

Date: 19 May 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Joachim Tan

Topic: From Pentecost to the Ends of the Earth | **Scripture:** Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-4

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Take on the mantle and bring the gospel to the ends of the earth.
2. Have absolute dependence the Holy Spirit.

SERMON SUMMARY

On Pentecost and Missions Sunday, we dive in to look at the importance and heart of Pentecost, the complete obedience of the disciples and the church, and how their examples can inspire us today. The early church believers were no less different from us (we all have our own needs, desires and even struggles), yet their sheer obedience to wait for the Holy Spirit and to bring the gospel from Pentecost to the ends of the earth should prompt us to do likewise.

SERMON RECAP

Introduction: Background of Acts

- Acts was written to describe the continuation of Jesus' work through the apostles and the church.
- The finished work of Jesus was on the cross. The unfinished work of Jesus continues through His Church (and through all the generations of believers to come) and with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts chapter one emphasised just how much the disciples needed the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus told the disciples twice to wait for the Holy Spirit to come (v4, v8).
 - Jesus Himself demonstrated that even after His resurrection, He still needed and relied on the Holy Spirit (v2).
- The Book of Acts shows us that the empowerment and role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is critical in order for us to continue to go forth and bring the Good News.

Pentecost and The Church (Acts 2:1-4)

- The Heart of Pentecost
 - What was the purpose of Pentecost?
 - Was it about the speaking of tongues, the receiving of new spiritual gifts (e.g. prophesy or gifts of healing), and to have a good spiritual experience? No.
 - The heart of Pentecost was for God to bestow power upon His Church so that they will be witnesses for Him to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)!
- The Heart of the Church
 - Romans 1:15-16
 - The church understood that they had with them the greatest message of all time. This message had the power to save or to condemn one to hell.
 - When Pentecost (the baptism and infilling of the Holy Spirit) came, when power came from on high, it was always going to be about taking the Gospel from "Jerusalem to the ends of the earth".

Two Scenarios in Acts

- Scenario #1: The Calling of Philip into the desert (Acts 8:26-29)
 - Philip was called into the desert in the midst of a revival happening in Samaria. It didn't make any sense.
 - It was out of sheer obedience that Philip went, even though he must walk a long way to the desert and have no idea what awaits him there.

- Scenario #2: The Calling of Ananias to Minister to Saul ([Acts 9:11-15](#))
 - Saul was a dangerous man and Ananias was afraid of him. He knew that Saul had Stephen stoned and was persecuting the believers.
 - But God commanded Ananias to “Go” and Ananias obeyed despite having no assurance or promise from God about his safety.

How About the Church Today?

IT IS OUR TURN!

The gospel has been given to our generation and it is our turn to bring it to the ends of the earth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share personal experiences or examples where stepping out in faith and obedience to the Holy Spirit led to a significant opportunity to spread the message of Christ.**

Leader's Notes

Begin by asking group members to reflect on the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in empowering us to spread the gospel. What role does the Holy Spirit play in guiding us to the right opportunities and giving us the right words to say?

Then, perhaps you could follow-up with a discussion on specific actions the group can take to reach out to the communities in their area. This could include volunteering with local organisations (RLC or RCS activities), participating in church missions, or intentionally building friendships with pre-believers.

Transition

We, who have been entrusted the Good News and the Great Commission, must be obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and fulfil the Great Commission.

- 2. Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. What does Pentecost teach us about the importance of unity and communal prayer in experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit?**

Leader's Notes

Encourage group members to consider the context of the early disciples praying together in unity when the Holy Spirit was poured out. Discuss how unity and collective prayer can impact our spiritual lives and the church as a whole.

How can the cell group foster a spirit of unity and collective prayer? Brainstorm practical steps the group can take to deepen their unity and commitment to prayer. This could include setting aside regular times for group prayer, organising prayer chains, or participating in church-wide prayer initiatives.

Transition

Corporate prayer can impact lives, the Church, and the community.

- 3. Reflecting on Acts 1:1-8, what do you think it means to be a witness for Christ in the context of your everyday life?**

Leader's Notes

Encourage members to think deeply about their daily interactions and how they can embody the teachings of Christ. Ask them to consider moments when they felt guided by the Holy Spirit and how that guidance influenced their actions or decisions.

Discuss on the nature of being a witness in both words and actions, and how the presence of the Holy Spirit can embolden us to live out our faith more visibly and confidently.

Closing

The Holy Spirit gives us boldness to share the gospel with others, even in challenging situations.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for RiverLife to arise and take responsibility to carry the gospel message to the world.
- Pray for us to walk in tandem with the Holy Spirit daily.
- Pray for our family members and friends, especially for those who have yet to know Him.
- To commit 2024 to God and allow Him to work in us and through us as we continue to seek Him.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter 2024, we will determine to grow into Christlikeness.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas – Pray for the truce talks between Israel and Palestine in Cairo, that a peaceful resolution can be reached.
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
 - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
 - d. Canada (Wildfire)
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
 - c. Pray for those affected by the Singapore Airlines's SQ321 turbulence incident
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the situation in Malaysia where there is a heightened security alert due to acts of terrorism. Do also pray for safety for all church camps that will be happening there in the June/July period.
 - b. Continue to pray for the medical strike in South Korea
 - c. Pray for the situation in various parts of Indonesia where 58 people are killed by cold lava and flash floods.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

1. **Marriage Preparation Course (Run 2)**. Sundays, 2, 23 & 30 June. 11am-3pm. Faith Chapel. This course will help couples lay the foundation for a God-centred marriage.
 - **Registration:** rlc.sg/mpc (Closing Date: Thu, 30 May)
 - **Fees:** \$50 per couple (Excludes US\$35 for PREPARE-ENRICH)
2. **Water Baptism Class**. Sat, 8 Jun, 9am to 3.30pm, Conference Room (Level 2). If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.
 - Class Registration: rlc.sg/baptism-class (Closing Date: Sun, 2 Jun).
 - Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg (Karen Koh).

Note

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
 - Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 28 Jul at 2pm.
3. **MegaLife: Service with Parents**. Sat, 25 May, 1pm-4pm. Worship Centre. If you have child attending MegaLife, come and be a part of your child's journey in realising their identity as a son & daughter of God through various segments during the service.
 - 1-2pm: Parents Session
 - 2-2.30pm: Coffee Break
 - 2.30-4pm: MegaLife Service

Registration: rlc.sg/25mayml

4. **RCS Family Movie Date 2024**. As of 8 May, \$26,590 of our \$100,000 faith goal for RCS Movie Date 2024 has been raised! You can play your part in extending God's love into the community through RCS. Your giving ensures continuity in our initiatives to help and support beneficiaries and families in need. For every \$100 donated between 28 Apr to 26 May, donors will receive two complimentary movie tickets* as a token of our gratitude.

**Movie tickets have an open date and are valid at Golden Village cinemas until 31 May 2025. For more information: rlc.sg/rcsmovie24*

5. **RiverLife Missions**. Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions
6. **Found: A Journey in Sonship (New Sermon Series)**. 14 Apr-26 May. As disciples of Christ, God calls us His sons and daughters – loved, accepted, and provided for. We sometimes wander from the presence of our Father, choosing to live apart from Him. As we process what God has spoken to us during our recent season of prayer & fasting, we want to respond by returning to the Father's love once again.

Restoring The Foundations (RTF)

- The RTF ministry in RiverLife undergirds the prayer ministry of our church.
- Its approach for healing and restoration aims to help the receiver walk out his/her freedom and restoration through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in partnership with the Holy Spirit. More information can be found at www.RestoringTheFoundations.org.
- Sign up for Ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

7. **Sustaining the Fire.** As our 21-day season of prayer & fasting comes to a close, we thank God for reviving us individually and collectively. It is needful for us to go on walking closely with the Lord and be faithful stewards of the work that has been done in us. We can continue this journey by spending time with God daily using this recommended 21-day devotional:

- 21 Days to Overflow takes readers on a 3-week journey of emptying themselves of self, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and living out an overflowing spirit-filled life. 21-Day Devotional: [YouVersion Bible App](#) | [PDF](#)

Our Revive Us, Lord website has been updated with resources to help you grow in these four aspects – spiritually, relationally, physically & missionally.

For more information: rlc.sg/21days

8. **Family Life Portal.**

- Our Family Life ministry strengthens relationships within the family so that they are reflective of who God is – married couples loving and serving each other, parents disciplining their children in the ways of God, grandparents inspiring the generations by their faith and actions, and the singles living secure and fruitful lives for God’s kingdom! RiverLife’s Family Life portal is an online platform that contains this year’s calendar of Family Life initiatives as well as a wide range of resources for various life stages.
- Access the portal: rlc.sg/familylife or www.riverlife.org.sg (Under the “Resources” tab)

1. YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).

The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 1 Jun, 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

2. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

3. Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 2	Quarter 3
<p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 May – YA Gathering • 11 May – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 17 to 18 May – Leaders Advance (Non-Stay In) • 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2 • 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2 • 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM • 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp • 27 Jun – Fun Day (Youth) • 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2 	<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2 • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2 <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 Aug – YA Gathering • 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2 • 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle • 10 Aug – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3 • 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33rd Anniversary Weekend, RTF (Round Robin) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach

Quarter 4

October

- 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3
- 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3
- 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles
- 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth)
- 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)

November

- 02 Nov – YA Gathering
- 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth)
- 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3
- 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat

December

- 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference
- 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend
- 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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