

**The Season of Pentecost:**  
***The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit and Establishing of the Church!***

- \* In many Christian Traditions around the world, Sunday June 9th is Pentecost Sunday!
- \* This is a celebration of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the establishing of the Church of Jesus Christ!
- \* Unfortunately, that's about all the average Christian knows about Pentecost or The Holy Spirit!
- \* Since Our Lord referred to this event as "the promise of The Father," shouldn't we give effort to learn of and experience the life of The Holy Spirit?
- \* In Jewish custom, tradition and life Pentecost was the celebration of harvest!
- \* It was "the season" after Passover when the seeds of harvest were sown, and the farmers were waiting in nervous expectation of a bountiful crop!
- \* We see from scripture Pentecost described being celebrated 7 weeks or 50 days, excluding Sabbaths, from the exodus of Passover! This celebration is also called the "Feasts of Weeks!"

*Leviticus 23:15-16 (NIV)*

15 "From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. 16 Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord.

22 "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God."

- \* Notice verse 22! Notice the heart of benevolence that should be innate in all of God's children!
- I. To fully understand and appreciate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birthing of the Church of Jesus Christ on Pentecost, we MUST have some awareness of the "Feast of Pentecost".  
(Last year at this time we did a series on Pentecost. See web site)
    - A. Since that teaching and the series is available for your review, I want to concentrate on the "promise of The Father...the outpouring of The Holy Spirit."

B. A good place to start is with the words of Jesus!

*John 16:7-15 (NIV)*

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

1. The Holy Spirit will explain the truth and present condition of a "fallen world" - sin, righteousness and judgement!
2. The Holy Spirit teaches and reveals the things of the Lord!
3. Unfortunately, we have misunderstood at best or merely rejected and worse, the Person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit!
4. We have chosen to disregard He who explains our fallen condition and teaches us the truths of God!

C. Jesus makes another awesome statement about the Holy Spirit!

*John 7:37-39 (NIV)*

37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1. The festival Jesus is referring to here is the Feast of Tabernacles. The feast that celebrated God's presence!
2. God's presence...yes, in us...that flows out to our world!
3. So, let's begin our journey in earnest as we seek the truth of Pentecost and the Promise of the Father!

4. I want to encourage us all in something!

Remember, we are speaking of One of the Members of the Trinity and His coming in fulness! The Holy Spirit is God, not a “playmate” as some have made Him! He is not to be ignored or denied and He is not to be viewed as a manifestation to be played with! He is to be revered because He is God Almighty!

II. I think the best place to start our journey or teaching is at the “point of the outpouring” of the Holy Spirit! The manifestation of the Promise of The Father!

A. Just before His ascension, Jesus turns to the Disciples and says,

*Acts 1:8-9 (NIV)*

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”  
9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

1. Jesus refers to a “power,” an “ability” or a special “enablement” beyond themselves!
2. This special ability would come to them through the presence of The Holy Spirit!
3. Later, Peter said this to all of those who heard the message of the Gospel!

*Acts 2:38 (NIV)*

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Many of us fully embrace and experience the “repent and be baptized” part?
5. Why do so many of us shy away from the “you shall receive gift of the Holy Spirit” part!
6. The reason is actually very simple! We have a lack of true understanding...we have seen so much misrepresentation... we have accepted things that are not scriptural...in short,

we see so much excess it is easier to simply deny the work of the Holy Spirit!

7. The “gift of the Holy Spirit” Peter speaks of is simply the presence of God poured out in our lives through redemption! It’s the “rivers of living water” Jesus promised! It’s the true release of God’s presence manifesting in my life by the work of Jesus as He provides redemption!

B. So, to get a clear picture of this event, this work of grace, this manifestation of God on the Day of Pentecost let’s look to scripture.

*Acts 2:1-18 (NIV)*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

1. Let’s methodically walk through this phenomenon for understanding and clarity sake! Not quick to dismiss!
2. Peter says, this strange experience in the Upper Room is not strange at all, it’s actually the fulfillment of a promise!
3. It’s God fulfilling His promise to once again “walk with man”

and allow man to “once again enjoy His presence.”

4. Is this some “exclusive experience” for a select few? Or is God’s presence for “all people?”
5. Is this manifestation of God’s Spirit “something extra” or does God want close fellowship with everyone?

*Acts 2:21 (NIV)*

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

C. Let’s determine to allow the scripture to speak clearly and demand our traditions to submit to the authority of Scripture!

1. According to scripture the “end times” began at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!
2. All of our so called “end time,” "apocalyptic ideas” must be filtered through these truths!
3. In the passage from Joel:
  - a) wonders in the heavens and earth
  - b) blood, fire, pillars of smoke
  - c) sun darkened
  - d) moon turned to blood
  - e) ...before the coming of The Lord!
  - d) Then whoever calls on the Lord will be saved!
4. According to many this is poetic literature expressing the coming authority of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!