

Homily for Presbyterian Churches worldwide.

Theme: Pentecost

Title: Together and without divisions!

Theme: May the Church of the Lord maintain unity in love, although living in the midst of a fragmented world.

Scripture Text Acts.2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.**2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.**3**They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.**4**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

I-Introduction:

From the experience narrated by Luke in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost, he describes to us that the first followers of Jesus remained in Jerusalem after His resurrection according to the Lord's command. The biblical text in (Acts 1:14) emphasizes that the group of eleven together with the women, Mary and the brothers of Jesus remained together, unanimous and in prayer.

Transition and presentation of the subject.

The author of Acts emphasizes the phrases "together and with one accord", this arouses my interest because it emphasizes the first characteristics that were part of that community of believers in the risen Christ and we can see this in the descriptions; together, with one accord and in prayer.

II -Development:

V: 1; The text tells us that on the day of Pentecost the first believers were gathered in the city of Jerusalem during the Jewish feast of harvests, fifty days after Easter. This shows us that the gathered people had a common purpose; and according to Luke; they were approximately one hundred and twenty witnesses. To be together they had to find each other. The word unanimous in the original Greek reads as follows: "omophones" and means: "having the same feeling". Seeking unity is not synonymous with uniformity within the body of Christ. Thus one of the miracles at Pentecost was that there was a breaking down of the barriers that have separated the human race since Babel, forming from Pentecost a new humanity in Christ.

Luke idealizes that the first believers in Christ were of one heart and one soul and the experience of living in community was to enjoy equality, that no one person was in need, this is what is known as "koinonia.

V:2-4 From the first believer's experience with the Holy Spirit, we can say that what happened in Babel is inverted, there is no longer confusion of tongues as in Babel; but an experience of faith, unity and testimony that transcends, that knows no barriers or frontiers. The testimony of unity, being together in the same mind as the people of God in Jesus Christ, is part of the preaching of the risen Christ, which demands that we reach to the ends of the earth. The power of the Spirit and the energy manifested during Pentecost is not a magical power where believers invoke by their own will, but in the era that marks this new beginning in the church we are exposed to live discouraging moments, sad at a personal and collective level (Rom.8:1) "*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us".*

III-Conclusion:

 To celebrate Pentecost today is to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in a world divided by cultural discordance, says British pastor Roy Clements; this has been brought about by imperialistic movements that bring about the domination of one culture over another. But the Lord's church refuses to allow itself to be dominated by these forces antagonistic to the Spirit's purpose of keeping us united in love in a fragmented world.

We close with this question: Is there any power capable of uniting nations without subjugating them? To which we respond:

* Yes it is the Holy Spirit who breaks social barriers with their manifestation of languages in Pentecost, to bring true unity in Christ to all the races of the world.
* Yes it is the Spirit that does not want uniformity within the Church of the Lord, but we are diverse maintaining the *koinonia* with one another, to grow and bear witness to Jesus the Son of God who prayed like this ... "*Holy Father, to whom you have given me, keep them in your name, that they may be one, just as we are...* that all may be one; as you, O Father, in me, and I in you, may they also be one in us; so that the world may believe that you sent me. (John 17)

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