

Pentecost Sunday

I. Introduction

A. The Word of the Lord

1. Acts 2:1-13

II. Pentecost Sunday

A. Prominent in the Old Testament

1. In Creation. (Gen. 1:1-2; Job 26:12-13; 33:4; Ps. 104:30-32; Isa. 40:12-13)
2. In God's formation and work with Israel. Empowering leaders (judges, priests, and kings); bringing the divine word to God's people through the prophets.
3. Key hope of Israel—was the Spirits work through Messiah, in the “last days.”
 - a) Jeremiah 31:31- On the verge of the Babylonian Captivity (600 years before Christ)—it is the promise of a widespread internal work of God. Connected with the forgiveness of sins, and the coming of the Messiah—the promise of the Father is something God will do through the Messiah, in which His Spirit will live in them and change them from the inside out.
 - b) Joel 2:28-29, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."
 - (1) Promise to do miraculous things in ordinary people.
 - c) Luke 3:16-17, "John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
4. “A universal Spirit , an indwelling Spirit, and a Spirit-empowered Savior: this is the age of the Spirit the Old Testament anticipates.”¹

B. Promised by Jesus

1. John 7:37-39, “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of

¹ (Kevin DeYoung; D.A. Carson; Timothy Keller 2012)

living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

C. Poured Out At Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

1. Pentecost in the 1st Century

- a) Another of the major Feasts of Israel—held annually to acknowledge and celebrate God's goodness in the the harvest. By this time, it was connected and celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai—for Christians moving forward Pentecost will now be associated with the giving of the Holy Spirit.

2. Four Supernatural Phenomena

a) Sound of Wind

- (1) The presence of wind, fire, and inspired speech are all considered a sign of God's presence in Jewish tradition.

b) Sight of Fire

- (1) Presence of fire was connected to divine presence (burning bush, pillar of fire in the wilderness, the consuming fire on Sinai at the giving of the Law.

c) Spirit Filled

- (1) The pouring out of God's Spirit reveals that God has acted in a new and powerful way.

d) Supernatural Speech

- (1) What is God doing—a new creation (Gen. 11:1)—tower of Babel—man's empire in a godless way—confuses their language
- (2) Reversal of babel...Christ-centered; Spirit-filled, new humanity that comes to the world through the church.

III. The Implications of Pentecost: The giving of the Holy Spirit means that

A. God is forever present with His people.

1. Person of the Holy Spirit

- a) Trinitarian Theology—One essence, three persons.

- (1) Not the third party add on, not some impersonal force like star wars; not the “goosies” that you get in worship.
 - (2) Nicene Creed: “And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.”
 - (3) Westminster Confession of Faith: “One substance, power, and eternity’ with the Father and the Son.”
- b) Personhood defined as “a living being who is self-aware, capable of cognition, is able to relate to other beings, and posses recognizable character traits.”²
- (1) Speaking with an ‘I’ in Acts 13:2, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
 - (2) Distinct actions from the Father and the Son—He leads us (Rom. 8:26); Aides us in our prayer life (Rom. 8:27); Distributes gifts to the Church (1 Cor. 12:11); encourages believers (Acts 9:31)
 - (3) Can be insulted (Heb. 10:29); blasphemed (Matt. 12:31-32); and can be grieved (Eph. 4:30).
- c) “The Holy Spirit is not Jesus’ vapor trail or a divine fog that descends from heaven. He is a person with personality, purpose, and prerogatives.”³
2. He is transcendent—and IMMANENT! He is not far off, He is present with us. The Christian life is a dynamic reality, and the reality is the very presence of God in our life.
- a) John 14:16-17, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

² (Michael Bird 2013)

³ (Michael Bird 2013)

- b) “Pentecost has opened the door for us to have an intimate and supernatural experience of God. To many, however, even within the evangelical fold, Christianity is restricted to entering the kingdom through a rational acceptance of the truth of the gospel, followed by their laboring to live according to the Bible.”⁴
3. “Jesus could not be any clearer: there is no Christian life without the converting work of the Spirit. He enables us to understand and spiritually discern the thing of God (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). He grants us repentance that lead to life (Acts 11:18). He pours out God’s love into our hearts (Romans 5:5). He enables us to believe in the promises of God (John 1:12-13).”⁵
4. Are you born again? There is the work of the Holy Spirit—God is present in your life.
5. Have you ever been convicted of your sin? There is the work of the Holy Spirit—God is present in your life.
6. Have you ever been reassured of the love of God? There is the work of the Holy Spirit—God is present in your life.
- a) Romans 5:3-5, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
7. Have you ever seen Jesus as beautiful? There is the work of the Holy Spirit—God is present in your life. (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- B. God is empowering His people.
1. Promised to empower them for the mission He had given them.
- a) Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁴ (Ajith Fernando; Terry Muck 1998)

⁵ (Kevin DeYoung; D.A. Carson; Timothy Keller 2012)

- b) Acts 4:31, “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”
- 2. The Holy Spirit Equips us to minister to one another.
 - a) Spiritual gifts are given for the building up of the body—not for self-gratification. “For the common good,” (1 Cor. 12:7); build up the Church” (1 Cor. 14:12); so that “the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:12). The Spirit gives its to the members of the Church to minister to one another, and further the mission of Christ. (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30; Ephesians 4:11).
 - b) 1 Corinthians 12:13, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”
- C. God is transforming His people.
 - 1. Regenerating Us
 - a) Titus 3:4-7, “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
 - b) 1 Corinthians 6:11, But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
 - 2. Renewing Us (1 Peter 1:2)
 - a) We are being conformed to the image of God’s Son.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from

one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

c) Working in us the Fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

3. Resurrecting Us

a) Romans 8:11, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

IV. Closing Summary

A. In conclusion, Pentecost Sunday is a powerful reminder that God is forever present with His people. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God empowers His people, equipping them with divine gifts and guidance to fulfill His purposes. This transformative encounter not only ignites a passion for sharing the Gospel but also brings about a profound inner change, shaping individuals into vessels of God's love and grace. As we commemorate Pentecost, let us embrace the truth that God's presence, empowerment, and transformation continue to unfold in our lives, enabling us to walk boldly in faith and make a lasting impact on the world around us.

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