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The News Editor,

## **PRESS RELEASE: MESSAGE ON PENTECOST DAY**

The Day of Pentecost naturally would not hold much significance for the New Testament Church except for what happened on that day to a group of Christ Jesus' followers congregating in an Upper Room. Pentecost was actually one of the three annual harvest feasts of Judaism, the other two being the Passover Feast and the Feast of Tabernacles.

To the Jews it was a very important festival not only because of the blessedness of the harvest but because religiously it also celebrated God's revelation of the Mosaic Law (Torah) to them as a covenant nation.

For the New Testament Church, the Day of Pentecost takes on a different importance altogether because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit democratically on all God's people in Christ Jesus. Among the numerous significant benefits of the Holy Spirit outpouring on that Day, three things stand out which the modern Church needs to be reminded of.

First, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the final assurance and proof the disciples needed that, indeed, Christ Jesus has arrived at his destination – sitting on the right hand of the Father. Before the emergence of electronic mail, the postcard served the purpose of assuring the recipient that the sender had arrived at his or her destination.

The Holy Spirit descent on that Day was Christ Jesus' postcard to the disciples who saw him ascend into the clouds that, indeed, he had arrived and been glorified.

Secondly, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, according to Professor Asamoah-Gyadu, was a fulfillment of a Promise – a promise which was prophesied by the Prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32), proclaimed by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:11) and affirmed by Jesus Christ himself before and after his death and resurrection (John 14:15-21, Acts 1:8,9).

In this promise, God was going to pour out His spirit without discrimination, a democratic outpouring upon His people. And this outpouring would be accompanied by certain pneumatic evidences. Unlike Israel's engagement with the Holy Spirit which was specific to those in the offices of Kings, Priests and Prophets, the New Testament engagement with the Holy Spirit was all inclusive through Christ Jesus as Lord.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter makes a direct link between this Promise and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When he preached the Gospel the people responded with a question: “What shall we do?” In Peter’s response, he noted that the Promise of the Father was for all generations, once they have repented and accepted Christ Jesus as Lord (Acts 2:36-39). As Asamoah-Gyadu noted, the Father’s Promise started on the Day of Pentecost but it did continue throughout the ministry of the early Church. The experience of Pentecost became the beginning of new covenant for the disciples. The promise of the Spirit was, therefore, fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost that touched those who believed in Christ, giving birth to the church. Pentecost inaugurated the age of the church of Jesus Christ constituting those who believe as “the new covenant people of God.”

Thirdly as the Christian world celebrates the Day of Pentecost, we must bear in mind that Christ Jesus also gave the Holy Spirit for a reason . And this reason is summed up in what is known as the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

The proclamation of the Gospel will not be effective without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit gives the Church supernatural courage and power to proclaim the gospel of Christ to a lost world. The Church has a message (John 3:16), and we are called to proclaim it globally through the Holy Spirit. Also, we are equipped to be the prophetic voice within the nations in which we find ourselves, standing for righteousness, peace, truth and justice in every aspect of human society.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit has given gifts or graces (charisma) to the Church to supernaturally enhance the work of the ministry (1Corinthians 12). These gifts must not only be brought to bear primarily within the settings and the work of the church but also contribute to national development. While the human being has natural talents and polished skills, the Holy Spirit- filled believer has the added advantage of supernatural ability and presence. This must be demonstrated in acts of discipline, innovation, excellence, devotion and creativity in our homes, schools, offices, market places and the nation at large.

Thirdly, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit enables us to live the Christian life as lights shining in a dark and perverse world, by bearing in the believer, the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24).

In a generation where ungodliness is celebrated as an alternative modern lifestyle, absolute truths and morality have been replaced by relativism and individualism, the fear of God is scorned , and traditional doctrines of the church overshadowed by secularization. The person who seeks to live the Christian life is not left to do so on his or her strenght but equipped with superantaural presence, grace and power.

The Holy Spirit is the one true dynamic of Christian ethics. Through the outpouring and infilling of the Holy Spirit, the believer in this dark society can still exhibit love, peace, joy, gentleness, godliness, faith, longsuffering, self-control and meekness.

As the Apostle Paul said, 'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.' (Galatians 5:25. A blessed Day of Pentecost to all.

#### **ISSUED BY FRIMPONG-MANSO INSTITUTE**

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Thank you.