



## COVENANT CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday 2020

Pastor Ricky Texada

May 31, 2020

**Main Idea** – Hatred, in all its forms, comes from Satan. The only thing that overcomes hatred is the love of God that comes through the Holy Spirit.

### **The Pentecost connection between the Old and New Testaments**

- The original Pentecost celebration (Feast of Weeks) in the Old Testament was introduced by God so the Israelites could celebrate His provision for His people (**Deuteronomy 16:9-12**).
- Pentecost in the New Testament is celebrated as the day God provided the Holy Spirit on a wide scale to His people. This outpouring of the Holy Spirit was a gift from God that Jesus had promised beforehand; having given his followers specific instructions to wait in Jerusalem until the Spirit arrived.
  - **Luke 24:49** – “What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you’re equipped with power from on high.” (Message)
  - **John 16:7** – “So let me say it again, this truth: It’s better for you that I leave. If I don’t leave, the Friend won’t come. But if I go, I’ll send him to you.” (Message)
  - **Acts 1:8** – “And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.” (Message)
  - **Acts 2:1-12** – When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force – no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn’t for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren’t these all Galileans? How come we’re hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia

**and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" (Message)**

- In both the Old and New Testament experiences with Pentecost, God demonstrated His presence during times of uncertainty: the Old Testament Israelites were on a sojourn in the desert, and the New Testament Christians were adjusting to Jesus' absence after the resurrection.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit - as described in Acts 2 - was confirmation that Jesus fulfilled His promises, and is understood as the primary event that established and unified the early Christian Church.
- It is also significant that 3,000 Israelites died in the desert because of disobedience in the Old Testament, and 3,000 new souls were gathered back into the Kingdom – because of their acceptance of Jesus - on Pentecost in the New Testament.
  - **Exodus 32:28 – The Levites carried out Moses' orders. Three thousand of the people were killed that day. (Message)**
  - **Acts 2:41 – Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (NKJV)**

#### **There is no uncertainty or chaos with the Holy Spirit**

- Even as present-day society is torn by one tragic event after another, the Holy Spirit provides comfort and stability.
- There is no chaos where the Holy Spirit is present.
- Though you may not have realized it at the time, the Holy Spirit has often put good people on your path to help you navigate through the times of your life.

#### **God's children love while the devil's followers hate**

- Hatred results in man's hostility to his fellow man. The Holy Spirit brings hope to dark circumstances.
- Left unattended, hatred will grow in a person's soul. The darkness of hatred must be overwhelmed by light and love.
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. – "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
- **1 John 3:10 – Here's how you tell the difference between God's children and the Devil's children: The one who won't practice righteous ways isn't from God, nor is the one who won't love brother or sister. A simple test. (Message)**

- John 8:42-47 – “If God were your father,” said Jesus, “you would love me, for I came from God and arrived here. I didn’t come on my own. He sent me. Why can’t you understand one word I say? Here’s why: You can’t handle it. You’re from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him. He was a killer from the very start. He couldn’t stand the truth because there wasn’t a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies. I arrive on the scene, tell you the plain truth, and you refuse to have a thing to do with me. Can any one of you convict me of a single misleading word, a single sinful act? But if I’m telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? Anyone on God’s side listens to God’s words. This is why you’re not listening – because you’re not on God’s side.” (Message)

#### God’s love is made manifest through you and me

- The Holy Spirit will provide the love that will counter evil that often occupies our social and cultural environments.
- Romans 12:21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NKJV)
- 1 John 4:7-8 – My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love – so you can’t know him if you don’t love. (Message)
- Matthew 22:36-40 – “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?” Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.” (Message)
- Romans 5:1-5 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (NKJV)

#### Your experience with God’s love is unique to you

- Your life’s experiences are unique to you. God has revealed Himself to you through certain people and events that are consistent with His Word. Appreciate others’ experiences with God, but do not necessarily hold them up as a measuring stick for

yourself.

- Don't let your emotions rule. Each of us experiences an array of emotions when troubling events happen. Acknowledge those feelings, but then let them pass.
- Make an exchange with God. Let Him switch your negative feelings with His love.
- Yield yourself to God. Trust Him. Ask for His perspective.

## **Reflective Questions for Pentecost 2020**

1. Pastor Ricky said that 2020 has been an especially tough year with one crisis following the next. Do you think God regards these events differently than those from any other year? Why or why not?
2. Based on the Bible verses in this sermon message, what are the characteristics of a Godly perspective? Generally speaking, how well have you been able to maintain your Godly perspective during these challenging times?
3. If love is the only thing that can overwhelm hatred, what are two things you can do this week to express God's love – and thereby counteract some of the negativity caused by hatred in society?