

FOUR MARKS OF A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

There are 3 major events in the history of Christianity:

Bethlehem = "God with us."
 Calvary = "God for us."
 Pentecost = "God in us!"

As a New Covenant **Pentecostal Church we** believe that God has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us to live sanctified lives at personal, family and community levels!

Jesus is alive and He was given all the power and authority in Heaven and on this Earth! By His Spirit, Christ the Lord entrusted us with His power and authority!

The Bible describes the disciples before the Day of Pentecost as being purposeless and powerless. However, af the coming of the Holy Spirit we can observe four (4) traits of a **Spirit-f lled Church:**

1. PEACE & UNITY

Peace & Unity = the fundamental characteristic of a Spirit-f lled church ♦ Before Pentecost: Luke 22:24 - The disciples argued who to be the greatest!

Acts 2:1 "They were all together."
Acts 2:44 "All believers were together."
What happened that their attitude of self ishness changed? The

Presence of the Holy Spirit! • 1 Corinthians 12:13 - "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body!"

The Holy Spirit works to fulfill Jesus' prayer from John 17:21 "I pray that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent **Me.**"

Any other spirit that works to divide the Body of Christ is not from God but from Satan!

2. POWER Acts 2:2 describes in an audible way the coming of the Holy Spirit: "Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind."

The strong wind is the symbol of power. Nothing can withstand a powerful hurricane: Nothing can withstand the power of the Holy Spirit = the Almighty God who came to indwell the Church of Christ!

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit: **A. Healing Power** Physical healing – Acts 3:1 Emotional / Relational within families, generations. Spiritual = the unsaved come and find healing and redemption.

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit: B. Transformational Power

 God's Spirit transforms every one of us in the likeness of Christ and empowers us to serve God and His purposes with our talents, time, and resources! Satan and Hell are afraid when the weakest among Christians bows in prayer before God! When God's children pray, God intervenes!

3. PURITY

 Acts 2:3 "They saw tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them." Exodus 19:18 - The tongues of fire represent God's holiness!

The Church must seek not **ONLY power; she must** seek BOTH power AND purity! And not only those in leadership: "The tongues of fire came to rest on EACH of them."

 A Spirit-filled church preaches with the authority of the Scriptures against sin and eliminates the impurities from her midst. Acts 5 – Ananias & Sapphira 1 Cor. 5 – The adulterer from **Corinth was punished**

4. PASSION

 Webster Dictionary: "A strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or someone." A Spirit-filled Church must be passionate in two directions:

A. Passion for Christ

 Romans 5:5 - "God's love was poured in our hearts through the Holy Spirit." It's impossible and contradictory for one to claim to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and NOT have love!

If I am baptized with and controlled by the Holy Spirit I will definitively have a burning passion for Christ, a passion that will dominate every dimension of my life!

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Revelation 2:4 Christ's judgment against the Church in Ephesus: "This is what I have against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first!"

B. Passion for the Lost

- A Spirit-filled Church is invested in Evangelism, seeks the lost and preaches the Gospel.
 Acts 2:32, "God raised this Jesus to life and we are ALL witnesses."
- Acts 8:4, "Those who were scattered preached the Word where ever they went."

A true Christian must be "CHRISTIANIZER"! **A Spirit-filled Christian is filled with** passion and compassion for the lost, which without the Gospel are condemned forever!

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS

1. PEACE & UNITY 2. POWER FOR HEALING & TRANSFORMATION **3. PURITY = PURSUE OF** HOLINESS **4. PASSION FOR CHRIST & FOR** THE LOST.

We are praying for a spiritual revival in our Church, but the revival must start with me first, then with my family, and then to expand with the whole **Church! The Day of Pentecost** makes revival possible because the Holy Spirit was already sent!

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