

Title: Pentecost Sunday – Open Heavens
Speaker: André Kruger
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Time: 09:00



Our invitation

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Pentecost was never meant to be a once off event. God has always meant it to be a continuous outpouring.

Unbelief: “the word is for somebody else” (or not relevant at all). **Faith:** “this is for me”.

See the glory of God

John 11:40–44 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ *Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”*

- The Father always hears when His sons pray to Him.

Open Heavens

Matthew 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

- Where did this power + confidence come from?

“This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” NLT

- If Jesus needed to hear this and know this, then how much more each of us!
- We need to know the love of God for us. Beyond that we need to love ourselves as the Father loves us.

We are wired for the love of a dad or father figure. We are wired for our heavenly Father’s love.

- There is nothing like knowing God’s love for us. It anchors us. It gives us confidence.

Sons will see the glory of God

Romans 8:15–17 (ESV) ¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

Two contrasting spirits. Spirit of slavery that leads to fear. Spirit of sonship that leads to faith and causes us to connect with the Father.

Fear closes the heavenlies. Fear disconnects us from God. For a son, the heavenlies are always open.

Every word will be tested

After open heavens? Miracles? No. He was tested. He went through a time of trials. Just an encounter with the devil.

Matthew 4:1–4 (ESV) ¹ *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* ² *And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* ³ *And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”* ⁴ *But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”*

“Every word will be tested.” When God gives us a word, a sign, an experience with Him, an affirmation, then testing follows.

Our foundation: *God is good. Always. Faithful. Always.*

Luke 4:13-14 (ESV) ¹³ *And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.* ¹⁴ *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.*

- Until an opportune time: Testing will come again.
- Returned in the power of the Spirit: After overcoming every temptation, then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit and signs and wonders followed.
- It should be the same for each of us!