



JUNE 2006

“
... WE BELONG TO GOD AND AS SUCH HE, THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WILL POUR OUT WATER ON THE THIRSTY PLACES OF OUR LIVES, AND PLANT STREAMS IN THE DRY PLACES WHERE NOTHING SEEMS TO GROW OR SPROUT FOR US.”

A prophet's job is never an easy task. One who has been called to prophetic proclamation by God is subject to ridicule by other persons and often to ridiculous directions by God. Prophecy is designed to disturb and provoke those who are hearing it so much so that they take on a different form of behavior or lifestyle. In simple terms prophecy is designed to bring about a change or better yet a transformation. Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet in the same year that one of Judah's

great kings, Uzziah died. All of us are familiar with Isaiah's words found in Isaiah 6 where he proclaims "in the year that King Uzziah died I also saw the LORD." Isaiah's prophecy began during a period of relative calm for Judah but soon all of that changed. Assyria (modern day Iran/Iraq) became a super power and deported Judah's sister Kingdom, Israel. As you can imagine this really scared the tiny nation of Judah and the king was really troubled. This would be akin to a super power deporting Canada or Mexico and the United States becoming concerned that they might be next to be conquered by the super power. Judah's king at the time was Ahaz. One of the many tasks that Isaiah's prophetic role called him to was that of a harbinger. He warned and implored Ahaz to have faith in God alone. Ahaz refused.

Judah's whole life and culture changed due to the fact that they constantly lived in fear. Isaiah had to keep prophesying faith and trust in God alone, to a people who didn't really want to hear it or fully engage that trust. After a while, God appears and gives Judah an assurance. The 44th chapter of Isaiah is an account of that appearance. "Do not fear Judah. For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your descendants and my blessing on your offspring." What a wonderful assurance. What a wonderful promise. This is not some trite token offered by God, it is an eternal

covenant that only God can establish and only God can make good on! It is sealed by God's Spirit or the Holy Spirit. That covenant and that Spirit extends even unto this day. It assures us that no matter what our fears and doubts may be the Holy Spirit is at work for us. No matter what changes life may be taking us through, no matter what dangers assail our path, we belong to God and as such He, through the Holy Spirit, will pour out water on the thirsty places of our lives, and plant streams in the dry places where nothing seems to grow or sprout for us.

It is this Holy Spirit that we celebrate today on this Pentecost Day. The Holy Spirit is alive and well and available to all of us. It is the power source for our lives if we but engage it. It blocks and tackles for us; it guides, guards and directs every aspect of our life. Of all the things I know, of all the things I have seen, of all the things I have heard about there is nothing like the Holy Spirit. Which is why as the 44th chapter of Isaiah is closed, God Himself declares "Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one." Be filled with the Holy Spirit and refreshed by its all embracing power for life.

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PASTOR'S

Perspective

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REMEMBER *Father's Day*