

Pentecost Sunday Dear friends in Jesus Christ

There is a story about a village that suffered from a terrible drought. The land became dry, the crops died, and the people lost hope. Day after day they looked at the empty sky, praying for rain. Then one evening, dark clouds gathered, thunder filled the air, and heavy rain finally poured down upon the earth. Within a few days the dry fields became green again. The dead-looking land slowly came back to life. In the same way, before Pentecost, the hearts of the disciples were dry with fear, dry with confusion, and weakness. After the death of Jesus, the disciples locked themselves inside a room mainly because of fear. They had seen Jesus arrested, mocked, tortured, and crucified publicly. They were afraid that the same religious leaders and Roman authorities who killed Jesus might now come after them. So they were afraid, they were discouraged, and uncertain about the future. Even though they had seen the risen Lord, they still lacked courage and inner strength. Their faith was like dry land waiting for rain. Then came Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descended upon them like a powerful wind and tongues of fire. Just like rain brings life back to dry earth, the Holy Spirit brought new life into the hearts of the disciples. Fear became courage. Confusion became clarity. Weakness became strength. Those who were hiding behind closed doors suddenly came out courageously to preach the Gospel to the world. This is one of the greatest miracles of Pentecost. The disciples who once trembled in fear became fearless witnesses of Christ. Before Pentecost they were silent and uncertain. But after receiving the Holy Spirit, they stepped out with courage and purpose. The same thing is happening in our world today in different ways. Dear friends many people today live behind “closed doors.” These doors may not be made of wood or iron, but they are real. Some people live behind the closed door of fear — fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of losing their job, fear of sickness, fear about the future. Others live behind the closed door of loneliness. In a world filled with technology and social media, many still feel deeply alone inside. Some hide behind the closed door of addiction, some hide behind depression, anger, guilt, or broken relationships. Now a days many people smile in public but cry in private. There are families living in the same house but not speaking to one another. There are children longing for attention while parents are too busy with phones and work. There are elderly people who feel forgotten. There are young people who appear strong outside but inside they are carrying stress, anxiety, and hopelessness. Many people today are emotionally exhausted. They wake up tired, they live under pressure, and sleep with worry. Dear friends in many ways, modern society has become like that upper room before Pentecost — full of fear, full of confusion, and closed hearts. But Pentecost tells us that God does not want His people to remain trapped behind closed doors. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, He did not remove all the problems of the world immediately. The Roman Empire was still powerful. Persecution would still come. Difficulties would still exist. But the Spirit changed the disciples from

within. They no longer allowed fear to control their lives. This is the real power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives inner strength in the middle of outward struggles. Even today, the Holy Spirit continues to work in the same way. The Spirit may not instantly remove every sickness, every financial problem, or family difficulty, but He gives the strength to face them with faith and hope. A person filled with the Holy Spirit may still carry crosses, but they no longer carry them alone. We can see this in ordinary life. There are parents who continue sacrificing for their children even though life is difficult. There are people fighting serious illness who still smile, who still pray, and encourage others. The sickness may remain, but they are not crushed by hopelessness because they feel God walking with them. There are widows and widowers who experience deep loneliness after losing their spouse, yet through prayer and faith they slowly find the strength to continue living with hope. So dear friends, as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, let us open the closed doors of our hearts to the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who transformed fearful disciples into courageous witnesses is still alive and active today. Let us remember that life may have struggles, crosses, and uncertainties, but with the Holy Spirit we are never alone. God walks with us, God strengthens us, and renews us from within. May this Pentecost fill our hearts once again with the fire of faith, the courage to face life, and the peace that comes from God. Amen.