

## A Spirit Filled Birthday

June 8, 2025

Willow River Churches

Acts 2:1-21 and John 14:8-17

Today is the birth of the church. Pentecost is 50 days after the Passover and is the beginning of the Christian Church. It was a miraculous event that came suddenly, accompanied by several signs;

1. The wind, filling the place and revealing the presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. The tongues, signifying the preaching of the good news to all nations; and
3. The fire, symbolizing the power and zeal given to those who obeyed Christ in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Keep in mind that it has only been 6 weeks since Jesus' horrible death, and remember that Jesus said to the Disciples that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. Clearly, those present did not understand what had just happened. How could they understand what just happened? Imagine seeing a tongue that looked like fire, rest on each one and then began to speak in other languages. Devout Jews from every nation heard the Galileans speak about God's deeds of power. They certainly did not understand what had just happened. I can just picture the scene. The heavens put forth a mighty wind that probably scared them, and then the Galileans were speaking in different languages. I can imagine they were all looking around trying to figure out what has happened. This was powerful.

This moment concluded the last 50 days and proved to all present that Jesus was the Messiah. This was the birth of Christianity as we know it.

I have a question for each of you to think about. How does God speak to you in your life? Is it through a whisper, a thought, reading a passage in the bible or some other way?

I would like to share two personal stories about how God spoke through the form of a whisper/voice in each scenario.

The first was in the evening of June 2023. Our daughter, Eydie and her husband, Indy were in their home and out of nowhere, the sky turned really dark and the wind picked up. They could feel the storm pushing against the house. Indy got up to make some tea in the kitchen and Eydie was looking for a channel on the TV for a weather update. Indy was looking out the back window of the kitchen as the trees were blowing in the backyard when he first heard a voice to call Eydie into the kitchen. He dismissed it initially but he heard the voice speak again. He saw one of the trees twisting and heard the voice again this time yelling for him to call Eydie. He called her to come into the kitchen to see what was going on in the back yard. She got up and walked into the kitchen when they both heard the tree break. They ran into the laundry room area as it crashed into the house right where she was sitting. (show picture of house). The kitchen is in the back of the house and was not damaged. Fortunately all were safe including the dogs and within a year, they were back in their house and the tree was taken down.

Now fast forward to January, 2025. If you noticed the blue car in their yard, that car has a story to tell also. Again God whispered the following event. Our daughter is a teacher

and has been driving that 20 year old car back and forth to work at least 30 miles a day. The car had over 300,000 miles and it was becoming dangerous to drive. So she decided to buy a new car to travel back and forth to work every day. Because the old car needed a lot of work and its limited value, it sat in the driveway for 2 months, waiting on a mechanic to possibly fix it. I learned that the high school right around the corner from their house, had an automotive training department where high school students learned to take a car apart including the motor and it back together again. When I told her about the department, she asked me to call the school to see if they wanted it as she was willing to donate it to them. So on a Monday, I called the school and talked to a woman who seemed very excited and said, yes. I gave her my daughter's phone number and the two arranged a time to drop the car off. That same week, Eydie's school closed due to a flu outbreak, so she was able to meet at the school sooner. When she drove the car around to the high school, the teacher ran out and told Eydie that "God must have whispered to us at the right time, because they really needed that car to teach the students."

I know each of you have some stories similar to these two but let me share 6 key points that Jentezen Franklin has shared .

1. **God has a whisper for you.** Regardless of your age or who you are, God will speak to you, especially in times of transition, to give direction.
2. **Listen for His whispers.** God has a plan for you, and He will speak to you if you listen. To hear God's voice, say "here I am Lord, speak to me".

3. **Whispers require you to step out.** Sometimes God's whisper is just a "maybe" and require courage. Get out of your comfort zone and obey the voice of the Lord.
4. **Don't proceed with your plans without hearing the proceeding voice of God.**  
When you listen to God's voice, He will instruct you on how to proceed with your life.  
God will give you new directions if you are listening.
5. **When God gives you a whisper, it's about others.** One word from God can save souls and change the eternities of generations. Don't let "boat people" talk you out of water-walking when Jesus asks you to come. If you step out, He will hold you up.  
Even if you mess up, He will take your hand.
6. **Your greatest whispers are not in your past but in your future.** God's best plans are ahead of you, not behind you. (*Jentezen Franklin, May 22, 2023*)

So remember

1. God speaks to you
2. God has a plan for you
3. God's best plans are ahead of you.

How many of you are familiar with the famous Christian songwriter and singer, Lauren Daigle? When talking about whispers, Psalm 124 is a reading that really spoke to Lauren Daigle before she wrote the famous song "I Will Rescue You". This Psalm is a prayer of praise giving thanks to the Lord for Israel's deliverance from enemies attacking them and floods swallowing them up. When I first heard her song on K Love radio, it captivated yet haunted me at the same time. It still does. Lauren says she wrote this song from God's

perspective and the chorus says it all and is fitting for Psalm 124. As I typed this portion that I am going to read to you it is still so powerful.

I will send out an army

To find you in the middle of your darkest night

It's true, I will rescue you

And I will never stop marching

To reach you in the middle of your hardest fight

It's true, I will rescue you

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Let's watch her powerful video. Be ready with the Kleenex. [You Tube video of Lauren Daigle's I Will Rescue You Lyric video by Elijah Ferrel Aug 20, 2019. The video with Jesus.](https://youtu.be/iltpBpdjfZA?si=4hY4bD6pdRjdl1aD)  
<https://youtu.be/iltpBpdjfZA?si=4hY4bD6pdRjdl1aD>

For me, her words and the Psalm remind me of our son who safely returned from serving in Iraq and is currently training more troops to leave for overseas. An army marching to rescue those in need with God protecting them. It also reminds me of all who have suffered from severe flooding and wildfires and have lost their homes. In their darkness, God will rescue them.

Take comfort knowing that God is right there with you even if it is difficult to see and feel his presence. The Israelites put their trust in the Lord and He saved them. He will save you

from the waves of worry, conflict, despair, sorrow, grief, depression, illness, financial ruin, divorce, job loss or any other darkness you are experiencing in your life. He will never give up on you, never leave you, never forsake you. God is always there, just reach out to him, talk to Him, clear your mind and allow him to enter. He will find a way to save you. Just take a leap of faith and let him guide you through the whispers. Send an SOS to your Lord and Savior and he will hear you in the middle of your darkness.

Romans 8:15a says “you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit we cry “Abba Father”. The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God’s children.

And Romans 12:2 says “Don’t be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

You have so much to be thankful for even in your darkest hour. Praise the Lord.

Amen!