

“I Can’t Wait”

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As I have said, or as it has been said, this is the birthday of the Church – at the moment in which the Spirit of God came down and spoke to these 12 insignificant people, and the few women gathered around, as well. They were left *changed* - motivated. Even with the resurrection of Jesus they didn’t notice, they didn’t recognize, they didn’t see who Jesus was. It wasn’t until the Spirit of God came down at Pentecost that they realized that this world would never be the same again.

Yet, how many of you came specifically today because it was Pentecost? Not a single hand went up. Now Christmas - that is the birth of Jesus - we have three services. [On] Easter we have two filled services, Jazz Sunday it is packed. [Laughter.] Now Jazz Sunday is nice, but it ain’t Pentecost. And, yet, nobody is around [here because it is Pentecost].

And, I was thinking, what will it take for Pentecost to be incredibly important?

Now, it’s great that Jesus came down from Heaven and dwelled among us as the Son of the living God at Christmas. But, if Jesus had just come, and nothing else happened, it wouldn’t have been that big of a deal. Even the resurrection on Easter morning, if Jesus had come and was resurrected from the dead and then later ascended into Heaven, but then nothing else happened, it wouldn’t have been *that* big of a deal. The real power of Pentecost is that only through the power of the Holy Spirit changing those 12, and a few others gathered, only then could the world have changed. In some regards, Pentecost is the most important time of the year in the Christian calendar. Yet why do we not celebrate it with more verve and vigor and excitement?

So, I have an idea. I know why Christmas is good: We’ve got Santa Claus. Christmas is great, because we have presents and Santa Claus can get to all of those homes in one night. Easter is great because we have the Easter Bunny. The Easter Bunny is growing in fame. You go down now around Easter time to the mall, and you have an Easter bunny sitting there holding your kids, taking a picture. They scream as much on the Easter Bunny’s lap as they did on Santa’s lap. [Laughter.] Santa needs a diet and the Bunny has his issues. We need to find something for Pentecost. And another thing - along with all of these presents, we also have candy, because the Easter bunny has candied eggs and Christmas has candy canes. What are we going to do about Pentecost?

So, I got to thinking. We need to have something for Pentecost that is super cool, that everybody will start getting excited about. Now, one thing. If indeed Christmas is special, because you have candy canes, and [the] Easter Bunny is great because of candied eggs, we need to have Red Hots [laughter] as the candy for Pentecost.

It’s too bad Dan McPhail is not here. We do Team Mates. We sit down every Monday with kids that we mentor. We each have a boy that we mentor and there are some other people in the room. One day the group got together and, thankfully, it’s the first time I have been glad to have ulcerated colitis, because they had all of the hot candy and stuff they could find, and they had a challenge to see which one could eat the most without passing out, or their