

Pentecost... What meaneth this?

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, *What meaneth this?*

Approximately 50 days separate Pentecost from Easter.

→ On Easter Sunday, throughout the Christian Church, worship was probably about the same.

→ However on Pentecost Sunday, Worship will vary from congregation to congregation.

→ Some will celebrate the day as a matter of Christian Event (a Calendar Date); but WE will celebrate Pentecost as a matter of Experience!

→ The Elementary Distinctive for the Spirit-filled believer is that we believe in a Pentecostal Experience that is real and observable!

→ **There is** a Definitive Difference between mainstream Christian churches and those included in the Pentecostal Movement...it is often found in worship styles and response.

→ As Pentecostals we are often accused of emphasizing 'speaking in tongues' as the only evidence of the Holy Spirit...**THAT OF COURSE IS NOT THE CASE!**

Initial Evidence – YES! Only Evidence NO!

We know, as did John and Paul who emphasized through their gospel accounts, that it is the Power of the Holy Spirit by which sinners are **brought** to faith and then **formed** into the image of Christ.

It is through the agency of the Holy Spirit's *influences* and *direction* that we can even **begin to understand** our walk with God!

It is a balancing thought to remember that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a fulfilled promise made by Jesus (John 16:7) not the *misappropriations of a group of emotional individuals* who simply strive for **commotion** over **commitment!**

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The Word used in the text “Comforter” is *paraclete*. This word is a transliteration of the Greek word *parakletos*, which means “one who speaks in favor of, an intercessor, advocate, or a legal assistant.”

Jesus applied the term to the Holy Spirit, who would be an **advocate** of His followers after His ascension. It would be the Holy Spirit who would also plead their cause before God. (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7)

As Pentecostals it is **critical** for us to understand the function of the Holy Spirit in Redemption. *What then is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Child of God?*

A. He Convicts of Sin and Draws Men in! (John 16:8,9)

John 16:8 ‘And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;’

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

- It is the Holy Spirit who brings men and women to Christ.
- *His Revelation of Sin is for the point of Revealing a Savior to rescue the sinner!*

B. He Illuminates the Teachings of Jesus (John 14:16,26; 16:13)

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

- The Holy Spirit does more than anoint to us preach, He anoints the listener to **hear** and the reader to **perceive** and all who will to **understand!**
- He makes clear the Words of Scripture
- He is the Great Verifier

C. He Glorifies Jesus (John 15:26; 16:14)

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

- We sometimes describe those times of special services where the power of God is demonstrated in an observable manner by saying: ‘*The Holy Spirit took over the service.*’ And I know what we mean, but I **know** what we should mean: “*that Jesus was glorified.*”
- *The Holy Ghost is not interested in entertaining but rather is interested in evoking Glory for Christ!*
- *His role is to lift up the Lord so that all may see & know Him!*

The Son came to show us the Father; the Holy Spirit comes to show us the Son!

Function of the Holy Spirit...continued:

D. He Give us Victory over the Flesh (Galatians 5:17,18)

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

- As long as we live, as humans, we are in a constant struggle with the Flesh (that carnal nature that we inherited from Adam that resists obedience to God)
- The Holy Spirit is given to help us overcome the flesh.
- The Apostle Paul declares that we best overcome the tendencies of the flesh by exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-26)

E. He is the Guarantee of Our Inheritance (Ephesians 1:12-15)

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

- Literally, Paul is saying that the Holy Spirit is the **‘down payment’** of our inheritance in Christ.
- If Jesus had failed on the promise of the Holy Ghost, how could we trust him for the future?

The Holy Spirit is **more** than the experience of “*speaking in tongues*” and is **more** than a “**feel-good**” experience.

The Holy Spirit is **the testimony of assurance** that the promises of God are **sure** and that, through Him, we can **participate** in all that God has planned for the future.



Lastly, looking at the FURTHER *function* of the Holy Spirit...

The Purpose of the Empowering of God is for the fulfilling of the Commission!

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

Re-read Acts 2:4-11

Acts 2: 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.



The Gift of Tongues served as a tremendous testimony that God had **accomplished something in mortal man** that only the Lord could have accomplished...these newly Spirit-filled disciples were now speaking (communicating) in a language that they had never learned. **Yet, the many men from multiple nations understood that these Christ followers were speaking their language.**

Vs5. Devout men, out of every nation under heaven

Vs6, (they) were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

➔ *Part of the Purpose and Part of the Plan for the Pouring out of His Spirit was to equip the church to spread the gospel around the world.*

- *The **Scene** played out in vs8 –11 is a microcosmic picture of the entire world.*
- *The **Setting** worked to verify the validity of this valuable gift to the Church.*
- *The **Startling** admission of the masses left these **Committed Christians Convinced** that the **Word** of their Savior had come to pass; and it would soon **propel** them to the uttermost parts of the Earth.*

✓ *The Role of this Redeemer-Revealer is still the same today!*

*The Holy Spirit is given this hour for **all** of the **before mentioned** reasons, but it must be understood that the underlying purpose is, **has been, and always will be** – that we have the **ability to carry the message of the Messiah to the masses!***

✓ *Think about it:*

- ~ *Pentecost came about for the fulfillment of a Promise from Christ to His Disciples*
- ~ *Pentecost came about for the fulfillment of a Commission from Jesus to His Church*
- ~ *Pentecost came about for the infilling of His Children to live as Lights to the World!*

Let us move forward as the 21st century torch-bearers that we have been called to be and let's let God supply the oil of His indwelling Holy Spirit as the source for our continual flame; and we will see History (His story) repeat itself as the world hears the **noise from His boys** and rejoices that our Savior has Risen!

***Altar call:** Come today and be filled with His Spirit, receive His holy impartation with specific aim to be that vessel that He flows through in order to reach a lost and hell-bound world!*