

Pentecost

May 31, 2020

Today we are celebrating Pentecost Sunday.

This was 50 days after resurrection morning.

There were actually two ascension's after Jesus has been crucified.

Jesus has been in tomb for 3 1/2 days. Rising early Sunday morning.

He appeared to Mary Magdalene early in the morning.

John 20:17, - "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

Hebrews 9:24 tells us - "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

When he ascended into heaven that morning,

He was that perfect sacrifice presenting himself to the father for us.

Later that day he came back down from heaven

appearing to his apostles. John 20:19-20

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." John 20:19

In Acts 1:3, it tells us that Jesus showed himself alive after his death by many infallible proofs being seen of them for 40 days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. At one time he showed himself to over 500 brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:6. "After that, he was seen of over five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."

Then in Acts 1:4-5, just before he went back into heaven, He commanded them to tarry in Jerusalem, and wait for the promise of the coming Holy Spirit, saying you will be baptized in the Holy Ghost not many days from now. So, another 10 days later in the upper room, the Holy Spirit was poured out. In Acts chapter 2. 50 total days since resurrection morning.

Let's consider the difference between New Birth and the Baptism in Spirit.

In John 20:22, this is the day he returned from heaven on Resurrection day, He breathed on them and said receive ye the Holy Ghost.

This was their new birth experience.

Before the cross, only the blood of animals covered their sins temporarily.

Now that Gods own blood was shed, they were now born again.

After this, He charged them, tarry in Jerusalem till you're endued with power.

This was a different operation of the Holy Spirit.

After the resurrection, he breathed on them - receive the Holy Spirit.

This was their new birth experience.

After this, he wanted them to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

To be endued with power, have all the fruits of the Spirit developed in us.

Many Christians do not distinguish between new birth / baptism in the Spirit.

These are two separate experiences.

At new birth, the Holy Spirit quickens our spirit. Makes us alive to God.

But then, the Holy Spirit wants to dwell within us, and do much more.

Peter Distinguishes these experiences

Acts 2:37-38 - On the day Pentecost, multitudes asked the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Repent - new birth. Accepting Jesus as your Savior

Be baptized - submitting to baptism by immersion, not Sprinkling.

Receive the Holy Spirit - this is a separate experience, like Acts 2.

Accepting Jesus as Savior, is our new birth experience.
Being baptized in the Holy Ghost is another separate, deeper experience.
Acts chapter 8 is a perfect example of this:
In Acts 8:5 Phillip the evangelist preached in the city of Samaria.
In verses 6-8, all the people gave heed to all that Philip spoke.
Hearing and seeing all the miracles that he did.
Many who were paralyzed and lame were totally healed.
There was tremendous joy in the city. They responded to the gospel.

But in Acts 8:14-17:

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” Acts 8:17.

Acts 19:1-6 is another example of believers, who had not yet received the baptism in the Holy Ghost.

In verse one Paul came to certain disciples, and said in verse two;
Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?
They were not even baptized in water yet.
And so in verse 5, they were baptized water. Then in verse six,
Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them,
And they spoke with other tongues.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit, is a fulfillment of Isaiah 44:3:

“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground:” Are you thirsty? Are you dry spiritually?
Do you have a great desire from much more the Holy Spirit?
Open your heart, God wants to give you a much greater portion of his Spirit.

There are 21 chapters in John's Gospel.

Amazingly, one third of John's Gospel is all in one day.

Seven consecutive chapters record the last day of his life - chapter 13 to 19.

In chapter 13, it starts with the Last Supper, and Judas announced as betrayer.

In chapter 14 Jesus announces, I will send another Comforter to take my place

I will not leave you comfortless, I am sending you the Spirit of truth.

This comforter, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things, he will show you things to come, He will bring everything to your remembrance.

In much of his discourses, he is talking about the coming Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.

He is the Spirit of truth.

He will show you things to come

He will reveal the father unto you

The Holy Spirit, will convince the world of righteousness...judgment to come

John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize us for the Holy Ghost and fire.

The Holy Ghost would burn up all the rubbish in our lives. Mt. 3:11-12

Paul tells us fruit of The Holy Spirit would be developed in us.

The very nature of the one who created us.

The Holy Spirit breaks the power of sin in our lives.

People cannot break the power of drugs and alcohol without the Holy Spirit.

Moral impurity and perversion cannot be broken without the Holy Spirit.

If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

In Ephesians 3:16, strengthened with all might by his spirit in the inner man

My experience. I believed in Jesus Christ since there was a young boy.

I was baptized when I was 12 years old: I wanted to belong fully to the Lord

But later in my teens, God placed His call upon my life, into the ministry.

Oh how I wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I prayed for months.

Finally, 54 years ago, I received a tremendous baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Gods fire burned in me for a whole year.
The Spirit of God was burning up wrong motives, desires, and thoughts.
God's Spirit giving me more and more an eternal vision,
Holy spirit was opening up the Scriptures, and giving me understanding.
I was never the same again.
And we want every born-again believer, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Paul speaks much about this, especially in the Corinthian epistles.
How wonderful for the Spirit in us, to pray in the perfect will of God thru us.
God gives us another language when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.
And the holy spirit in us, prays the perfect will of God.
How wonderful to worship God in other language and bring Joy to God's heart
How wonderful for the spirit of the creator, to live within us.

When we pray and speak in other tongues, these are real languages.
They can be earthly languages, or heavenly languages
When I was in B.S. over 50 years ago, a man from Jordan was visiting.
Suddenly, he heard someone speaking in perfect Arabic.
The president up front at the pulpit begin to speak perfect Arabic.
The President thought he was praying in another language. But perfect arabic.
(I have prayed and God has heard me) on and on ... in perfect arabic.

As a young student, I began praying for fellow students to receive the Spirit.
Several students did receive the Holy Spirit as I was praying for them.
One particular Young lady was very touched by the Holy Spirit,
But she did not have a breakthrough in speaking with other tongues.
Several days later, while she was driving her car, she pulled over suddenly.
And she began speaking in tongues fervently.
God can fill you w/ Holy Spirit, without anyone laying their hands on you.
Often, people do receive the Spirit when someone is laying hands on them.
But not always.

Friends, be open to the Holy Spirit. Ask him to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit is received by faith.

Even without anyone laying hands on you, the Lord can fill you with his Spirit

If you have never been baptized water, I urge you to do that soon.

And then ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, give you a new language.

You will be able to pray more effectively,

To break many bondages

To be opened to a whole new realm of the Holy Spirit.

Joel's Prophecy

It Is also very interesting, that on the day at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2,
Part of Joel's prophecy was fulfilled.

In Acts 2:16, Peter declared, this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.
From verse 17 to 21, he declares that God will pour out his Spirit on all flesh,
before the great and terrible day of the Lord, which is the second coming.

So this prophecy, had a partial fulfillment in the early church.

God did pour out his Spirit, but it was for the planting of the church

But he did not return in the first century.

Joel's prophecy only had a partial fulfillment in the first century.

We need to understand geography in Israel.

In Israel, there are two major rains.

In late November early December, there is what is called the early rain

This rain was for softening the soil for planting.

In April, heavy rain came, to bring the harvest too full ripeness.

In May, we see Ruth gathering the barley harvest.

In our times, God wants to pour out his Spirit again upon all flesh.

But this outpouring, Will be much heavier than the early rain at Pentecost.

To bring the church to full ripeness, and harvest.

