

“Revealed by the Spirit”  
John 14:21-29 and 1 Corinthians 2:1-13  
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In First Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes this: “My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your wisdom might not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God.” Well, when historians look back on this Pentecost in the life of Escazú Christian Fellowship, that is what they will say about me, because tonight I hope indeed that the power of God will reveal something to you with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, rather than some implausible words I might offer. You see, the very first Pentecost was characterized by the empowered speaking and hearing of many people, and not just one. What made Pentecost the church-transforming event that it was, was the democratization of the Spirit it demonstrated, showing God’s power through the tongues and words of ordinary people. Listen again to the account of that day:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly from heaven came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

This year's Lectionary texts for Pentecost tell a different part of the story: a prophecy from the Gospel and an explanation from the Epistle. In the Gospel reading, Jesus promises the disciples the presence of the Holy Spirit to teach them everything, and to remind the disciples of all their teacher has taught them, we human beings having very short attention spans and even shorter memories that need constant provocation. Throughout the final chapters of the Gospel of John, the thrust of Jesus' message to the disciples, the thing of which they must be continually reminded and taught, is to love one another with the same enduring and passionate love Jesus loved them, and the same eternal and creative love with which God loved Jesus. "Judas said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?'" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." Pentecost is about revelation, isn't it? It's about the revelation of God's love and God's Spirit that keeps on teaching us how to love. Probably none of the disciples could have predicted that the coming of the Holy Spirit would happen the way we heard about it in Acts, but once in the midst of it, they must surely have known that Jesus' promise was fulfilled, especially when it was revealed to them by those who could understand what they were saying that they were "speaking about God's deeds of power," as we learn following that long list of geographical names that frightens even the most competent public reader of

Scripture. “What does this mean?” asked some of the Parthians and Pamphylians. “But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Well, as ignorant as those sneerers may have been about the fullness of God’s spirit, they were right about one thing: that Jesus’ disciples *were* filled with a certain kind of new wine, a new wine poured into new wineskins, the new wine of Jesus’ teaching of love poured into newly prepared vessels to carry it into the world. But the sneerers that day were the very kind of people to whom the Apostle Paul was referring when he wrote, “None of the rulers of this age understood [God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory] for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” But as Paul unpacks what the Holy Spirit revealed to those who experienced the wind and fire that first Pentecost day, and who experienced the continuing presence of that Holy Spirit, as he unpacks all of that, we learn more about what the presence of the Spirit in our lives reveals to us. Listen now to what has been revealed to us by God:

Things that no eye has seen  
Things that no ear has heard  
Things the human heart has not conceived  
Indeed, the very things that God has prepared for those who love him

Now, I said as I began that on this Pentecost, God’s revelation would come not through my plausible, (or maybe implausible) words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and power, God’s wisdom revealed by the Holy Spirit.

And we have just learned what it is that has been revealed to us, and to repeat, we have had revealed to us, to each of us, to every one of us:

Things that no eye has seen  
Things that no ear has heard  
Things the human heart has not conceived  
Indeed, the very things that God has prepared for those who love him

So, trusting in God to help us proclaim the mystery of God to one another, I would invite you now to remember your birth date, and, having that in mind, grab your Bible and whatever other possessions you may have with you, and relocate yourselves to sit with the other people born in the same month as you, with January babies on my left, and December babies on my left. You see, you, my friends, are going to offer a demonstration of the Spirit and power of God to one another, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Now that you are in your small groups, let me direct your attention to the video monitors, where you will find the directions for tonight's proclamation of the mystery of God. Your task tonight is not to speak in languages previously unknown to you, but rather in the language of faith, and your own experience with the Holy Spirit. And so, I invite you to share with one another the things God has revealed to you through the Spirit:

- Things that no eye has seen (or, what have you seen with God guiding your vision?)
- Things that no ear has heard (or, what have you heard in your heart?)
- Things the human heart has not conceived (or, what have you felt that you never believed you would?)
- The things that God has prepared for those who love him (What have you learned about what God has prepared for your life?)

You do not necessarily need to share tonight, but if you choose not to, keep this in mind: that it may very well be what *you* have to say and share tonight that is God's revelation by the Spirit to someone who needs to hear what you have to say. You see, that is what happened that first Pentecost day, when Parthians and Pamphylans heard about God's deeds of power from the lips of Galileans, the most unlikely of persons. And remember what happened at the very end of that first Pentecost day: three thousand people came to know the love and grace of Jesus Christ! May the Spirit be upon you! Let us pray. Amen.