

**Drunk with the Spirit –
Pentecost Message for May 23, 2010**

When I was a younger person, my friends and I used to meet for happy hour on a Friday afternoon after work to have a couple of drinks. It didn't take long to get that fuzzy, pleasant feeling we used to affectionately call, "The Buzz."

Well, today I want to tell you about another way to get the best "Buzz" you'll ever know. You'll want to get it, because it does some amazing things. It's not like other buzzes you might have experienced – you know the ones I mean – the ones that give you stomachaches and headaches and make you bow on the floor to the porcelain god.

The Buzz I'm telling you about brings God's hope and peace and love and unity to our crazy world.

To get this Buzz:

You don't have to eat strange foods.

You don't have to drink anything.

You don't have to smoke anything.

You don't have to be smart.

You don't have to be creative.

You don't have to be a leader.

You don't have to be rich.

You don't have to be musical or artistic.

You don't have to be in amazing physical shape.

You don't have to be popular.

You don't have to be funny.

You don't have to be influential.

You don't have to be wise.

You don't have to be educated.

You don't have to be perfect.

To get this Buzz, you don't have to worry about what you wear – you can have on your best party clothes, or

you can be naked as the day you were born.

You don't have to come from a specific ethnic background or be a certain race – you can originate from anywhere in the world and have any color of skin.

This Buzz is so outrageously generous, **you don't have to do or be any of what I've just described** to get the feeling it brings...all you have to do is open your heart and mind to let this Buzz pour into your body...

...to allow it to warm itself within you...

...and to give it permission to **change your life**.

You'll know you're feeling this Buzz when you realize that what the world gives or wants isn't nearly as relevant to you anymore...

and others who feel this Buzz like you do, realize the same thing.

You sense something else is much more important.

This Buzz wants to be available to everyone, because it knows **all souls** are worthy and deserve the chance to know its therapeutic benefits.

So if you are fortunate enough to experience this Buzz, you will accomplish things you never imagined were possible...

This Buzz will make you shine with an internal luminescence that invites others into the circle of your light...

and they will be surrounded with the warm glow of your acceptance.

This Buzz will provide you with words of conviction so you can speak about its amazing potential...

and messages of hope will flow from your mouth into the hearts of the discouraged, offering the possibility of a new, and better day.

This Buzz will give you gentle strength and white-hot power to recycle old broken lives into new productive ones...

and you will be able to bend rigid attitudes full of anger and hate to create more flexible, accepting, cooperative partners who will help you give the Buzz to others.

This Buzz is not of this world.

It is not like other feelings we know.

It is a Holy, intoxicating concoction that pours freely and with no restriction. There's no "last call".

It is the ultimate Buzz of Eternal Life – and God is its Originator.

In our Scripture for today, onlookers scoffed at the strange sites and sounds they witnessed at an incredible Pentecost celebration.

They blamed the odd display on apostles who were out of control and irresponsible...but Peter knew what had really happened to them.

Peter probably felt his own version of the Buzz I'm sharing with you today...because finally, after months of hiding and wondering, the apostles came out and gathered crowds of all kinds of people again – and Peter found his apostolic voice, and stood before the world to declare that what happened this bright Pentecost morning was not like what comes from drinking new wine and participating in early-morning imbibing.

Peter stepped forward to proclaim the long-awaited arrival of the Spirit of God – the Spirit that can pour itself into any situation, any body, any time.

And the Buzz of Pentecost showed up in the form of a mighty wind and tongues of fire –

in joyful voices that rose and blended together in one language of faith –

in the glorious moment when all in attendance were filled with the incredible, mysterious and generous Holy Spirit.

The people were in awe – the Apostles were charged with holy power, and a new church began to take shape.

It was one unbelievable Happy Hour, and because of the Power of the Spirit, it's still happening today.

You see, when we gather in the name of God, we too, feel the Buzz - because we are drunk with the Spirit. Amen.