

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!
- * From the beginning of scripture, we see the "story of God and Man" as it describes God's desire to dwell among His creation!
- * From the moment man was "driven out of the garden" this story of "God and Man" revolves around the return of intimate fellowship returning to creation!
- * The Tabernacle of Moses was the beginning of this story of returning to fellowship! God said build this structure "so I can dwell among My people."
- * Remember also, the "veil was torn in two" as redemption was provided at the death of Jesus!
- * Then at last, the outpouring of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost that was later called the first fruit of our restored intimacy with our Creator God!

I. Throughout scripture, you and I, are called the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit!!

A. Notice the words and description of Jesus as He begins to reveal this awesome truth during His earthly life and ministry!

John 2:19-22 (NIV)

19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”
20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

B. Paul used this same language...and it was about US!

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT)

16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

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, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

C. Over and over again throughout the gospels and the scriptures as a whole, we see this principle of God pouring out His Holy Spirit into the lives of His people! That was His plan all along concerning our redemption!

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. God could not pour out His Spirit until then because the “death of sin” had not been dealt with!
2. It's the same principle when God said in the Garden of Eden that “He stationed Angels” in from of the Tree of Life lest man touch it!

Genesis 3:24 (NIV)

24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

II. Paul's writings to the Early Church explains much about the ministry of The Holy Spirit!!

- A. Once you acknowledge this truth you began to see its expression throughout scripture!

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1. We are now a part of the "habitation of God!"
2. We are recreated, reborn, redeemed and made new to be a place for God to dwell!
3. He cleansed us by His salvation and then says "be holy, for I am Holy."
4. Regardless of our faith traditions and what we were taught Previously...let's determine to learn the truth of God's Word!

- B. Notice the analogies used in II Corinthians to describe the active nature of God's Spirit and His desire for close fellowship with us all!

1. Why did Paul use this example?
2. It would seem that Paul is making a point about how God's presence in our lives is a very real and tangible thing!
3. The presence of God in our lives should bring genuine change to a believer! His presence is real! His presence has power!

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 (NIV)

12 We speak without fear because our trust is in Christ. 13 We are not like Moses. He put a covering over his face so the Jews would not see that the bright light was passing away. 14 Their minds were not able to understand. Even to this day when the Law is read, there is a covering over their minds. They do not see that Christ is the only One Who can take the covering away. 15 Yes, to this day, there is a covering over their hearts whenever the Law of Moses is read. 16 But whenever a man turns to the Lord, the covering is taken away. 17 The heart is free where the Spirit of the Lord is. The Lord is the Spirit. 18 All of us, with no covering on our faces, show the shining-greatness of the Lord as in a mirror. All the time we are being changed to look like Him, with more and more of His shining-greatness. This change is from the Lord Who is the Spirit.

C. The ministry and presence of the Holy Spirit of God is referred to as a SEAL, DOWNPAYMENT AND GUARANTEE!

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.

2 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV)

5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

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.

* Leonard Allen says, "The Holy Spirit is the power of God's future breaking into our present, applying the victory of Jesus to our life!"