

OVERCOMING PENTECOSTAL FEARS

What are Pentecostal fears? Well, it's really just one fear that I want to address today. And it's more of a FOMO. I might call it a Pentecostal FOMO, or A FEAR OF MISSING OUT ON PENTECOST!

Many people struggle with a fear of missing out on Pentecostal; that is, the fear of missing out on being filled with the Holy Ghost. I believe that there are at least four (4) things that will keep an individual from being filled with the Spirit. You will probably miss out on receiving the Holy Spirit IF...

YOU WILL MISS OUT ON RECEIVING THE SPIRIT IF YOU HAVE IMPURE MOTIVES

[Acts 8:18](#)

¹⁸ And when Simon SAW that through laying on of the apostles' hands THE HOLY GHOST WAS GIVEN, he offered them money,

Like Simon, many Christians want to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost because they "see others receive it"! Receiving the Spirit because others are receiving it is not a good enough reason to want to receive the Spirit.

[Acts 8:18–19](#)

¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ Saying, GIVE ME ALSO THIS POWER, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Others want to receive the Spirit because of how it might *profit* them (i.e. increase their standing in the Church, give their ministry a greater impact). If either of these things is the motive behind you wanting to receive the Spirit, you probably won't receive it!

[Acts 8:20–21](#)

²⁰ But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. ²¹ Thou hast NEITHER PART NOR LOT IN THIS MATTER:

[James 4:2–3](#)

² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, **BECAUSE YE ASK AMISS**, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

YOU WILL MISS OUT ON RECEIVING THE SPIRIT IF YOU'RE NOT FULLY CONVERTED

[Acts 8:21–22](#)

²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for **THY HEART IS NOT RIGHT** in the sight of God. ²² **REPENT** therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Not only were Simon's motives not right, but his heart also was not right. According to Peter, he needed to repent and be converted. Being converted is necessary to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

[Acts 3:19](#)

¹⁹ **REPENT** ye therefore, and **BE CONVERTED**, that your sins may be blotted out, **WHEN THE TIMES OF REFRESHING SHALL COME** from the presence of the Lord;

The word “when” should read, “in order that.”

[Acts 3:19 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁹ **“Therefore REPENT and RETURN, so that your sins may be wiped away, IN ORDER THAT times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;**

To be “converted” means to turn from one thing towards another. In this case, it means turning from our sin (the world, self-confidence) and towards God so we can receive this ‘refreshing.’

[Luke 22:31–32](#)

³¹ **And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** ³² **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and WHEN THOU ART CONVERTED, strengthen thy brethren.**

Jesus reveals to Peter that he needs to be converted. But, why? Peter needed to be converted because he was too self-confident!

[Luke 22:33](#)

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I AM READY to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

For Peter to say, “I am ready,” meant that he believed he was in need of nothing. He had everything he needed. It’s this kind of dependence on ‘self’ that needs to *die* before we are ready to receive the Holy Spirit. In fact, this is why receiving the Spirit is often described as a BAPTISM, because baptisms signify *death*! To be baptized in the Spirit you must die to *self*.

YOU WILL MISS OUT ON RECEIVING THE SPIRIT IF YOU’RE NOT CONSECRATED

Consecration is not the same as conversion. Conversion is about turning to God. Consecration is about presenting or surrendering oneself to the will of God. We must seek to be filled with the Holy Ghost out of a desire to do God’s will. This means we should not seek to be filled with the Spirit unless we plan to serve God!

[Acts 10:38](#)

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth WITH THE HOLY GHOST and with power: who WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

The Holy Spirit is not only given for spiritual *service*, it’s also given to conduct spiritual *warfare*.

[Romans 8:13](#)

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye THROUGH THE SPIRIT DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, ye shall live.

[2 Corinthians 10:4](#)

4 (For the WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE are not carnal, but MIGHTY THROUGH GOD to the pulling down of strong holds;)

The weapons of our warfare are not mighty in themselves. Instead, they are mighty *through God*! (It wasn’t David’s sling that gave the stone the power to slay Goliath. It was God who supplied power to the stone that defeated Goliath.)

[Ephesians 6:10](#)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.

YOU WILL MISS OUT ON RECEIVING THE SPIRIT IF YOU'RE WEAK IN THE FAITH

If you're failing to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, then it's possible that you either lack *faith* or you lack *endurance in the faith*.

[James 1:5-7](#)

⁵ If any of you lack WISDOM, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ASK IN FAITH, NOTHING WAVERING. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive ANY THING of the Lord.

Notice how James switches from talking about receiving "wisdom" to receiving "anything" from the Lord. Therefore, what's true of receiving wisdom from God is also true of receiving ANYTHING from God!

What does James say it takes to receive *anything* from God?

1. To receive from God you must "ask *in* faith." In other words, you must be in faith WHEN you ask, and not AFTER you ask!

[Hebrews 11:6](#)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

[Mark 11:24](#)

²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, WHEN YOU PRAY, BELIEVE that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

It's important to remember that when you come to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, don't come with any skepticism. In other words, don't come doubting or creating this picture in your mind that receiving the Holy Spirit is such an 'incredible' thing. If you do this, something spectacular will have to happen to you in order to convince you that you have received. Instead, believe you receive because you *asked*, and not because you *felt* something.

2. To receive from God you must "not waver." In other words, don't let past FAILURES cause you to doubt or change your mind (i.e. stagger or *oppose* yourself). Don't allow any DELAYS to cause you to lose faith.

There's a lot of misinformation out there concerning the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Many people believe that it takes a LONG time to receive the Spirit. That is, unless you have the time to commit an entire night to the Holy Spirit,

then you won't receive it. Moreover, they like to point out that the disciples tarried (waited) 10 days to receive the Holy Spirit. Although the initial outpouring of the Spirit did take 10 days, every other instance of people receiving the Holy Spirit no waiting was required. In fact, the people received the Holy Spirit the moment they prayed or hands were laid on them!