***Sermon prepared by the Holy Spirit and***

***Pastor Andrew T. Okai***

***Pentecost Sunday***

***May 15th 2016***

***Sermon text:*** *Acts 2:1-4*

***Sermon theme: “****God in a unified Church”*

***Introduction***

*Grace, mercy, and peace...*

*Today we celebrate and begin the season of Pentecost... and as I always do, I’ll like to give you a little background about this festival...*

*The word Pentecost derives from the word fifty – it was the Jewish feast held fifty days after the second day of Passover – it was also called the feast of weeks because it started 7 full weeks after the harvest of the first fruit. (So it was required that every able body Jewish male travels to Jerusalem to attend the feast and offer sacrifice...*

*It is amazing to note how God takes the Jewish calendar and fits it in with his divine plan for salvation...*

*When Jesus was raised to life, it was at the exact time of the new harvest – he became the first fruit of a spiritual harvest... (40 days later his resurrection he ascends into heaven, and 10 days after his ascension, which marks 50 days after his resurrection, there is a celebration going on in Jerusalem in observance of the 50th day of grain harvest...*

*So God choses the first Pentecost after Jesus’ resurrection to pour out his spirit on 120 believers... which then began the harvesting the lost souls throughout the world...*

*This is why we set this day aside to praise the Lord because this day began the mission of God (Pulling lost souls out of the pit of hell)*

*So as we consider these things this morning, I want us to see the atmosphere that existed amongst those who were waiting that day when God the Holy Spirit arrived in our world as I speak to you under the theme “God in a unified Church”*

*One of the subtopics from last week’s message taken from John 17 regarding Jesus’ prayer for the church was about unity (John 17:21-23) this particular part of the prayer is emphasized – 3 times...*

*First, what we need to understand I think, is how powerful the act of unity is... found our O.T. reading for today is the story about the towel of Babel found in Genesis 11:1-9. (In this story we see that a group of people migrated from the east, and settled in the lad of Shinar – it was that time when everyone spoke the same language...*

***Lesson:*** *when people are unified in their endeavors nothing can stop them from reaching their goal...*

*So lets quickly look at the atmosphere of the believers on that Pentecost morning...*

***They were unified in their purpose***

***Acts 2:1*** *when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

*Notice that they were waiting on the lord together...*

*The same trait should mark the church today... (Waiting for his return)*

*Phil. 1:27 we are told to strive together – we are a team...*

*Even though we have different functions, the purpose must always be the same* ***1 Cor. 12:7-26.***

***They were unified in prayer***

***Acts 1:4-5*** *they all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers...*

*Notice that they pray together (They pray with and for one another)*

*Note: nothing builds unity in a church any more than praying together...*

*Nothing brings miracles in a church than praying together e.g. Peter in prison... (No wonder why Satan attacks this activity more than any other...)*

***They were unified in power***

***Acts 2:3-4a*** *they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the spirit.*

*Notice the text says they were all filled with the power of God...*

*Why did all get filled? They were all unified in purpose and in prayer...*

*One of the problems with modern Christianity is that the church members are in all different stages of spiritual development – (growing, immature, not saved, spirit filled, over emotional, etc.)*

*There is no other way around spiritual unity then being filled and led by the spirit of God...* ***2 Timothy 3:5*** *having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

***They were united in performance***

***Acts 2:4*** *all of them were filed with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.*

*Here in this text we see that each of them is being enabled for that moment...*

*When the church is unified in the spirit, every member is performing his or her part... (As the spirit delegates) he is the unifier, enabler & provider...*

*God doesn’t save one to sit and another to serve* ***Ephesians 2:10*** *for we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

***Conclusion***

*As we look through today’s message we see God at work through people – this is not of them...*

*Question: the question for you today is not how well are you doing, but rather, how well is God spirit doing in you...*