

Celebration Services (May 10th & 11th, 2008)

"Pentecost Sunday"

INTRO

"DISORIENTED DISCIPLES"

- *They appear disoriented, confused, doubting, questioning their mission, afraid, and even depressed*
- *There's No Significant Record of Ministry taking place*

THOUGHT PROVOKING STATEMENT: Knowledge of Jesus Christ Birth, Life, Death, Burial, and Resurrection is NOT Enough!

“ Christ has made the new covenant effective for the people of God through his death and resurrection; but the Spirit is the key to the new covenant as a fulfilled reality in the lives of God’s people.” **Gordon Fee**, *Paul the Spirit and the People of God*, p. 10, 16

If the Resurrection was the “EPICENTER” of the Spiritual Earthquake that would change the world.... the Ripple Effect of the Shock Waves weren't felt until Acts 2!!

- ***The Effect on the Disciples***
- ***The Effect on the World***

WHAT WAS THIS EVENT CALLED “PENTECOST”?

PENTECOST ... ITS ORIGIN

- God establishing “Festivals”

- They Served as Road Markers – they pointed to and explained God’s redeeming work among man
 - PASSOVER (14th of Nisan)
 - FIRSTFRUITS (16th of Nisan)
 - PENTECOST (50 days after Firstfruits)

“ In the sequence of events, the first (barley) sheaf was brought to the sanctuary just after Passover. Forty-nine days later the last cereal crop (wheat) ripened. But now the Israelites had to bring loaves of bread made from wheat. This festival celebrated what the harvests produced, or more precisely what the Lord had produced for them.” **Allen Ross**, “Holiness to the Lord”, p. 420

- They were Memorials – that called the people to REMEMBER something that God had revealed.

PENTECOST ... ITS FULFILMENT

Acts 2:1-21

Wind, Fire, & Speaking in Tongues

- Ez 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones and the Breathe (Wind) of the Spirit
Ezek 37:10,14 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ... 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live,
- Ex 3 (the burning bush) and Ex 19:18 (The Lord descends on Sinai in fire) and the Tabernacle
Ex 40:38 "For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel through all their journeys.
- **Speaking in Tongues** – The Inaugurating of the REALM of Spiritual Gifts (Divine Enablements) for Serving the Body and Advancing the Gospel

v. 16 "This is That!!"

This was a Very Anticipated Event that was "WELL-REFERENCED but Not Understood When It Occurred"

The Prophets Anticipation:

Isa 44:3 For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, And My blessing on your descendants;

Ezek 39:29 "And I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

John the Baptist Anticipation: **Matt 3:11** "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Jesus Anticipation: **Acts 1:4-5** And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. "

... Yet, when it occurs

Pentecost Sunday was the INAUGURATION of God's Supernatural Presence (in the person of the Holy Spirit) Filling & Indwelling the Christian— in order to produce a Supernatural Life (a life that could only be possible by giving us abilities beyond our own) What in our lives is touched by Pentecost?

- Spiritual Gifts – Spiritual enablement that is intended to strengthen the Body, equip the Body, and build the kingdom of God through the witness of the church (Eph 4:11, 1Cor 12, Rom 12)
- Spiritual Fruit – the fruit of the Spirit that is the manifestation of the character of the Spirit who is now present in us (Gal 5:22-23)
- Revelation – the Holy Spirit leads us into the truth (Jn 14:25-26, 16:13)
- Boldness (Acts 1:8)
- Skillful Enablement – (Ex 31:1-5)

“ it is evident that the Spirit of God is largely depicted as the Spirit of enablement. The Spirit’s activity was that of endowing an artisan, a judge, a king, a prophet, or a priest to perform certain functions or tasks. Whatever the individual’s natural abilities and capacities, the endowment of the Spirit is shown to be something additional, hence supernatural. And it is by virtue of this special endowment that the person involved was enabled to fulfill a certain task or vocation.” **J.Rodman Williams**, *Renewal Theology*, p. 160

- Experiencing the Presence of God (Acts 2:1-3 ... the “Temple of God” – Eph 2:22;
1Cor 3:16 “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”
- Liberty/Freedom
2Cor 3:17-18 “... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image”

“ The bottom line is the generally ineffective witness and perceived irrelevancy of the church in Western culture. Here, it seems to me is where the real difference between Paul and us emerges, where in a culture similar to ours the early believers seem to have been more effective than we are. I am convinced this is due in large part to their experience of the reality of the Spirit's presence. ... (xv) The Spirit as an experienced reality was for Paul and his churches the key player in all of Christian life from beginning to end. The Spirit covered the whole waterfront: power for life, growth, fruit, gifts, prayer, witness, and everything else.” **Gordon Fee**, *Paul the Spirit and the People of God*, p. vii

“this is that” – doesn’t mean this is “exactly and only that”.

THE POTENTIAL PARALYSIS OF PENTECOST

1. By a Lack of Awareness

“ We must realize that the day of Pentecost is much more than an individual event in the lives of Jesus’ disciples. The day of Pentecost was the point of transition between the old covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit and the new covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Of course the Holy Spirit was at work throughout the Old Testament... But during that time the work of the Holy Spirit in individual lives was, in general, a work of lesser power.... The day of Pentecost... was a remarkable day in the history of the world, because on that day the Holy Spirit began to function among God’s people with new covenant power. ” **Wayne Grudem**, *“Systematic Theology”*, p. 770

This new ERA & OPERATION of the Spirit would have Different CHARACTERISTICS:

- Common to ALL (not sporadically limited to a few)
- Power for Evangelism
- Power to Cast Out Demons (we don't see that in the O.T.)

- How many disciples today are looking like they're living post-Resurrection lives... but not post-Pentecost lives!!

... lacking JOY ... Self-Control... Peace
... lacking POWER to change and minister to others
... lacking RADICAL FAITH

These are "Pentecost Issues"!

2. By Over-Narrowing the Work of the Holy Spirit

3. By Entertaining a Biblically Uninformed Bias

– Being against something for reasons that aren't founded in the Bible, but rather are founded in human abuses.

Without Pentecost Christianity would be a "BOOK + HUMAN DETERMINATION"