

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 4:29-31



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►²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.



► ***About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we recovered a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His Majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.'*** – John Wesley



► ***My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great. – John Wesley***



- ***A prayerless church is a powerless church.***
- ***A church can never be great apart from the Holy Spirit.***



- *When God begins to move, you can be sure the devil will begin to move as well.*
- *As the persecution and pressure increased so did their spiritual backbone.*



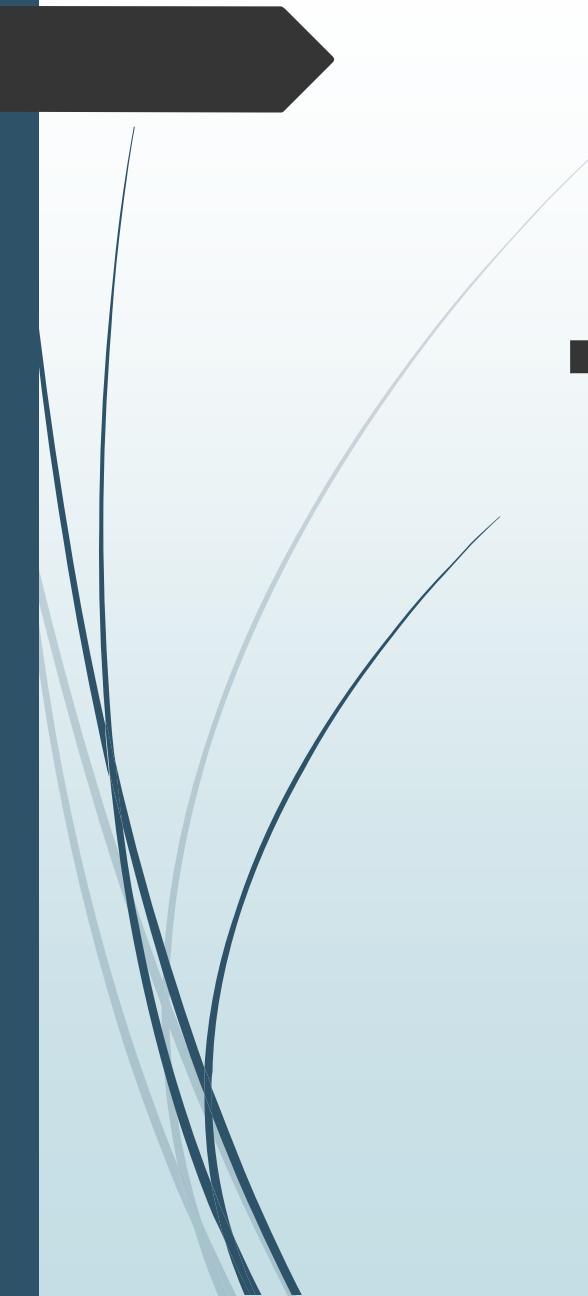
► ***We need spiritual backbones not simply to stand against the current culture but to boldly proclaim Jesus to the culture.***



- ***The Gospel is not mere words it is the very power of God unto salvation and must be preached in the Holy Spirit's power.***
- ***1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - 4 And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. 5 I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.***



- ***We have outsourced the work of the church to a few in leadership.***



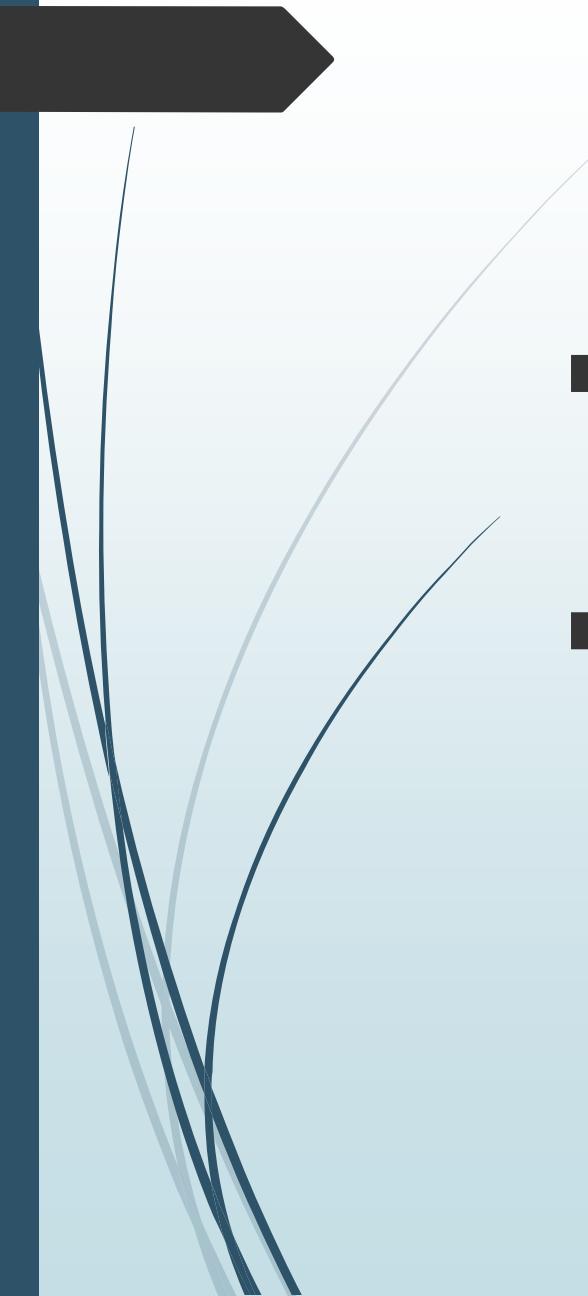
► **Romans 15:18-19 - 18 Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. 19 They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.**



► **1 Corinthians 14:26 - 26 Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. (NLT)**



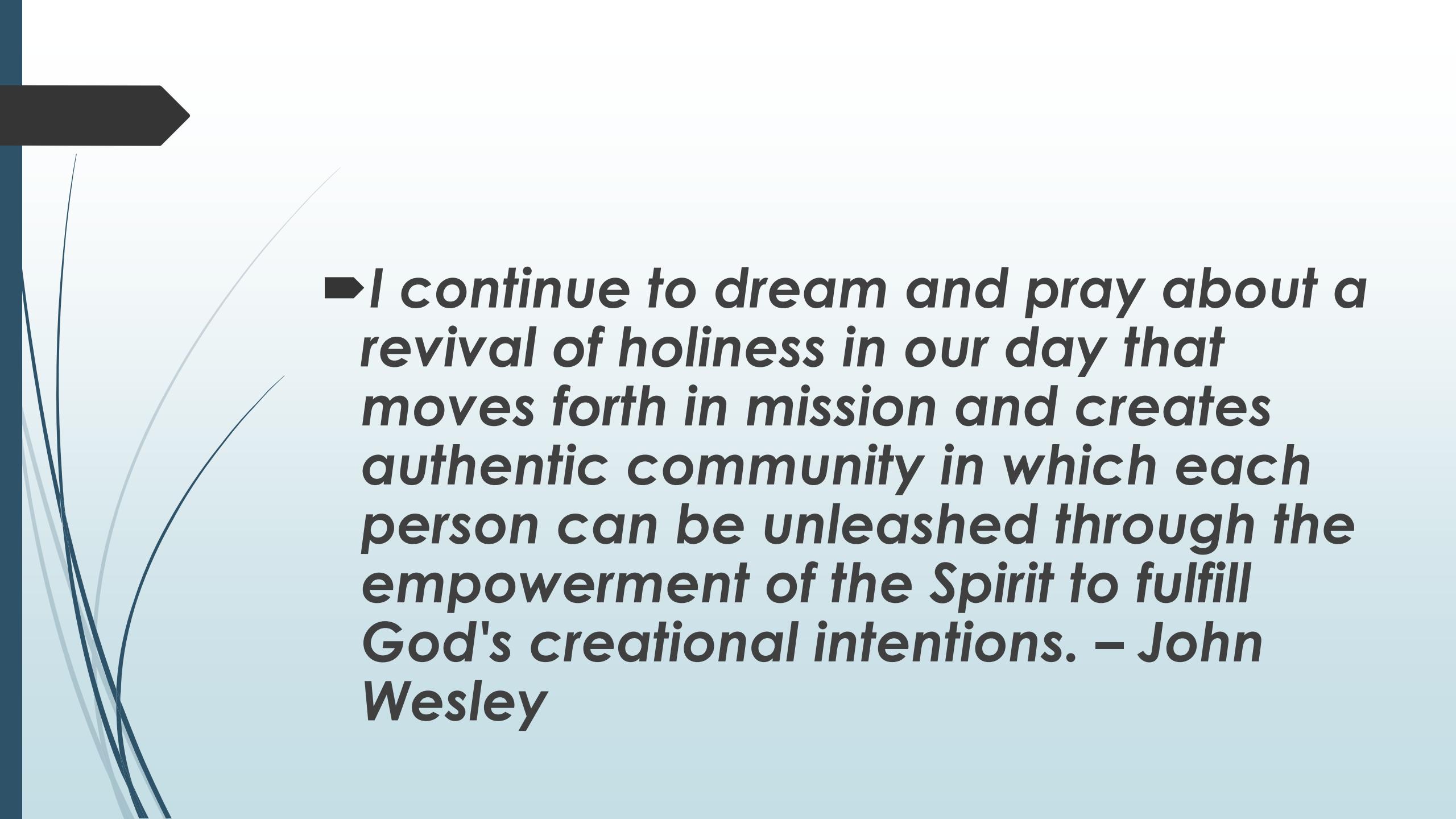
- ***1 Corinthians 12:31 - 31 But earnestly desire and strive for the greater gifts [if acquiring them is going to be your goal] ... (AMP)***
- ***1 Corinthians 14:1 - Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. (NLT)***



- ***Gideon – Where are all the miracles we heard about?***
- ***There were no miracles because no one in Israel was seeking the God of miracles.***



- “***What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.***” – John Wesley
- ***What one generation sees as optional, the next generation will see as unneeded.***



► *I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions. – John Wesley*



► “I set myself on fire and people come to watch me burn.” – John Wesley



- ***If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.*** – A. W. Tozer
- ***Our children are not leaving the church because our theology is bad, they are leaving the church because we are bereft of Holy Spirit power.***