

## **“HOLD THE LINE” P. 2 – “WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?”**

### **INTRO. – “BRAVEHEART” SPEECH AS THEY “HOLD THE LINE” AT STERLING. . .(PLAY BRAVEHEART SOUNDTRACK IN BACKGROUND)**

I AM William Wallace. And I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You have come to fight as free men, and free men you are. What would you do with that freedom? Will you fight?

Veteran soldier: Fight? Against that? No, we will run; and we will live.

Wallace: Aye, fight and you may die. Run and you'll live -- at least a while. And dying in your beds many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days from this day to that for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!!!

Wallace and Soldiers: Alba gu bra! (Scotland forever!)  
AND THE CROWD GOES WILD READY TO FIGHT AND  
DIE IF NECESSARY!

**I WANT TO APPLY THE IDEA HERE TO OUR SERIES,  
“FORGOTTEN GOD” ABOUT THE WORK OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL OF US WHEN WE ARE UP  
AGAINST OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY (SATAN) FEELING  
OUTNUMBERED AND OUTGUNNED! (OR SPEARED)  
WE LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED LAST SUNDAY NIGHT  
IN LAS VEGAS - WE ALL KNOW SOMEBODY WHO  
KNOWS SOMEBODY- HIT CLOSE TO HOME - WHERE  
IS THE HOPE?**

**I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU THIS MORNING ABOUT  
THE WORK GOD WANTS TO DO THROUGH HIS  
PEOPLE WHEN WE ARE EMPOWERED BY HIM TO DO  
IT. IT MIGHT FEEL RISKY, BUT IT IS ALL ABOUT  
WHAT GOD CREATED US FOR!**

**HOW DID THE SPIRIT WORK IN SUCH A WAY 2,000  
YRS. AGO SO THAT 12 NO-NAME GUYS LEFT HERE  
BY JESUS WHEN HE ASCENDED TO THE FATHER,  
TURNED THE ROMAN WORLD AND BEYOND UPSIDE  
DOWN WITH THEIR INFLUENCE SO THAT A THIRD OF**

**THE WORLD (OUT OF 7 BIL. PEOPLE) CALL ON HIS NAME TODAY?**

**TO ANSWER I WANT US TO TURN TO ACTS CHAPTER 2. WE WILL LOOK AT THE HIGHLIGHTS IN THE TIME WE HAVE – ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THROUGH THE CHAPTER AND THE BOOK OF ACTS OVER THE NEXT 7 WKS. (SUGGEST LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE).**

**SHORTLY AFTER JESUS ASCENDED TO THE FATHER THE EARLY CHURCH WAS RUNNING ABOUT 120 – ABOUT OUR SIZE. THAT WAS THEIR LAUNCH TEAM (AND OURS AT THIS STAGE OF OUR HISTORY.) BUT ALL THAT CHANGED SUDDENLY ON THE DAY OF “PENTECOST” (BECAUSE GOD WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD AS THE DISCIPLES WAITED ON HIS TIMING – AND DIDN’T GIVE UP WHEN THERE WERE SETBACKS!)**

**PENTECOST WAS A JEWISH FEAST FIRST MENTIONED IN THE O.T. IN EXODUS 23 (WIKIPEDIA SAYS IT BEGAN AS A “CHRISTIAN” HOLIDAY, BUT THAT CAME LATER LOL)**

**THE JEWISH PEOPLE CELEBRATED THE BEGINNING OF EARLY WHEAT HARVEST ON THAT DAY.**

**PENTECOST = GREEK – JEWISH NAME = “FEAST OF WEEKS”. TO START OFF THE SEASON, THE “FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS” WAS 7 WEEKS PRIOR OR A “WEEK OF WEEKS”. SO ON THE 50TH DAY FROM THAT HOLIDAY, THEY CELEBRATED PENTECOST (LIT. “FIFTIETH”).**

**\*GOD HAD HIS OWN HARVEST IN MIND! HE WAS VERY STRATEGIC IN POURING OUT HIS SPIRIT AND SPEAKING THROUGH THE EARLY CHURCH TO THOSE WHO WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE ALONG WITH SOME WHO ACTUALLY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING CHRIST CRUCIFIED! TALK ABOUT BEING UP AGAINST A TOUGH CROWD (THE GATES OF HELL)! BUT HERE’S WHAT HAPPENED. . .**

**A. ACTS 2:1-8 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[a] as the Spirit enabled them.**

**5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?**

**A. FIRST, MIRACULOUS SIGNS ACCOMPANIED THE EVENT AND MESSAGE – RUSHING WIND, TONGUES OF FIRE AS A SIGN GOD WAS ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING MAJOR!**

**B. “ALL OF THEM” (THE PEOPLE OF GOD) WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPOKE IN OTHER TONGUES AS THE SPIRIT ENABLED THEM. (GK. WORK = DIALEKTOS – “LANGUAGES”). YOU CAN SEE BY CONTEXT IN V.8, EVERYONE HEARD IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE/DIALECT, NOT AN UNKNOWN HEAVENLY LANGUAGE HERE.**

**\*JEWISH PEOPLE AMAZED AND PERPLEXED ASKED  
– WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? FULFILLMENT OF  
PROPHECY? SIGN FROM GOD?**

**C. PETER, WHO ONCE HAD SHRUNK BACK FROM  
THIS CROWD AND HAD DENIED CHRIST, NOW  
FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, SPEAKS OUT WITH  
STRENGTH AND PURPOSE. . .**

**B. ACTS 2:14-21 Then Peter stood up with the  
Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:  
“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let  
me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15  
These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only  
nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken  
by the prophet Joel:**

**17 “In the last days, God says,**

**I will pour out my Spirit on all people.**

**Your sons and daughters will prophesy,**

**your young men will see visions,**

**your old men will dream dreams.**

**18 Even on my servants, both men and women,**

**I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.**

**19 I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

**20 The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of  
the Lord.**

**21 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'**[a]

**A. SHOWS HOW THIS IS A FULFILLMENT OF O.T.  
PROPHECY AND DETAILS THE SIGNS LEADING UP  
TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**

**NOTICE ACTS 2:21 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'**[a]

**= LISTED AS A MIRACULOUS SIGN – ONE MANY OF  
US HAVE WITNESSED IN OUR DAY AND IN OUR  
CHURCH AS THE SPIRIT DOES HIS WORK!**

**C. ACTS 2:36-41 (after showing them Jesus was the promised ONE who fulfilled the prophecies). 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, *whom you crucified*, both Lord and Messiah.”**

**37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

**38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. *And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**

**40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

**- LOOK AT THE RESPONSE WHEN PETER AND THE EARLY CHURCH LET THE SPIRIT LEAD. THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES A GRAND ENTRANCE IN A**



**UNIQUE, ONE TIME EXPERIENCE LIKE THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA! THROUGH MIRACULOUS SIGNS, GOD PUTS HIS SEAL ON EARLY CHURCH *BEFORE THE VERY PEOPLE WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS!* THIS IS IN DIRECT ANSWER TO JESUS' PRAYER ON THE CROSS FOR THESE SAME PEOPLE. GOD IS THE GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE (IN THIS LIFE).!**

**APPLICATION –**

**WITH WHAT WE HAVE JUST READ, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE TITLE AND ASK AGAIN, “WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF??” – WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING ABOUT AND FOLLOWING GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT? (CHAPTER 2 - "Forgotten God")**

- A. FIRST, SOME MIGHT BE WORRIED A STUDY LIKE THIS COULD CHALLENGE HOW YOU WERE BROUGHT UP TO BELIEVE. ARE YOU WILLING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT, EVEN IF STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES MIGHT CHANGE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT ALL ALONG??**

**\*ILLUS. SPEAKER AT FOREST HOME SHARED ABOUT PRAYING AT PENTECOSTAL CHURCH – AFTER SPEAKING, WOMAN – “MR., HEAL MY BABY!” PRAYED OVER HER W. GROUP - DIDN'T SEE WOMAN OR DAUGHTER AGAIN UNTIL A FEW YEARS LATER - GIRL HEALED AND BRACES LOOSENED AFTER PRAYER. AFTER HE SHARED THE STORY WITH COLLEAGUES, ONE RESPONDED – “I’M SORRY, MY THEOLOGY DOESN’T ALLOW FOR THAT.” ANOTHER COLLEAGUE: Roger, “. . .it just may be that God is bigger than your theology.”**

**\*\*THE JEWS THAT AIDED THE ROMANS WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED JESUS *WERE WILLING TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST* ONCE THE SPIRIT SPOKE THROUGH PETER AND HE DEMONSTRATED THAT WHAT THEY WITNESSED = FULFILLMENT OF O.T. PROPHECY FROM THE BOOK OF JOEL. HOW ABOUT YOU?**

**QUESTION #1 IN SESSION 1 OF WORKBOOKS – ALL OF US HAD DIFF. BACKGROUNDS IN OUR GROUP.**

**How teachable are you as we study the scriptures together?**

**B. SECOND, IF YOU START LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT AND BELIEVE GOD'S WORD, ARE YOU AFRAID HE WON'T COME THROUGH WITH WHAT HE HAS PROMISED?**

**FIRST OF ALL, DO YOU BELIEVE HE WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY SPIRIT IF YOU ASK? (LUKE 11:13 *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*) HAVE YOU BEEN LET DOWN IN PRAYER BEFORE AND ARE AFRAID OF BEING LET DOWN AGAIN?**

**\*\*IF SO, REMEMBER – THERE = A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAYING FOR WHAT GOD HAS ACTUALLY PROMISED VS PRAYING FOR *WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE HIM TO DO!***

**\*MAYBE SOME HAVE LISTENED TOO MUCH TO THE T.V. PREACHERS PROMISING “HEALTH AND WEALTH” AND YET YOU HAVENT EXPERIENCED IT. CAN YOU TRUST GOD EVEN WHEN HE SAYS, “NO” OR “NOT THIS WAY”?**

**C. A THIRD HONEST QUESTION TO ASK IN THIS SERIES = *“Do I even want this?”***

**WHAT I MEAN IS, DO YOU FEAR HIS WILL?**

**Sometimes we try to lead the Holy Spirit rather than allowing Him to lead us.**

**WHY? BECAUSE WE MAY NOT LIKE WHERE HE TAKES US. WHAT IF HE WANTS ME TO DO SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY HARD? – I MEAN IF JESUS WENT TO THE CROSS AND THAT WAS GOD’S WILL. . .**

**\*\*LISTEN BEING A PARENT IS HARD WORK, BUT HOPEFULLY THE JOY OUTWEIGHS THE DIFFICULT SEASONS OF PARENTING. (SHARON AND I PUT OFF HAVING KIDS FOR 7 YEARS, BUT IT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST BLESSING OF OUR LIVES, AND AT TIMES VERY HURTFUL. BUT RAISING KIDS IN THE LORD IS HUGE AND WONDERFUL!)**

**\*STARTING A CHURCH WAS SCARY FOR BOTH SHARON AND I. WE ALMOST BACKED OUT THE DAY BEFORE THE TRAINING (WE BOTH HAD THE FLU THAT WEEKEND). WE KNEW IT WOULD HAVE ITS UPS AND DOWNS AND WE HAVE TENDED TO GRAVITATE TOWARD THE FAMILIAR IN THE PAST. BUT. . . WE SAY AGAIN AND AGAIN, IF WE HAD TO DO IT OVER WE WOULD. WE WOULDN’T TRADE THE EXPERIENCE WE HAVE HAD, AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, AND THE TRUST WE HAVE HAD TO PUT IN GOD AND THE CONNECTION WITH ALL OF YOU FOR ANYTHING!**

**\*\*What if the Holy Spirit's purpose in your life is to mold you into the person you were meant to be?**

**THAT WILL BE UNCOMFORTABLE AT TIMES, *BUT WOULD YOU WANT TO MISS THAT?***

**D. FOURTH - THERE'S A GOOD KIND OF FEAR (OR CONCERN)**

**I'M TALKING ABOUT THE FEAR OF *QUENCHING OR GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT*. WE FORGET THAT WE CAN HAVE THAT EFFECT ON GOD! HE HAS EMOTIONS. HE CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE WITH EMOTIONS.**

**\*MOST OF MY BACKGROUND AFTER GROWING UP IN A LIBERAL CHURCH WHERE I NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL, HAS BEEN IN MORE CONSERVATIVE CHURCHES AFTER BEGINNING TO FOLLOW CHRIST. NOT MUCH FELLOWSHIP WITH PENTECOSTAL GROUPS. JOEL'S EXPERIENCE AT YWAM MAUI TAUGHT ME SOME THINGS AND REALLY DEVELOPED HIS LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL. BUT I WAS AFRAID AT FIRST UNTIL FACEBOOK RESPONSE FROM PASTOR I RESPECTED.**

**BIBLE COLLEGE I GRADUATED FROM – PROFESSOR WOULD SAY – “THE PERSON WITH THE MOST HOLY**

**SPIRIT TALKS ABOUT JESUS, NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT.” JOHN 16:14**

**14 He (the Spirit) will *glorify me* because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.**

**(YET IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN OUR SM. GROUP STUDY DURING THE WEEK (NOT TOO LATE), YOU LOOKED AT PLENTY OF SCRIPTURE THIS PAST WEEK WHERE JESUS, AND LUKE WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF ACTS – TALK QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT!) THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT BY FOLLOWING THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT *WE BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST!* MORE ACCURATE TO SAY,**

**Since the Holy Spirit came to bear witness of Jesus, the person filled with the Spirit will talk *more about Jesus than the Holy Spirit.***

**MUCH LESS OF AN EITHER/OR STATEMENT LIKE MY PROFESSOR MADE, AND I THINK MORE BIBLICAL.**

**\*\*ILLUS. LIKE FRANCIS CHAN MENTIONS IN HIS BOOK, I HAD SOME NEG. EXPERIENCES WITH THOSE WHO CAME WITH “A WORD FROM THE LORD” AND PROPHESED OVER PEOPLE IN MY CHURCH.**

**\*\*LADY STANDING OUT IN FRONT LAYING HANDS ON PEOPLE AS THEY WALKED IN TO WORSHIP ON**

**SUNDAYS. TURNED OUT TO BE MENTALLY OUT THERE, AND HER PROPHECIES WERE WRONG.**

**BUT WHAT IF INSTEAD OF THROWING THE WHOLE IDEA OUT, WHAT IF I JUST GO BACK TO THE WORD AND READ WHAT IT SAYS? (WHAT WE WANT TO DO IN THIS SERIES NO MATTER WHAT YOUR BACKGROUND)**

**1 THESS. 5:19-22. Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.**

**WHAT IF INSTEAD OF THROWING OUT THE WHOLE POSSIBILITY OF MIRACULOUS SIGNS HAPPENING TODAY WE “TEST EVERYTHING” LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS, AND HOLD ON TO WHAT IS GOOD. DOES IT AGREE W. THE TEACHING THE N.T. FOR ONE?**

**\*WHAT IF INSTEAD OF BEING AFRAID OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT LISTED IN ROMANS 12 and 1 CORINTHIANS 12, WE LEARN OURS AND USE IT TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST INSTEAD OF OURSELVES LIKE THE CORINTHIANS WERE DOING? (NICK’S TEST - TAKE IT THIS WEEK IF YOU HAVEN'T.)**

**WHAT IF INSTEAD OF HINDERING OR QUENCHING THE SPIRIT, WE *WALKED WITH HIM* – NOT AHEAD OR BEHIND, BUT WITH?**

**CONCLUSION:**

**HOW CAN WE AS A CHURCH WALK ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT?**

**GO BACK TO ACTS 2 AS OUR MODEL AS WE GET READY TO FINISH UP - READ **ACTS 2:42-47**. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

1. **Apostle's teaching = N.T.**



2. **Fellowship** – close life to life sharing – small groups in homes. Learning together as iron sharpens iron, putting the truth into practice.
3. **Breaking of bread and prayer** = communion? Pot lucks in homes?
4. **Signs and wonders** – Jesus said “greater things will we do because He is going to the Father and sending One like Himself. Changed lives emphasized over healing. What has God promised? We as a church have experienced both!
5. V. 44 – **Being together** – in a society like ours – didn’t limit to once a month when they had a Sunday responsibility. (Keeping coals hot vs cold)
6. V. 45 – **They gave and shared generously and praised God (worship) and enjoyed His blessing as a result.**

**. . .and the Lord added. . .**

**{MEDIA TEAM YOU CAN PUT THESE 6 HEADINGS IN RED HERE ABOVE ON ONE SLIDE. THE NUMBERS ARE NOT NECESSARY}**

**\*LOOKING AT THESE 6, IS THIS WHAT WE ARE AFRAID OF IF WE LET THE SPIRIT LEAD?? SOUNDS PRETTY AWESOME TO ME! LIKE SOMETHING I WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO BE A PART OF!**

**\*AS I GO THROUGH THIS LIST I AM REMINDED THAT WE OFTEN WANT A CHURCH LIKE THIS WITHOUT DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THERE – SOME WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW WITHOUT INVITING GUESTS – OR WITHOUT BEING HERE – OR WITHOUT GIVING AND RESOURCING – BUT STILL WANT TO ATTEND A GREAT CHURCH! - LIKE ME WANTING TO BE GREAT AT PLAYING THE GUITAR WITHOUT PRACTICING! OR RAISING GREAT KIDS WITHOUT SOME TOUGH SEASONS. TEACHING COLLEGE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH A PHD!**

**\*\*TRUTH IS WHEN WE FOLLOW THE PATTERN SET IN ACTS 2:42-47, WHAT KIND OF CHURCH WOULD YOU AND I EXPERIENCE? SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE OUR “NEXT 10” COMMITMENTS.**

**(SHOW SLIDE OF 10 COMMITMENTS)**

**SO INSTEAD OF BEING AFRAID OF WHAT THE SPIRIT MIGHT DO WITH YOU, LET’S FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD AND SEE WHAT HE CAN DO THROUGH US AS WE SEEK TO KNOW HIM BETTER.**

**IT JUST MAY BE, GOD IS BIGGER THAN YOUR THEOLOGY! **Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or****

**imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK WE WILL LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO HAPPEN IN US AS INDIVIDUALS WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON US IN STRENGTH AND POWER.**

**PRAY**