

The Day Fear Lost its Voice

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.

ACTS 1:8

Written by Bill Perkins

The Great Commission began with authority.
Pentecost began with power—
Holy Spirit power,
undeniable then,
working today.

Filled with that power,
the same Peter who once denied Jesus
stood up with a courage he had never known.
Not because he found his voice—
but because the Spirit gave him one.

A crowd filled the streets—
pilgrims from every nation,
drawn by the sound of their own languages
spoken with perfect fluency
by men who had never learned them—
ordinary people declaring
that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Savior of the world,
raised from the dead.

You may not know this about Jesus—
but the first message preached
in the power of the Holy Spirit
after the resurrection
was about Him.

It was the reversal of Babel (Gen. 11:1–9):
where God once scattered people
through many languages,
the Spirit now gathered them
through many languages.

Three thousand believed
and were baptized that day.

Reading their story makes me wonder
how the Spirit can empower me
to speak of Jesus
with confidence
when I fear rejection
or can't find the right words.

But the miracle of Pentecost
wasn't just the sound or the fire. (Acts 2:3)
It was clarity where there was confusion,
courage where there was hesitation,
strength where there was weakness.

The Spirit doesn't just fill rooms.
He fills people.
He empowers ordinary people
to speak of Jesus
with a strength not their own.

Pentecost is not about noise.
It's about transformation.

It shows us that God doesn't wait
for us to become bold,
skilled,
or eloquent.
He empowers ordinary people
to speak of Jesus
with a strength and wisdom
that come from Him.

Where do I need the Spirit
to empower me
to speak of Jesus
with confidence?

When I fear rejection,
or feel unsure of my words,
Pentecost reminds me
that the Spirit who filled Peter
is the same Spirit who fills me.

Father, I pray your Spirit,
will empower me today.
Give me courage where I hesitate,
and words that point people to Jesus.
I ask this in His name.
Amen.