

Acts2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.
2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
2:5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
2:6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.
2:7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"
2:8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"
2:9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
2:10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
2:11 "Cretans and Arabs-we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
2:12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"
2:13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

【From today's sermon】

Today is Pentecost (the Day of the Holy Spirit). It is the 50th day after the day of the Lord's resurrection.

Jesus said, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." On this day, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in the native languages of people from all over the world, proclaiming the great works of God. This marked the beginning of worldwide missionary work. This day, approximately 2,000 years ago, is called the birthday of the Church.

When "tongues of fire" appeared and settled on each of the disciples, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Holy Spirit enabled them.

The word "tongues" also means "language." The Holy Spirit first gave them the ability to speak in new languages. As a result, the disciples began speaking in foreign languages they

had never learned, astonishing many people, including those who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks (the Festival of Harvest). People wondered, “What is this? How is this possible?” It was the Holy Spirit of God who made it possible. The Holy Spirit of God “declared the mighty works of God.” The Acts of the Apostles is also called the “Acts of the Holy Spirit.” It is the mighty works of God that move the disciples.

Good morning, everyone.

Today is Pentecost, the 50th day after the resurrection of the Lord.

In Acts 1, Jesus said the following:

1:4 While they were eating, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for what you have been told from me.

1:5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

1:6 So when the disciples gathered together, they asked Him, “Lord, is this the time when You will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

1:7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by His own authority.

1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

And today, on this day of Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, this event took place.

2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

2:4 All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

It is written that tongues like flames appeared and divided, flaming and flickering, and settled on each of the disciples who were sitting there.

What an honor it is that the Holy Spirit has come to dwell within us, just as we sit on cushions or chairs. A pure spirit can only dwell in a pure place. The blood of Christ has cleansed us of our sins and made us pure.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them.

The word “tongues” also means “language.”

Did those who spoke foreign languages that could not be understood have different tongues, and therefore speak different languages?

Let us focus here on the fact that the work of the Holy Spirit was to speak foreign languages. In other words, this was the fulfillment of what was spoken in Acts 1.

1:8 But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

And what is necessary when going out to the ends of the earth is to speak in the local language, and God is fulfilling that need through the Holy Spirit, so this is a signal to go out without fear.

2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem,
2:6 and when they heard the noise, a crowd gathered and everyone heard them speaking in their own native language.

2:7 They were amazed and perplexed, saying, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?

2:8 How is it that we hear them speaking in our own native languages?

2:9 We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, and the region of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,
2:11 Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs—and we hear them speaking in our own languages about the mighty works of God! What does this mean?”

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

The people were amazed and perplexed, saying, “What does this mean?”

The phrase “What does this mean?” in verse 8 expresses the question of how, by what means, and in what way this is possible.

It is something that cannot be understood or explained by humans. What is impossible for

humans is possible for God.

Luke 18:27 Jesus said, "With God all things are possible."

Luke 1:37 Nothing is impossible with God.

This is the great work of God. It is the Holy Spirit who gives the power to speak of the great work of God.

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
(Matthew 28)

God accomplishes His great works with His mighty power and allows us to bear witness to His works.

Let us also receive the Holy Spirit's preparation and strength and set out on our journey.

Below is a quote from a book that ignited my passion for missionary work.

"To the Ends of the Earth: The Challenge of Overseas Mission" by Oswald J. Smith, translated by Kotaro Matsushiro
Life Word Publishing, 1970

The religions of the pagans
not sufficient for them.

Travelers return home and say that the pagans are enjoying themselves in their own way, and that their religion is good enough for them. They say that since the pagans are happy in their own religion, it is wrong to send missionaries to them.

Now, the Bible says, "Violence reigns in the dark places of the earth" (Psalm 74:20). And that is true. The problem is that travelers do not stay long enough to discover this. The characteristic of paganism is that it is a cruel religion. Fear grips their hearts. They are constantly afraid of evil spirits—spirits that must be appeased in some way.

Africa

I remember a story I heard when I visited Africa. It was midnight. Suddenly, a death cry was heard in the village. A baby had died. The witch doctor (a traditional healer among African tribes) was called immediately. The villagers were awakened. Soon the witch doctor pointed to a woman and said that she had killed the baby. She immediately protested her innocence.

However, she had to be tested. The villagers drove her to a tree standing in the center of the village. She was told to climb the tree and jump from the highest branch. She began to climb. Eventually, she sat on a branch and once again declared her innocence. Everyone knew she was telling the truth. She was one of the most respectable women in the village and was held in the highest esteem by everyone. However, the witch doctor pointed at her and said she was guilty. Therefore, she had to prove her innocence.

She began climbing again. Finally, she reached the highest branch. She sat there and continued to assert her innocence. Then, before the missionary's terrified gaze, she threw herself toward the hard ground below. She died instantly. Most of her bones were broken. She was thus declared guilty. If she had been innocent, she would not have been injured.

Dear friend, countless such things are happening. Why? Because of their religion. Their pagan religion demands it. Therefore, they cannot escape it. Do you want to be like this woman? Until you are prepared to accept the religion of this woman and renounce your Christian faith, do not say, "Their religion is sufficient for them." If their religion is not sufficient for you, then it is not sufficient for them either.

Australia

I am thinking of a time when I visited the aborigines of Australia. In the center of the Australian continent, there is a vast desert, and the climate is extremely hot. The aborigines live there, almost naked, often sleeping on the sand. A mother gave birth to a baby. One of the villagers died. They had to find a sacrifice for the funeral.

Soon, the witch doctor approached the newborn baby.

The mother clutched the baby to her chest like a madwoman. However, the witch doctor, without a moment's hesitation, snatched the baby from the crying mother's arms, laid it face up on the sand, forced its tiny mouth open, and stuffed sand into it until the baby suffocated and died.

Why did he do such a thing? Because their religion demands it. They must sacrifice someone to appease evil spirits.

Would you like to be like this mother? If her religion is good for her, then it is good for you. However, unless you are willing to become like this mother and sacrifice your newborn baby, you have no right to say that "their religion is good enough for them." Such terrible customs are practiced because of their religion.

Don't you think this native mother suffers as much as you do? Of course she does. She loves her baby just as you love yours. But the witch doctor has no heart. The evil spirits must be appeased. Is her religion enough for her? Then it should be enough for you too.

The South Pacific Islands (Micronesia)

I am also thinking about my visit to the South Pacific Islands. Shon Geddes was one of the first missionaries to visit the South Pacific Islands from Canada. That was quite some time ago. When he landed, he saw a group of people gathered together. A man's corpse was lying on the ground. Under a tree nearby, he could see a young woman. She was the wife of the dead man.

Suddenly, the natives approached her. She did not resist. She knew very well what was going to happen. They wrapped a thick rope around her neck and began to strangle her. Shon Geddes ran toward her to help her, but he was violently pushed away and told that if he interfered, he would also lose his life. In this way, he witnessed the horrifying sight of a beautiful young woman being slowly strangled to death before his eyes. Her body was laid beside her husband's.

Why? Because their religion demands that when a husband dies, his wife must also be strangled to death as his companion. And if the eldest son is an adult, he must strangle his mother. Not only that, but if the children are still young and unable to support themselves, they too must be killed in the same manner. This is their religion. It is a pagan religion.

My dear friend, would you gladly take the place of these widows? Could you wait with joy for such an experience when your husband dies? If their religion is good for them, then it should be good for you as well. And if their religion is not good for you, then do not say that it is good enough for them.

India

I can never forget my visit to India. When I walk by the river, I often remember the day I visited India. There, the bodies of husbands were piled up on a pyre, and their surviving wives were placed beside them. The two bodies—one dead, one alive—were bound together with ropes and burned. The young widow screamed in agony as she was slowly burned to death. The natives who had gathered around believed that this would appease the evil spirits and that the husband would be reunited with his wife in the afterlife.

Would you willingly take the place of this widow? Countless widows have died in the flames when their husbands died. It is for their religion. Is their religion good for them? If so, it must be good for you as well. Dear friend, do not say that their religion is good for them or that they are happy because of it, unless you willingly take the place of this widow, abandon your Christian faith, and embrace her pagan religion. Can a widow suffering such torment truly be happy? Of course not. "In the dark places of the earth, violence reigns."

Islam

The religion of heretics I cannot forget the story of a certain Muslim. He stood in the center of the town before a crowd and hacked at his head with a large, long knife until blood flowed freely. Then he took a newspaper, stuffed it into the gaping wound, and slowly lit it with a match. He stood there motionless. The fire crackled, boiling the blood and burning the newspaper and his hair. This man endured such unbearable torment without flinching. Why, you may ask. It was for his religion. To secure his place in heaven, he must inflict suffering upon his own body. He must suffer. He must endure the pain. That is why he is tormenting himself. Do you want to be like this man? Is his religion good for you? Can you endure such suffering? Do you want to suffer as he did? Oh, my dear friend, if his religion is not good for you, don't say that it is good for him.

Indochina (Southeast Asia)

Let us go to Indochina together. We are among savages. A frail girl lies on her back. Her head is held down firmly by the knees of a cruel, inhuman man. With a crude saw, he is slowly cutting her beautiful front teeth from her gums. The girl's body, enduring terrible pain, is covered with beads of sweat. The nerves of her teeth are visible, and blood is flowing freely from her mouth. After enduring this unspeakable agony, the horrific, barbaric procedure finally comes to an end, and she is released. However, she will spend the rest of her life with this hideous mouth. Do you want to be like this girl? What about your little daughter? Would you want your princess to endure such suffering? However, countless people are enduring this suffering. And it is all for the sake of a pagan religion. Even small, innocent children cannot escape this fate. This is pagan religion. If such a fate is good for them, then it should also be good for you.

The pagans are not good as they are now. They are not happy. They are unhappy. They are the most unhappy, miserable, and suffering people. They are constantly afraid of evil spirits and are trying to appease them. There is no rest, peace, or joy in paganism. Only Jesus Christ can give joy. So let us do everything we can to preach the gospel to them before it is too late. This is so that they too may experience the joy that you and I know in Christ. Let us never again say, "They are happy as they are. Their religion is enough for them."

Our missionary motto

"You must either go yourself or send someone else in your place."

Oswald J. Smith

"This generation can only be reached by this generation." "The mission of the church is to evangelize."

“Go wherever it may be, if it is forward.” David Livingstone

“Farther and farther, into the darkness of night.”

“If world evangelism is God's will, and you refuse to support the work of evangelism, you are opposing God's will.”

Oswald J. Smith

“Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God.”

William Carey

“A church that does not evangelize becomes a lifeless fossil.”

“Is it acceptable for some to hear the gospel twice before all have heard it once?” Oswald J. Smith

“You cannot take your money with you when you die. But you can put it in heaven beforehand.”

Oswald J. Smith

“The church justifies its existence only when it fulfills its duty to preach.”

“A person may die leaving behind more than a million dollars without taking any of it to heaven.”

William Fetler

“The light that shines the farthest is the one that shines the brightest in the nearest place.”

“If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then no sacrifice I make for Him is too great.” C.T. Studd

“Give an amount that is appropriate to your income, so that God will not determine your income according to the amount of your donation.” Peter Marshall

“The outlook is as bright as God's promise.” Judson

“Now let me burn out for God.” Henry Martin

“But more, O my God, give me more, more anguish, more suffering, more pain for you.”

Francis Xavier

“We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.”

“A church that is no longer evangelistic is soon no longer evangelical.” Alexander Duff

“It is not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of God's money I keep for myself.” “The highest work of the church is world mission.”

“Untold numbers of people are still untold.”

“You have only one thing to do on this earth. That is to save souls.” John Wesley

“Sympathy is no substitute for action.”

“Christ alone can save the world. But Christ alone cannot save the world.”

“The best medicine for a sick church is to give it the food of the gospel.”

“If there is nothing in our faith that stirs us to want to share it with the whole world, then it remains only our own faith.”

“While we pray, ‘Thy kingdom come,’ do we not say, ‘Here I am; send me’?”

“God had only one Son, and He sent Him as a missionary.”

David Livingstone

“As long as there are countless people who have never encountered the Bible, which is the word of God, and do not know Jesus Christ, I cannot devote my time and energy to those who have both.” J. L. Yuen

“The first work of the whole church is to preach the gospel to the whole world.” “Why should so few hear it so often when so many have never heard it?”
オズワルド・J・スミス

“Whatever happens to me, I will preach the gospel message.”

ツイントエンドルフ

“Now I am about to die. I would not have lived my life any other way, no matter what happened.”
David Brainerd

“I care not where I live, how I live, or what hardships I endure, if only I can win souls for Christ.”

David Brainerd

“Settle accounts with God, and He will settle accounts with you.”

Oswald J. Smith

“You cannot outgive God.”

Oswald J. Smith

“God is no debtor to anyone.” Oswald J. Smith

“I saw a vision.

I cannot live for myself.

Until I give all of myself

Life is completely worthless.” Oswald J. Smith

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank you for today's worship. God is able to do things that are incomprehensible to humans, things that leave us confused, stunned, and wondering, "What on earth is going on?" We praise Your name for Your great works. This world is filled with Your great works. Please grant us the power of the Holy Spirit and guide us by Your great power so that we may testify to Your great works. Please lead all those who are suffering into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our communities. Use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.