

Sermon Transcript from 8th June 2025 – “P” is for... Pentecost

Based on Acts 2:1-47

Sermon TLDR

The sermon delivered by Jim focuses on the concept of **Pentecost** and its significance for believers. The sermon begins with thoughts on communion and general reflections on biblical narratives, before moving to a prayer. Jim then elaborates on four key "P" words related to Pentecost: **Privilege**, highlighting the grace received by believers; **Promise**, specifically the gift of the Holy Spirit and its enabling power; **Power**, explained as the Holy Spirit's work in understanding and speaking truth; and **Proclamation**, encouraging believers to share the gospel. The sermon also emphasizes the **living nature of Jesus**, the **unchanging Holy Spirit**, and the **promise of Christ's return**, concluding with a prayer for renewal and the sharing of blessings.

Link to the Start of the Sermon (on YouTube)

<https://youtu.be/rU6Htmbk8u0?t=3090>

Sermon Transcript

Good morning everybody. I'd forgotten it was communion this morning, but I love taking communion. Do you? Isn't the Lord good? You see, they were when he instituted the last supper, they had roast lamb. So, if we were following the pattern, we should have had a few roast lambs this morning. Instead of bread and wine. But Jesus took what was left of a meal and made it into something really wonderful.

A means whereby to remember what he has done for each one of us. Isn't that typical of him?

And that made me think of the time when he was feeding the thousands of people and it says there were 12 baskets left over. What happened to them? Have you ever wondered what happened to the 12 baskets of that were over?

Or who paid for the roof that they took to bits to let the chap down?

And these are questions in the Bible that are implies. And it's a just a silly thing I do, I suppose, and have done for many years, I was thinking about that. We have the word of God. We are so fortunate. We really are. And we have the opportunity to take it anytime we want, read it, and put it by.

There are people in the world today who are being killed for doing just that. We need to be aware of brothers and sisters who are undergoing great persecution. We have persecution to come. That may not be to your liking. It may not be good news. It isn't good news in a way, but it will happen.

Just pray for a moment.

Father, please take from our hearts and minds anything alien to your spirit. Let us hear your voice speak, Lord. Speak to us by name. Give us hearts that want to follow all your instruction. So that your name may be glorified. Amen.

P for Pentecost. I've got a few P's here I brought with me.

I want to just briefly speak about them this morning.

First P is the word privilege. Privileged. Those people that gathered in that upper room. They were privileged people. Their sin had been dealt with by the Lord Jesus on the cross not very long ago. And

gathering together as brothers and sisters in the Lord as we gather weekly on a Sunday with our brothers and sisters. Did you know you had brothers and sisters? Sometimes we're reminded forcibly that we are responsible to one another as well as to the Lord. But it privilege, a wonderful privilege, and that's why they were together.

And the place that they met in was a place of promise.

I'm going to read a little from I chose that reading from Romans 5 because it encapsulates the- gospel message so well. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. That's pure grace. He could have said, "Well, I will, but first of all, you got to try and do better. You got to live a better life. And then I'll be willing to die for you."

But he knew how impossible that was. We've all done it, haven't we? Made resolutions. Who made a resolution this past January? Anybody? No. Oh. Oh, thanks, Ruth. Somebody honest over here. I won't ask you what it was later. Yes, we make our resolutions if we don't make them allowed. We make them within ourselves and say, well, I really am going to change. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do that or I'm not going to do this or not going to do that. And it isn't very long at all till we've broken that resolution. That's what we're like. That's why Jesus died and he did it while we were still sinners.

I read from Acts chapter 2;

"On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty wind storm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise. Everyone came running and they were bewildered to hear their own language being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. How can this be? They exclaimed. These people are all from Galilee and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages. Here we are. Parthians, Mesopotamians, Jews from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas all around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, And we all hear these people speaking in our own language about the wonderful things God has done. They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all."

Would you have liked to have been there in that room? This is another thing I do. I often try to put myself into the story that I'm reading. And I genuinely would have loved to have been there. We wouldn't be wondering what Jesus looked like.

For one thing, all the different pictures we have. I suppose every one of us here could have a mental image of what we think Jesus looks like. And we probably most of us have got it wrong anyway, but never mind. It's not what he looks like, it's what he is.

And in any case, what we would see of him there was not the real Jesus. Those who were privileged to go on to the mount of transfiguration who saw him just glowing with the glory of heaven. They saw him as he really is. And one day by God's grace we too shall see him. We shall be with him where is what a prospect. Prospect.

So, in this place of promise, the disciples were to remember what Jesus said to them. We turn back to Acts 1 [which] Says:

Once when he was eating with them. He commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised." As I said to you before, John baptized with water, but in just a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. And he went on to say, "The Father alone has the authority to set dates and times and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses telling people about me everywhere in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Promise. What a promise. If you can look back to a time

when you gave your life to Jesus, when you said to him, "Lord, I am a sinner. I agree with you. I do need salvation and I can't do it. Nobody else can except you." If you can look back to a day when you made your commitment to him. You have the Holy Spirit living within you. He resides in your being. Now, that's a fact as far as the word of God is concerned. But how many I've met over the years and in the time I've been preaching, there are so many many believers who didn't realize that the Holy Spirit lived within them.

But I suggest that there are a good many Christians who've given up because they've tried to live the Christian life in their own strength and understanding. You see, the Holy Spirit is the one who's doing all the work. He is work all the time as we read God's word.

If we have understanding of that word, it's because the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive that word which he breathed in the first place. He is the author. There were human authors, but they were all led by the Holy Spirit and enabled by him to do the right that they did.

So, privilege, promise, and power.

Power. Oh, people like to have power. There's a [chap] I don't know if you've seen him on the television called Trump. He don't see much else, do he really? He likes power. He wants power. He expects to have power. But it's the wrong sort of power.

Unfortunately, it's very selfish power and is not alone. I don't I don't care so much for the word power as the word enabling. Enabling. That's what the Holy Spirit does. He enables us to understand. He enables us to receive the truth. He enables us to speak to others about the Lord. That's power. The power is God's.

How many times have we sat under the sound of the gospel and the whole things just passed over our heads and we went away? The same people when we came. I've heard people praying in church that that might not be the case. That we might go away a different people, meaning better. But so often it's just passed over our heads.

But the day has come when suddenly what we're hearing begins to make sense. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. He's giving us understanding and the call we're receiving to believe it comes from him and the enabling to do something about it is again from the Holy Spirit. So, he's really is doing all the work. What's our part in it? Just to receive! Some of us don't like receiving. We'd rather be giving. Somehow giving makes us feel better than receiving. Depends what it is. I suppose you think about it.

But the Lord is constantly giving to us.

Jean and I used to every month we used to CYB meeting. Anybody know what a CYB meeting is?

Huh?

[Jim asks the congregation for what they think CYB means, there are suggestions]

No.

What did you call it?

I asked this same question at [...] and I said, "Does anybody know what a CYB means?"

So, little boy, clean your bedroom. And I thought I had a chat to him afterwards and apparently his mom was often saying to him, "Clean your bedroom."

I meant it to be count your blessings, of course.

And sometimes it's good just to sit down and begin to count your blessings because there's so much that happens in our lives every day. Today we take it for granted but it's a blessing. It's a blessing to us and if we are as we should be we'd be sharing that blessing with others and what a better world we would have if only we all did things like that.

It was also a place of prayer.

The disciples gathered together. I want you to think for a moment just as we start the book of Acts, we've just finished reading as it were the gospels and one of the things that uh the gospels tell us is that Jesus I've lost my place. But yes, I was going to say that they were gathered in in the room together. I don't know if they were praying or not, but they were there together behind locked doors because they were scared to death. Literally, they were frightened that they too would be perhaps nailed on a cross or put to death in some other way through having their contact with Jesus who himself had been crucified and now they were a different people altogether.

Why? Because of what had happened on this day of Pentecost.

Fear was put to one side and faith was born.

And you see if you have faith and it's true in other words. You put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, not only in what he's done, but in his person. He's a living saviour. That's another thing we need reminding of and a great blessing it is, too. That he's not in a grave somewhere. He hasn't rotted away. He was raised from the dead in order to be a living saviour to those who put their faith and trust in him.

That's what God is calling us to.

That to me is the gospel message that we need to hear and understand and apply.

The last P that I've got on my piece of paper is proclamation.

It's a bit long word for me, but still preaching. Same thing. Talking, same thing. Gossiping, almost the truth of the gospel can be gossiped, but we're frightened.

Some of us, we think, "Oh, I'm not good at that. I'm not up to it." Yes, you are.

You have the Holy Spirit living within you. He's the one who's doing all the work. I keep saying that. He will give you the words to say. You don't have to preach long sermons. I preached too many in my time. I think I don't know if you can preach too many [times], but it runs into hundreds, hundreds.

I used to keep a book that told me where I'd gone to, what I preached about, and so on. I gave up on that. It was getting too big a book. And yet from all the talking that one has done over the years, I wonder if anybody much remembers anything that you've said.

Sometimes a thing will stick.

In fact, if the Lord lays something on your heart, you can never forget it. Will you ever forget the name Jesus? Jesus is such a lovely [name] even James there [*Jim points to a baby in the congregation*]. One day he'll be able to say Jesus. And once you know that name, you never forget it.

Oh, people misuse it. And but Jesus is a lovely name. So easy to remember. Even little ones can say it. Gossiping the gospel. This is what the early believers were enjoying.

The privilege, the promise of God.

And all the promises of God are real.

They are yay and our men in Christ. He doesn't fail once to carry out his promise. How many times have I have you broken promises?

I remember the time when I was being enrolled as an officer in the Boys Brigade and the then skipper man called Frank. I don't know if anybody at all would remember him. He said to me, "Never make a promise to a boy that you cannot keep." One of the best pieces of advice ever.

We do that though, of course. And we're genuine. We mean it. You see, circumstances can change. Things can happen. Accidents happen. And they prevent us being the people we would be.

Power. The power. Forget power and think of enabling. Have to think of some ease now. The enabling of the spirit. That's what we need. And we need to understand that we have it.

Prayer. Prayer. We would not get by without prayer. We don't pray enough. No matter how much we do pray, we don't pray enough. Because the early church in particular spent a great deal of their time in praying. praying together. We do pray together. Not often. I wonder how much we pray privately. Search your hearts. Do I pray enough? Do I pray the right things? The early disciples experienced, we can still experience today.

Firstly, we serve a living Lord. I said that earlier. He is a living Lord. We're not talking about memories of the past. We do, of course, because as we read the word of God, we're reading about [a] time that isn't ours, but he lives today. And when we're praying and we're praying to him or through him, he's aware of all these things.

There is nothing hidden from God

You want proof of that, read Psalm 139. My favourite psalm. It's the most wonderful, wonderful thing. Read it when you get home. 139. And at the end it says, "Search me, oh God. Know my heart. See if there be any wicked way in me."

So it's a real tester. It's worth reading. We have the same Holy Spirit. He hasn't changed.

My wife's favourite text was Hebrews 13:8. Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever.

Well, Holy Spirit is the same as well. He doesn't change. His power and authority is not diminished one bit, nor will it.

He is God.

There's another thing. I wonder if we realize that we use it each week in the blessing by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit or fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Stay with us. He is the enabler.

And lastly, we have the promise of his return. Jesus is coming back. Everybody throughout the centuries have asked the question when when will it happen? And here we are in the 21st century. People are still asking the same question. So they've been asking a lot of questions for a lot of time.

And in each in each generation they've said we see all the signs are there. They always have been. They always will be until the day Jesus returns. Before he returns, many things have to happen and our part in that is just to share the gospel.

I didn't say proclamation again. Proclamation talking to people, making them aware that there is one who loves them, cares about them, has plans for them indeed. And it's down to them, either accepted or rejected, have you accepted the Lord Jesus as your saviour?

I would everybody to put their hands up because it's a very personal thing. It's the most personal thing you could ever do is to yield your life to the one who has loved you so much and shown you so much grace and blessed you so many times, who looks after you, cares for you and what he wants.

Anything else is for you to say, "Jesus, thank you. I love you. I'm looking forward, Jesus, to the day when I see you face to face. Not just so that I recognize you, but just to be with you.

We've all lost loved ones, and the prospect of seeing them again burns bright. Yes, it does with me. That's for sure.

Just pray for a moment...

Father, thank you.

Thank you for being so gracious. We serve by our lives. Nothing like the wonderful things that you've done for us, but rather to be condemned by the things we've thought and the things we've said and the things we've done that we ought not to have.

As well as the things that we've left undone. and the words unsaid and the better thoughts that we have to cleanse us afresh now we pray before we leave this place renew us fill us with your spirit Lord.

We sang that lovely old song written by the founder of the Salvation Army, Send the Fire.

Oh Lord send the fire, we pray.

And [make] our lives, just as we are a blazing fire for you.

You are worthy of all our praises and our praises sometimes are so poor.

Forgive us. Lord, you are a wonderful father. Thank you for all the blessings of every day.

Bless our dear ones. We pray. Bless our neighbours. Bless those that we work with, the people that we meet in the supermarket or whatever school that we go to.

Lord, we thank you for each one and one another.

May the peace of God be our portion today and forever more in Jesus' name.

Amen.