

Prayer of Preparation: *Let the church say amen, let the church say amen. God has spoken, so let the church say **Amen**.*

In its simplest form, Pentecost is what we would call the birthday of the church. Today is the day and now is the time we read the second chapter of Acts. Today is the day we listen for the sound like the rush of a violent wind, and we wait for it to fill the sanctuary. Today is the day we look around for the divided tongues, as of fire, to appear among us and to rest upon us. Today is the day we await our turn to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we too can begin to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gives us the ability.

I’m going to share with you something you probably already know...I *love* drama. Not my own, I love my personal peace, but I am ready, willing, and able to listen to ***all the drama***. Just give me a minute to grab my cup of tea, and I am ***all*** yours.

But Pentecost is not ***that*** kind of drama. Pentecost is the kind of drama that changes our hearts and minds and transforms us into a new people with a new walk and a new talk. Pentecost is the type of drama that says our response should be, must be, ***amen*** because the Spirit is moving around us, in us, and through us. This is the amen we send up to God as we say we have heard and we are ready to move where the Spirit leads.

Here’s some advise Paul gives to the Romans, *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption*. Paul points out to the Romans that when the Spirit comes rushing through and takes ahold of us, we are adopted into a new family; we are adopted into God’s family.

So, when the Spirit comes rushing through and says we’ve been adopted into a new family, our response is...***Amen!***

And when the Spirit comes rushing through and gives us a new language to speak, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and gives us a new walk, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and our sons and daughters come to us with a new way of living and being, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and says it’s our time to move, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and says it's our time to share our witness to the world, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and says, Grace church I have plans for you, our response is...***Amen!***

When the Spirit comes rushing through and says it's time to heal the sick and raise the dead, our response is...***Amen!***

We've been adopted by almighty God: Lord God Almighty, Lord and Master, my Banner, My Healer, My Shepherd, The Lord Right Here, The Lord My Righteousness, ***and*** The Everlasting God.

We've been adopted by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We've been adopted by God we can call on day and night. We've been adopted by God of new birth. We've been adopted by God of resurrection. We've been adopted by God of hope, God of healing, and God of mercy. We've been adopted by God of faith, grace, peace, and justice. We've been adopted ***by*** God ***because*** God leads and guides in the power of the Holy Spirit and our response is ***Amen.***

So when I say, *let the church say amen*, it's ***not*** a gimmick ***or*** an empty request. When I say, *let the church say amen*, I want you to know that it is not I, but the Spirit who leads and guides us, children of the living God, to shout....***Amen!***