

Pentecost? We celebrate the power of God which changes our lives.

The people who followed Jesus were unsettled. They had moved around with Jesus, and this Jesus had been executed as an insurgent. Afterwards, they had seen him a few times, but that had been strange and not really convincing. And anyhow, he had disappeared again. Nobody knew how to go on now. So they stayed together, they simply did not want to be alone.

But then came the day when something like fire fell from the sky onto their heads. This is how they must have experienced it: A revolutionary change, completely unexpected, all of a sudden. A holy power which they felt in every fiber of their bodies. A power that warmed them from the inside, that took away their fears. That gave them the ability to openly talk about Jesus – even in languages they never knew. An overwhelming joy that completely changed them, from one moment to the next.

And so they came outside. Went to the city and started to tell everybody about Jesus. About what they had experienced with him. That he had healed the sick. That he had preached in a way that touched their deepest hearts. And that he had been executed – and was alive again, resurrected, and now in the place of honor at God's side.

Actually, Jesus had announced to them what would happen. That God would send his Spirit, the holy power that makes everyone a new person. A power that gives speech to the speechless. But they had to experience it before they could believe it.

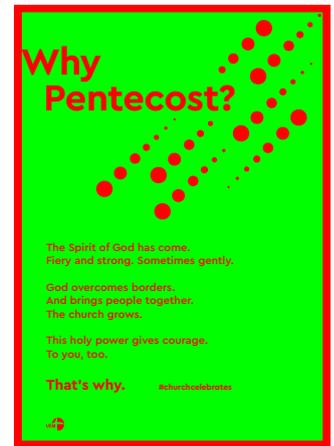
What happened on Pentecost was the birth of the church. More and more people experienced this power. They began to live as a community and to share everything. But the holy power drove them further: To people with whom they never wanted to have anything to do before. This is how the Spirit of God created a new community, across all borders: Between poor and rich, free and slaves, people of different languages and nationalities.

It is because of this holy power that today, people all over the world believe in Jesus.

And the best is: This power is still working today. Sometimes hidden, sometimes more visible. This power has awakened our faith and supports it through all doubts and questions. It gives us the courage to publicly talk about Jesus. It connects us with others despite all differences. It has changed us, we have experienced it. And so we hope that it will also work in others.

That's why we celebrate Pentecost. And we invite you to celebrate with us.

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