

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!
- * We have looked and observed in scripture how God tells the story of His desire to “dwell with His creation!”
- * From the:
 - Garden of Eden: Walking with God in the quiet of the day
 - Tabernacle of Moses: So that God could dwell with Man
 - David's House of the Lord: Where God wanted Man to dwell
 - To Emmanuel: God with us!

- * The outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit is about the presence of God with His creation once again!
- * It’s all now possible because of the completed work of Christ and His Resurrection Glory!

John 7:37-39 (NLT)

37 On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! 38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” 39 (When he said, “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

- * We saw from the scripture how the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the first fruits, seal of redemption and guarantee of salvation!

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

I. Throughout the writings of Paul in his letters to the churches, we see him speak often of the ministry and special enablement of the Holy Spirit!

A. Paul engages the Galatian believers concerning the work of The Holy Spirit as it relates to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Galatians 3:2-4 (NIV)

2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? 4 Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain?

B. Paul goes on to emphasize the working of the Spirit in the life of the Believer!

Galatians 3:14 (NIV)

14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

C. He continues his instruction to the Galatians as to the work of the Holy Spirit! This outpouring brings God’s presence into our lives which brings closeness and intimacy!

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

1. Paul often said to “be filled with the Spirit”.
2. He said to minister to one another from the Spirit’s overflow!

II. Only through a genuine study of the Person of The Holy Spirit can you fully understand and appreciated the manifestations of the Spirit!

A. He was present during creation!

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

B. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would once again be active with man!

John 16:7-15 (NLT)

7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

III. After the outpouring of The Holy Spirit, Paul and the other writers began to explain how Man was empowered and enabled to “live and witness” this new life in Christ!!!

A. The word “gifts” are often used concerning the “enablement and empowering” of The Spirit of the Lord!!

1. From 20 to 30 years after this outpouring of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Paul expresses to the churches in Corinth, Rome and Ephesus about the special abilities given by the Spirit!
2. Rather than approaching these teachings and encouragements as some "mechanical ability" for a few people, Paul seems to be showing us of the normal new life of redemption!!

B. Notice the "wording and explanation" Paul uses in speaking of the special enablement's of The Holy Spirit!

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7, 11 (NLT)

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

6 We all have different gifts that God has given to us by His loving-favor. We are to use them. If someone has the gift of preaching the Good News, he should preach. He should use the faith God has given him. 7 If someone has the gift of helping others, then he should help. If someone has the gift of teaching, he should teach. 8 If someone has the gift of speaking words of comfort and help, he should speak. If someone has the gift of sharing what he has, he should give from a willing heart. If someone has the gift of leading other people, he should lead them. If someone has the gift of showing kindness to others, he should be happy as he does it.

1. Paul immediately transitions from these teachings into addressing Christian character and behavior toward others!
2. The activity of The Holy Spirit in our lives empowers all of us to live this life of faith and become a blessing to others!!