

IN JESUS ALONE WE FACE GOD'S FIRE TOGETHER AND LIVE WITH JOY!

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. . . . ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ^{11b} --we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

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*Pentecost is about **wind, fire & word** from heaven:  
as the ascended Jesus sits at his Father's side, and pours out his Spirit,  
heaven breaks through to form a new earthly temple.*

The need for a temple...

**ONE: The world's fire can devour you.**

Annie Dillard: *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

*In the world the strong suck the life out of the weak.*

**TWO: God's fire can devour you.**

If God isn't holy he isn't God and there's no possibility of relationship.

*God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more flood the fire next time!*

Tongues of fire: creation, fall, judgment, redemption

Slavery to desires for things less than God leads to alienation, emptiness and death.

**THREE: In Jesus alone we desire God's fire together and live in joy!**

*The **wind** of God's presence in recreation.*

*The **fire** of God's presence in judgment or cleansing.*

*You will either run from the fire*

*1 by trying to do away with God's rule (a) saying, "no God, no standard" or (b) saying, "the God who is forgives everyone" [but that is unjust and unloving, for the strong, the evil devour the weak with no restraint and no judgment.*

*2 by pretending you can keep the law: which is the height of hypocrisy and blindness; God is not God if he does not stand against your blindness, brokenness and willfulness.*

In either case you'll not be among the weak who run to God's unavoidable fire, but who run to it in Jesus, who bore the fire for them & who transforms judgment into blessing for all who find him.

*The **Word** of God present in Jesus, the new temple & his living-stone body Acts 2.36-47*

**Interact with these thoughts/questions:**

1. If you're not sure you're a Christian, think of the fruit of thinking God will just forgive every one: no justice, no standards, no restraint on vengeance.
2. If you're struggling with faith: run to the fire unleashed on Jesus; don't think incomplete obedience can gain love already extended at such cost. His fire will keep you humble; you'll be more obedient than before, putting away idols of fear, earthly comfort, security via wealth & control of others.
3. If you know you're a committed believer, own more deeply the task of being the church, of building relationships across barriers the self-righteous don't cross. Full of the Spirit means daily fullness of praise & joy in Christ.