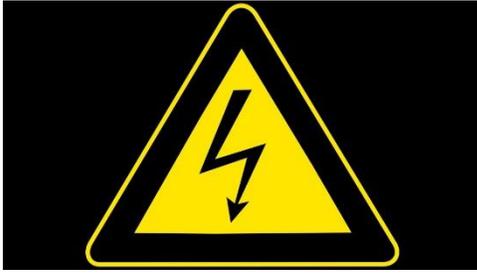


# Sunday, May 20, 2018 – Day of Pentecost

## Sermon: Using Power

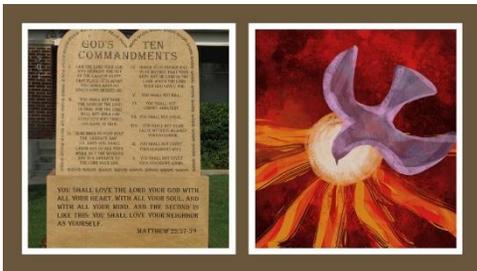
Read Acts 1:1-11



Forty days after the resurrection Jesus returned to heaven. Before going He told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came to them.



The Holy Spirit has come. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven was the Festival of Pentecost. It was on that day that the Holy Spirit came. Today is the celebration of the Festival of Pentecost. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is hard for us to understand. We can understand the idea of the Father. We think of Him as the creator. Jesus we can think of because we read of Him in the Gospels. He is God who became human. The Holy Spirit is harder. The Holy Spirit is God who is in our lives. He empowers us to follow Jesus.



The Festival of Pentecost was observed before the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was celebrating the Law being given to Moses. Passover was a remembrance of being freed from bondage in Egypt. After that they went to Mount Sinai where Moses received the Law. There is a similarity between the Holy Spirit and the Law. Both are guides for how to live our lives. The difference is the Law does not have any power. The Law tells us when we do something wrong, but it cannot help us to correct our lives. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to change. It is like the difference of having written directions of how to go somewhere and having a guide go with us. The Holy Spirit is the guide who goes with us and helps us through life. He shows us the route and helps us to get through the hard places.



We have to be willing to use the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We have to allow Him to continue with us. We Holy Spirit empowers us to move closer to Jesus. We get afraid of that. We worry about what God is going to want us to do. We are willing to obey God as long as we get to stay in control. To really experience the power of God we have to be committed to following Him. Why would the Spirit lead us if we do not want to follow. It is similar to when a friend asks our advice and then they do not follow it. When people do that to us we get frustrated and wonder why should we keep trying to help. We do the same thing with God. We want to get help from God, but we are not willing to listen. We have the power of the Holy Spirit in us, but to use that power we have to not fight Him.



Jesus says that when we have the Holy Spirit we will be witnesses. We will be witnesses by how we act and what we say. If we let people know we are disciples of Jesus we are witnesses for good or bad. We need to be careful to be good witnesses. As we allow God to control us His power will change us and people can see the difference. It does not mean we are automatically perfect, but it does mean that we are moving closer. We also need to be willing to let

people know why we are moving closer. Why we can have hope in problems. We can let people know why we are living in faith. We have to allow the Spirit to work in us so that we can show this. Allow the Spirit to empower you today.