

Pentecost: The Application

- * The Historical reality of Pentecost is one of thanksgiving and harvest. It was one of the Seven Feasts of Israel the Lord used to reveal His plan of redemption to man!
 - * During the celebration of Pentecost, after the resurrection, we see this fulfilled as 3,000 responded to the gospel on that very day! **That is harvest!** Another 5,000 were added to the Church a few days later!
 - * The Book of Acts is filled with confirmations of the fulfillment of Pentecost and as Jesus put it, “the Promise of the Father”!
 - * The question for today is: **How does Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit apply to me?**
- I. The Day of Pentecost did not originate with Christianity! God chose to use the **truths of this feast** to send the Holy Spirit as proof that Jesus was the **glorified Son** and to **empower His people** to tell this story!

John 12:23-24

23 Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. **24** I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives!

A. On the evening of the resurrection a strange encounter took place!

John 20:19-22

19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. **20** As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! **21** Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” **22** Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

1. After the death, burial, resurrection and atonement was complete and Jesus ' blood was sprinkled on the altar in heaven, Jesus appeared to the disciples!
2. Remember, the veil of the Temple was torn in two! God's presence was now released into the world or.....God got out!
3. **NOW**, sin had been dealt with through the cleansing work of redemption and God's Spirit could once again dwell with man!
4. We can debate this event all we want, but we can't debate the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit of God!

B. It seems that Jesus had a plan! His plan was NOT just redemption, the cleansing and forgiveness of sin, but rather **bringing heaven to earth!**

Luke 24:44-53

44 Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **46** And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. **47** It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' **48** You are witnesses of all these things. **49** "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."
50 Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. **52** So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. **53** And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

1. "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures"!
2. Paul tells Timothy that Scripture is "inspired by the Spirit". Why do we NOT understand that it takes the Holy Spirit in us to truly understand the truth of Scripture? It is called revelation!

I Corinthians 2:12, 14

12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

3. The event of Pentecost literally changed the way God interacts with His creation!

II. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place on the very day the Jews were offering the two loaves as "wave offerings" to God symbolizing their dependence upon God and the celebration of Harvest!!

A. On the Day of Pentecost, as they gathered together and the Holy Spirit came, we see the fulfilling of the Old Covenant "type and shadow" of things to come.

Acts 2:5-6, 14-17, 21-21

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. **6** When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. **14** Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. **15** These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. **16** No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17

'In the last days,' God says,

 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

 Your young men will see visions,

 and your old men will dream dreams.

But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.

1. Peter preaches perhaps the greatest message ever preached!
2. Jesus, the Son of God and glorified Lord!
3. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied!
4. Peter continued to “explain by the Spirit” God’s plan from the beginning up to that time and even beyond!
5. Remember, this was the same Peter that **denied even knowing Jesus** a few weeks earlier!
6. Could this be an example of the power and courage that comes from the Holy Spirit?

Acts 1:8

8 But **YOU** will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

B. This work of the Holy Spirit continues as the Church of Jesus Christ is established!

Acts 10:44-47

44 Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. **45** The Jewish believers[a] who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. **46** For they heard them speaking in other tongues[b] and praising God.

Then Peter asked, **47** “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?”

1. All throughout the stories and events of Acts we see a fulfilling of “The Promise of the Father”!
2. The “power to be witnesses” is continually confirmed as we see people “added to the Church daily”.
3. This is what Jesus promised!!!

Acts 11:15-16

15 “As I began to speak,” Peter continued, “the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning. **16** Then I thought of the Lord’s words when he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

III. What does all of this mean for me?

A. It has been said that Passover represents the first major encounter with God by His covenant people and that Pentecost is the second major encounter God has with His new covenant people!

1. It is impossible to simply describe what the Holy Spirit does in our lives!
2. **HE** is God in the earth! As the “Promise of the Father”, sent by Jesus, He fills people who receive Jesus and become His disciple!
3. He works in the earth redemption to it’s fullest extent!

Romans 8:21-22

21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. **22** For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

4. **Why have many of us denied the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit?????**

B. Look at the application of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. Galatians 5:16-17

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. **17** The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

2. My personal consecration to Christ depends on the Holy Spirit’s work in my life!! He empowers me to be Christ-like!!
3. I **MUST** realize that I live in a world with two opposing spirits. I must submit to the **Holy** Spirit and be empowered by Him!!
4. The **Gifts of the Spirit** gives abilities beyond ourselves to accomplish God’s will!!

1 Corinthians 12:1

12 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. **8** To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. **9** The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. **10** He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages,[c] while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. **11** It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

C. Isn't it revealing that right after speaking of the "gifts of the Spirit" that Paul goes into the explanation of God's expression in the earth: The Body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. **13** Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

1. He then deals with "our fallen human nature" as he explains **that it all must be wrapped in love! (Chapter 13)**
2. The giving of the Spirit is not a competition to see who can **be more spiritual!**
3. It is not dividing His Body to see who isn't needed!
4. He then reminds us to walk humbly! We haven't **arrived!!**

5. He ends by saying that **until we see Him face to face**, we are still “practicing our faith!!!!!!”

D. The **Promise of The Father** is a promise to us **TODAY!**

John 14:17

17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.

* **There is a fuller submission and allowance of the Holy Spirit available to us all!! He is our “paraklete” or Helper, Comforter, Advocate and Friend! He is God!**