

Acts 2:1-18
Out of Many One
Pentecost Sunday May 29th, 2018

A story is told about a church secretary who took a call. The caller said, "Is the head hog at the trough there?"

The secretary replied indignantly, "Please sir, do not refer to our head pastor as the 'head hog at the trough.' That is very insulting and rude."

The caller replied, "Oh, I'm very sorry. I meant nothing by that. It's just a local phrase we use in the part of the country I come from. The real reason I called was to donate \$50,000 to your building fund."

The secretary paused then said, "Hold on. I see the 'Big Oinker' coming through the door right now." Mickeys funnies

My friends this is Pentecost Sunday. It is also the day in which we will make and bless our commitments to the New Vistas Building Campaign on God's altar here in the midst of worship.

Pentecost is the day we celebrate all things Holy Spirit! We celebrate the Holy Fire and wear red in honor and celebration of the 3rd Person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is many things, does many things, and goes by many names and symbols in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is referred to as: "The Helper, The Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit, My (God's) Spirit." It is also known as the "Comforter" and even by its simple Greek name the "Paraclete." It is symbolized by a dove, wind and fire.



In the Acts Ascension story last week, Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit after his ascension. He promised power would come upon his Disciples to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Also, in last week's Luke scripture we heard of Jesus' promise of the coming of the Spirit on the evening of his resurrection from the dead and his first ascension.

In our Acts reading today we hear of when the Holy Spirit finally fell. Tongues of flame rested on the disciples. Holy Fire fell and fired them up to do what Jesus had promised them they would be empowered to do: witness. They were empowered to do lots of things, but most powerfully that day they were witnesses. As it says later in verse 41, **"So those who welcomed Peter's message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added."**

Indeed Jesus through the Holy Spirit called 3000 people to him. These people were from many of the known nations in that area. They heard the Gospel in their own languages. **Out of many came one!** You can remember this message every time you take a look at the Great American Seal on a dollar bill. It says in Latin **"E Pluribus Unum"**, which means **"out of many one"**.

The Holy Spirit has called us together as One, Vista Church and charged us with building here in order to house the Body, the mission and ministries of this church as we reach out to other places to start new churches: Satellite Fellowships. We are called to write the 29th chapter of Acts as witnesses in the 21st Century!

In the Apostle's Creed there are three sections. This creed was originally a part of a Catechism. The 3 questions asked were: Do you believe in God? Do you believe in Jesus Christ? And do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Of course the third answer has all to do with the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

The Holy Spirit's first work is to bring the many into the One of the universal church of Jesus Christ. It is to bring us into fellowship and

communion with each other to learn how to forgive each other's sins as well as hope in our bodily resurrection and life everlasting.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus Christ empowers all that we do. So God has brought us to this time and this place,... this God moment,... to worship God and make our sacrifices and vows, our pledges of prayer and resources to his Kingdom here on Earth.

This process that we are in began in earnest right here in worship on Dream Sunday November 13th, 2016 about a year and a half ago. It has reached an important milestone today as the majority of the church is going to make its commitments. This is a major milestone in our "master plan" which we trust is the "Master's Plan". This is Phase 1 of 3. We trust that the Master's Plan for us won't end with the events of today, but will stretch far into the future until Christ returns.

And again we are doing this in the Worship service as an act of worship, because as I said on Dream Sunday, "the absolute best time to seek God's guidance and blessing is during worship for the Bible teaches, **"Unless the Lord builds the house those who labor, labor in vain."**

And I must emphasis this, that whatever we do will be by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It will succeed only through ongoing prayer, prayer that is as intense and ongoing as that that occurred in the Upper Room.

I want you to note our Prayer Puzzle.



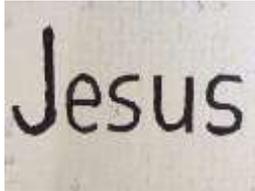
As you can see all the parts of Vista Church buildings and grounds that exist today have been completed. You can see the Sanctuary where we are seated, the Patio and Patio Room that will be a nursery and toddlers' room.

You can see the new parking lot from our Miracle Sunday last year and where the buildings for Phase 1, 2 and 3 will go. What is missing is the Storage Building in Phase 2. It will be up on the hill. Please note that if we put that building in the picture it made the picture puzzle too big so I dropped it out.

Note also what is not finished is the Education and Administration Building for Phase one, the Children's Sunday School classrooms and Choir Practice room for phase 2 and the Parish Hall in Phase 3.

These will be filled in by people not yet members here. They probably never have stepped in the door and won't for a few years. And what will complete it all is Jesus, Jesus Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

You see I knew how things go when you send out nearly 500 puzzle pieces to 269 homes through the US mail to people all over the United States. You don't get all the pieces back. I knew it would be a miracle to get them all back; so I turned to Jesus.



I bought a 2nd puzzle identical to the first and took pieces from the 2nd puzzle to fill in the missing pieces from the first. I knew that all the pieces wouldn't come back, but wanted to use this to make the point that Jesus fills in what we lack!!

It truly is only through Jesus and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that we will succeed.

Now a reminder: Phase 1 is to meet the top 2 priorities identified on Dream Sunday and confirmed in interviews by our financial consultant Clyde Kunz. The top 3 were Education, Administration and Storage. We stuck with Education and Administration and didn't talk much about Storage because of the cost.

Our Financial consultant was confident we could reach a million dollars in this campaign. He said 1.5 million was a real stretch, but 2

million dollars to build all that was envisaged to meet our top 3 priorities was too much. So we stuck with Education and Administration.

There is our timing in this world which in Greek is “Chronos”. Then there is God’s timing which is “Kairos”. We generally want it now and God says later, “Later in my perfect time”.

Just think about this season of Easter that we have been in that culminates today with Pentecost. On Easter evening Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Ascension (40 days later) Jesus again promised the coming of the Holy Spirit and then the disciples had to wait another 10 days for God’s perfect time for the Holy Spirit to fall and all be in place to preach, to hear, to respond, and spread the news.

When it is God’s time, then the power; and the results will be there. We’ve but to open our mouths and speak to witness as they did on Pentecost to then see results. We’ve but to make our commitments and begin to fulfill them; and then God, the Holy Spirit will take what we have already done and turn it into more.

Remember the last 2 weeks I have lifted up this truth. “If God gives grace and fruitfulness to the project than we know God is behind it. That is the meaning of that curious verse John 15:16b, “**And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the**

Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.”

Note: we bear fruit first and then God answers our prayers. Think on that a moment. We act on our faith, and light already given us, and God through prayer gives more. As of this last Thursday we had over **\$843,000.00** committed to this program. Many have already given and committed. As we do our part, and pray, God will provide more.

God will take what each of us do individually, or with our family, and out of the many gifts God will make one building for the future mission and ministry of this church. We will have one building (like the

Upper Room the disciples met in), one Church (Vista Church) and one fellowship of believers.

Remember out of the many one. God calls us out of many into one. Now there are different sized gifts that each of us make. Remember back to my sermon on the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, some built a whole long section and some just a few feet; but it took all of them to complete it. It will be the same today. Some will commit a whole lot and some not as much; but every gift is important for us making our goal. Remember out of the many one!

Some instructions now: For those who have already made a commitment simply sign a "Letter of Intent" and put it in the basket with all the others to be blessed on the altar today. If you are a guest or visitor here today you of course do not have to commit anything. I just ask you to pray for us and this project. For all of us let us thank and praise God for bringing us together as one to build for God.

If you need a Letter of Intent for your commitment and a pen the ushers have them. Please just raise your hand now.

The ushers will pass the baskets down and we will collect all of them together and place them on the altar.

Let us pray: Come Wind, come Fire, come Holy Spirit your people inspire!! In Jesus' name amen.