our moment to lean in. The Spirit is being poured out on us, and every one of us has a place in this vision. Come be part of fulfilling God's dream.

NEXT WEEK:

The Wisdom of Awe and Wonder: "What's God Like," by Rachel Held Evans