

The Sights and Sounds of Pentecost

And suddenly a sound came from heaven, like a rushing wind filling the house.

ACTS 2:2

Written by Bill Perkins

The disciples were in the upstairs room
because Jesus told them to wait
for the Father's promise.

God had always been with His people—
in cloud,
in fire,
in a tent,
in a temple.
Close—never inside.

But Jesus spoke of something new.
A life God would place within them.
A promise the prophets pointed toward.
A day when God would not just dwell near His people,
but live in them.

He had already breathed on them once—
the moment the Spirit entered,
the moment new life began.
But He told them to wait.

Power was coming.
Strength was coming.
The hand that entered the glove
would soon close into a fist.

Then the sound came.

Not wind—
the sound of it.
A force with no source.
A roar filling the house

the way thunder once wrapped Sinai.
The God who descended in fire and cloud
now pressed His presence into a room.

Then something like fire appeared.

Not flames—

but fire all the same.

A brightness that descended on each of them
as glory once filled the tabernacle
and later the temple.

Now the glory had moved into them.

Then came the fullness.

Not a sweep across the crowd—

a presence strengthening lives
one by one.

The Spirit who hovered over creation,
led Israel through the sea,
and entered them when Jesus breathed,
now surged with power
to make them witnesses.

The power once around them
had moved inside.

Then came the speech.

No confusion.

Just words carrying meaning—
each one landing in the ear
of every listener
as if spoken from home.

“Each one heard them speaking
in his own language.”

Acts 2:6

What Babel scattered,
the Spirit gathered.

The nations were being addressed
before the apostles ever stepped outside.

This is how Pentecost begins—
a Sinai sound without a mountain,
a temple glory without a building,

a life breathed into people
now burning with power.

Before boldness, this.

Before clarity, this.

Before conviction, this.

The Spirit came like this.