

STOKING THE PENTECOSTAL FIRE IN THE NEW GENERATION

BY APOSTLE TCHANGO KOMI COP CAMEROON AND
COORDINATOR , RCC CENTRAL AFRICA

PRESENTED AT PENSA INTERNATIONAL MAIDEN GLOBAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE
RWANDA 2023

INTRODUCTION

SLOGAN!

Stoking the fire!

Grab the mantle!

Occupy the vacant seat!



The Pentecostal movement marked by the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the preaching of the gospel and the planting of churches has been and is a blessing for the body of Christ in general and to the Pentecostal churches in particular.

From the Upper Room culminating to Azusa and other corners of the world, Pentecostal fire has contributed enormously to the growth of Missions, the planting of Churches in Africa as in other corners of the world, and the raising up of great men of God throughout the world

Yesterday has passed, today is present,
many generations have passed and
continue to pass unnoticed, and the great
Pentecostal Men are slowly leaving the
scene. The big questions are: What will be
the future of the Pentecostal flame?

Are we still going to refer to those who have already served in their generation, such as William Seymour, James Mckeown, and others, more than a century ago? Didn't God say "Behold, I will do a new thing" Isaiah 43:19. Hence this topic, "Stoking the Pentecostal Fire in the New Generation".

In this presentation, we'll briefly explore the Pentecostal fire, Pentecostal experiences or legacies, some historical Pentecostal fire revivals, and how to stoke this fire in the new generation.

I- THE FIRE OF PENTECOST

The word "Pentecost" is derived from Pentekoste, the Greek word for "fiftieth". It became the Jewish "Feast of Weeks", marking fifty days after Easter. It was celebrated in recognition of the deliverance from Egypt, by presenting the first fruits of the harvest to the Lord. It was on this same day that the Holy Spirit descended, it is no longer simply a feast day but marking the day of the return of Almighty God to man through the Holy Spirit and the day of the believer's covering of power in Jesus Christ.

- Fire represents God's presence and power.
- "I am a consuming fire", says the Lord, Deut. 4:24, Heb12:29.
- Since the Old Testament, God has manifested himself through external fire.

- Example:

- Moses before the burning bush. Exodus 3:1–7
- The pillar of fire that followed Israel. Exodus 13:21–22 "21 The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they would walk day and night. 22 The pillar of cloud did not withdraw from before the people by day, nor the pillar of fire by night."

- Mount Sinai on fire. Exodus 19:17–18 "17 Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the bottom of the mountain.18 Mount Sinai was all ablaze with smoke, because the Lord had come down to it in the midst of fire; the smoke rose up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook with violence".

- **NB:** This fire was external, and Israel could not even touch it or approach it.
 - In the temple, the priests were required to "keep the fire burning and not let it go out" (Leviticus 6:5-6): "5 The fire shall burn on the altar and shall not go out; every morning the priest shall light wood on it, arrange the burnt offering and burn the fat of the peace offerings. The fire shall burn continually on the altar; it shall not be quenched."

- The main role of the priests was to keep the fire burning.

Miraculously, on the Day of Pentecost, this fire that Israel could neither touch nor approach came to rest on the heads of the people and surely entered and dwelt within them. Acts 2:3-4

- "God and all his fullness have come to dwell in the believer through the presence of the Holy Spirit." Not for a given time or generation, but for all generations.

- NB: Our fire must manifest itself from the inside to the outside. You must not only see the fire, but be the source of God's fire on earth.

- II– PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCES OR
HERITAGES
- (PENTECOSTAL DISTINCTIVENESS)

- 1. Baptism into the body of Christ (New Birth)

- When someone repents, confesses his sins and faithfully accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit spiritually:
 - baptizes him into the body of Christ. 1cor 10:17/1cor 12:13/Gal 3:27.

- The believer is born again,(Titus 3:5),
- and indwelt and directed by the Holy Spirit.
Rom 8:14-17
- This is what Paul calls "One Lord, one faith,
one baptism" Eph 4:6

- The indwelling Spirit: Every true born-again Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, to help him or her live for the Lord.
- But are not all necessarily baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- Examples:

- New Samaritan Christians, born again, baptized with water, but not yet baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15–17
- The disciples were born again (Lk10:20), but were asked to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Lk 24:49/Acts 1:8

- Some believers were asked if they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit when they believed Acts 19:1–6
- Acts 10:44 shows that there is a difference between water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. Water baptism

- The believer baptized into the body of Christ must be baptized with water by a minister of the gospel as an outward identification with Christ, as well as a public testimony of conversion to Christ. Matt.28:19–20

3. Baptism of suffering

- Another invisible baptism that the believer experiences is suffering, which becomes a continual process. He rejoices in the privilege not only of believing in Jesus, but also of suffering for his name's sake.

Phil.1:29/Acts14:22/Mtt 20:22.

4. Baptism in the Holy Spirit/ infilling Spirit.

- The same believer must now be baptized in the Holy Spirit, by the Lord Jesus in order to receive power for Christian service. Acts 1:8/Acts 2:1-4

- *"1 On the day of Pentecost, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

- *3 Tongues like tongues of fire appeared to them, separated from one another, and rested on each 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."*



This implies:

- ❖ The presence of the Holy Spirit among them as a body
- ❖ Each person had a tongue of fire
- ❖ It's "the tongue of fire", not just the flame. The tongue is the instrument used to speak and preach the gospel, the Holy Spirit is the burning power of the tongue to proclaim a convincing message.

- ❖ Lays on each of them (while Israel was unable to touch or approach)
- ❖ It entered in them, that's why they spoke, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- ❖ Being filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 2:3
- ❖ Continual infilling Acts 4:31/Eph.5:18
- ❖ Anointed with the Holy Spirit Acts 6:3 ;
7:35

The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not only to speak in tongues, but to give power to exercise divine service; of course, speaking in tongues remains the initial sign and important throughout the believer's life.

5. Types of speaking in tongues.

- a. The initial tongue when baptized with the Holy Spirit Acts 2:3-4
- b. Devotional tongues 1cor.14:2/Rom.8:26.
- c. Diversities of tongues (Prophecy)
1cor.14:3

6-Forms of speaking in tongues

d. Languages of angels (Glossolalia)

1cor.13:1

e. Human languages (Zenolalia)

1cor13:1

1. Why speak in tongues

There are many reasons why we speak in tongues, both in church and in private. Here are just a few:

- To signify baptism in the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4/10:45/19:6
- Helps the believer speak directly and supernaturally to God. 1cor 14 :2

- For the believer's personal edification 1cor 14 :4
- Helps the believer to pray better Rom 8 :26

- Helps the believer magnify God in a supernatural way Acts 10:45–46
- Helps the believer pray with his spirit 1cor 14:14–15
- Helps the believer to praise God with his spirit 1cor 14:15

- Helps the believer sing with his spirit 1cr 14:15
- Help the believer to pray in the holy spirit Rom 8 :26
- For it is refreshing Isaiah 28:11-12
- Jesus said so Mark 16:17

2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit and their manifestation.1 Cor 12:1–7.They are grouped in 3 categories:

The gifts of revelation(eyes of God in the Church)

a. Word of wisdom: This is the supernatural revelation of God's will, mind and purpose for a situation, place, nation or person.

It is the divine ability to reveal God's will to people. This is different from intellectual, psychological and philosophical wisdom. It is not learned in school. It is divinely inspired. The wisdom that flows rhymes with God's word and God's will.

Example: Joseph and Pharaoh, Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar Gen.41 & Dan2

NB : The word of wisdom deals with the future..

b. Word of knowledge

This is the supernatural revelation of certain details of God's omniscient nature, the divine ability to reveal God's will to people. This is different from intellectual, psychological and philosophical knowledge. It is not learned in school. It is divinely inspired. The knowledge that comes from it rhymes with God's word and God's will.

Example: Elisha and Gehazi (When Gehazi took the money from Naaman) 2Kings 5:20-24

Paul at Lystra with the paralyzed man Acts 14:8. Peter and Anania and Saphira Acts 5.

NB : The word of knowledge deals with the past and the present.

c. Discernment of spirits:

This is the divine ability to differentiate between the Spirit of God and evil spirits. This is different from psychological reading. Example: Paul and Silas with the demon-possessed woman Acts 16:16-18

Vocal gifts/ gifts of inspiration(voice of God)

d. Prophecy

e. Interpretation of tongues

f. Diversity of tongues

Gifts of power / miracles (hand of God)

g. Faith

h. Operation of miracles.

i. Gift of healings

III-SOME HISTORICAL REVIVALS OF THE PENTECOSTAL FIRE

Revival in the early Church (Acts of the Apostles)/ Mark 16:20



- a. Filled with the Holy Spirit
- b. Manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- c. Preaching the Gospel

2. Azusa street Revival

Rev. William J. Seymour (1870–1922)



3. Revival of the Church of Pentecost CoP (From 1937 to the present day)

- It bears the revealing name "Pentecost".
- It is known for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and his gifts, just as in the early Church.
- Every member must experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

a. Some Revival figures from CoP

Some gallant soldiers of the cross below have left their mark on Pentecostalism in general and CoP in particular.

They are all characterized by:

- Men of the Spirit
- Men of the Word
- Men of prayer

- Men of faith
- Men who hunger and thirst for the supernatural
- Men of vision
- The Men of impact
- The Men of Integrity

Apostle Peter Newman Anim



Pastor James and Sophia Mckeown



APOSTLE FRED STEPHEN SARFO



PROPHET MARTINSON K. YEBOAH



PROPHET M. K. YEBOAH
CHAIRMAN, The Church of Pentecost, 1988- 1998

APOSTLE JOSEPH EGYIR PAINTSIL



APOSTLE DR. MICHAEL K. NTUMY



APOSTLE PROF. OPOKU ONYINAH



APOSTLE ERIC NYAMEKYE



b. Some results from the CoP Awakening

- ✓ Notable signs and wonders
- ✓ Transformation of lives by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ CoP's numerical growth

- ✓ Influence of Nations (Foreign Missions 151 countries today)
- ✓ Church planting
- ✓ Infrastructural and material growth



IV- ONE GENERATION PASSES, ANOTHER COMES



Isaiah 49:1-3 "1 Islands, listen to me! Distant peoples, pay attention! The LORD called me from my birth; He named me from my womb. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, He covered me with the shadow of His hand; He made me a sharp arrow, He hid me in His quiver. 3 And he said to me, You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will glorify."

The Revival of the Acts of the Apostles, of Azusa Street, have had their day, we want another more powerful and impacting movement from heaven to earth, knowing that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever "Heb.13:8. The big questions are:

- ✓ "Where is the God of Acts, of Azusa Street, of our fathers, of CoP?".

- ✓ What will be the future of the Pentecostal flame?
- ✓ Are we still going to be referring to those who have already served in their generation, such as William Seymour, James Mckeown, and others, more than a century ago?

- ✓ Doesn't God say "Behold, I will do a new thing" Isaiah 43:19
- ✓ We want the revival of Rwanda 2023, of which PENSA INTERNATIONAL remains the Agent of the movement.

“We also want our awakening, the awakening of our generation.”

“That you may be blameless and pure, blameless children of God in the midst of a perverse and corrupt generation, among whom you shine as torches in the world.” **Phili.2:15**

Pentecostal major revival figures are gradually leaving the missio Dei business scene.

1. There is a vacant seat
2. There's a free mantle



V- STOKE THE
FIRE, GRAB THE
MANTLE,
OCCUPY THE
VACANT SEAT.

2Kings 2:12-14

"There are always vacant seats, unoccupied high positions, objectives and duties of God in every generation, and God seeks to raise up men to occupy these vacant seats and high positions in order to accomplish His objectives and purposes". Ebenezer Hagan

How can we stoke the fire of Pentecost in our generation today?

- a. Obedience to God's Word
- b. Passion for spiritual things
- c. Fear of God

How can we stoke the fire of Pentecost in our generation today?

d. Removing ashes –sin

e. The life of sanctification

f. Sacrifice of the flesh and its desires

- g. Desiring the Holy Spirit and His gifts
- h. Tearing off the old cloak (experiences, other knowledge)
- i. Remain loyal to mentors (Fathers)

j. Endure fathers' test before promotion

k. Take action for the lost

l. Preach the word

m. Pray and pray again

SLOGAN!

Stoking the fire!

Grab the mantle!

Occupy the vacant seat!





CONCLUSION



Pentecostal fire remains the Pentecostal heritage. It is the visible manifestation of the living God by Spiritual gifts through available human vessels.

Pentecostal experiences held in high esteem cannot be forgotten. They remain the foundation for the growth and expansion of God's Missions.

The new generation, rather than continuing only to hold past Pentecostal experiences in high esteem, must seek to experience them anew. We must then fan this fire anew through faith and unreserved commitment to God and the teachings of the BIBLE.