

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!
- * "Father, Son and Holy Spirit are to be known in a perfect Trinity, in closest interaction and unity, before all creation."

Gregory of Nyssa

- * "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son are worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets."

The Nicene Creed

- * Recovery of a practical faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will lead us astray if not heard firmly with an equally practical Trinitarian faith."

Lesslie Newbigen

I. The New Testament's account of the work of The Holy Spirit requires an understanding of The Trinity! Three distinct Persons in perfect unity!

A. While the Ministry of the Holy Spirit is MUCH MORE than what we often call the "gifts of the Spirit," we can see a broader understanding of The Trinity in Paul's encouragement and instruction concerning the gifts! This is about the "work of God!"

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NLV)

4 There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them. 5 There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. 6 There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people.

1. The "gifts of the Spirit" are always in context with The Trinity!
2. Paul's exhortation to the Church has its roots in The Trinity!

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NLV)

14 May you have loving-favor from our Lord Jesus Christ. May you have the love of God. May you be joined together by the Holy Spirit.

3. Paul even approaches the subject of unity in context of The Trinity!

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLV)

4 There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in which you were called. 5 There is one Lord and one faith and one baptism. 6 There is one God. He is the Father of us all. He is over us all. He is the One working through us all. He is the One living in us all.

4. We see Paul throughout his writings to the churches speaking of and explaining the work of The Trinity!

Romans 8:9-11 (NIV)

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Galatians 4:4-6 (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."

B. What is interesting in ALL OF THIS is Paul never changes his belief and teaching from a "monotheistic faith!" In other words, Paul always saw Christianity as the "worship of One true God!"

II. It is so important that we accept the ministry of The Holy Spirit in our lives today! It is equally important that we view Him as God and Paul of the Trinity or God-Head!

A. If we are not careful, we can become unbalanced and over emphasize one expression of God over another!

1. There is no other way to say this except that when we do that, we are in error!
2. This is where extremism comes from!
3. Always remember, if you see "an extreme" in something, it doesn't mean that the reality of that doesn't exist!
4. It just means that there is "an extreme" of that reality!

B. In the Gospels we read this:

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1. Regardless of where we read in the scriptures, it seems that the "full expression of God" is spoken of!
2. We see here the "authority of The Trinity" involved in baptism!
3. The very introduction of our new life in Christ involves the Holy Spirit or The Trinity!
4. Peter gets in on the action as well!

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

III. Throughout scripture we see several descriptions of The Holy Spirit's activities. These become so obvious as we pay close attention!

A. The Holy Spirit is the "first installment," "the seal" and the "down payment" of our salvation!

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

B. The "anointing of The Holy Spirit" established God's Kingdom!

Luke 4:18 (NIV)

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." (quoted from Isaiah 61)

C. Rather than believing the ministry of The Holy Spirit:

1. Has ceased
2. Was only for a chosen few
3. Was only for a certain time (dispensation)
4. Is denied completely
5. Or is avoided as excess and emotionalism

D. We should see the Ministry and Person of The Holy Spirit in everything God is and does! He is God!