

## 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!

#### *Acts 2:1-3, 16-18 (NIV)*

1 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.

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.

I. This outpouring of God's Spirit was and is for all believers in Christ!

A. Remember, this phenomenon and experience was spoken of by Joel and confirmed by Peter initially and then by Paul and others!

1. Please don't let the excess and error of some nullify and negate the moving of God in YOUR life!
2. We all need the "power of God" to live and testify of the goodness of God and the Gospel of Christ to our world!

Acts 1:8 (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."

B. We are so intent in some of our traditions to relegate this Holy Spirit empowerment to the Disciples or a chosen few!

1. But the scriptures say something completely different!

Acts 1:13-15, 2:1 (NIV)

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. 15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2. Then, we remember Joel's promise, "I, says The Lord, will pour out My Spirit on ALL FLESH!
3. Honestly, we have to "contort and twist" to make the scriptures say anything else!
4. God's promise was that He would pour out His Spirit, His presence, in THE LAST DAYS! ON ALL FLESH!

II. So just what is all of this "outpouring of the Holy Spirit" about?

A. When we read and study the writings of scripture, both Old and New Testaments, we can see clearly God's doings!

Isaiah 2:2-3 (NLT)

2 In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. 3 People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.

Micah 4:1-3 (NLT)

In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. 2 People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. 3 The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

Leviticus 26:11-12 (NLT)

11 I will live among you, and I will not despise you. 12 I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people.

Ezekiel 37:26-27 (NLT)

26 I will make a peace agreement with them, one that lasts forever. I will bring good to them and make them many in number. And I will set My holy place among them forever. 27 I will live with them, and will be their God, and they will be My people.

B. All of these scriptures and sayings sounds like the "redeeming" of Genesis 3 when God walked in the Garden with Man!

1. Sin separated Man from God as he was driven from the "Garden of Fellowship."
2. The death of Jesus on the cross caused the "veil to be torn" and the presence of God was once again released in the earth!
3. We serve a God Who created us for fellowship! Through Christ we are cleansed from unrighteousness and able to once again walk in fellowship with our Creator God!!!
4. Plain and simple...this is the presence of God and outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

III. Even under the Old Covenant God made a way for "partial fellowship" until "total fellowship" was restored! The consummation of this fellowship

is when we see Him face to face!

A. God told Moses to build a Tabernacle, a mobile temple or tent, so God could live with His people!

Exodus 25:8 (NIV)

8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

1. This was a place of God’s presence! The literal, tangible presence of God!

Exodus 40:35 (NIV)

35 Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

2. Then, John gives us a glimpse of the fulfillment of all of this!

Revelation 21:22-27 (NIV)

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

3. I am going to spend my life making myself a place for God’s presence!

4. May we spend our energies, efforts and submissions making our Magnolia gatherings a place of God’s presence!