

The Season of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday: Born Again by the Spirit of God

INTRODUCTION

The Day of Pentecost: History “Coming of Age” at Last!

² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Gen 1)

I. SEPARATING THINGS THAT BELONG TOGETHER

A. A Common Problem

- For the privileged few?
- What does “Normal” look like?

B. Blame the theologians!

- Christology / Pneumatology

C. Where should we start?

¹⁶ 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 fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. (Luke 3)

D. Is the Work of Christ “Complete”?

II. REVIEWING THE ORIGINAL PLAN

Luke

⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24)

Joel 2

²⁸ "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. (Joel 2)

III. WHERE DOES THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT BEGIN IN YOUR LIFE???

A. The Application of Salvation



TR: - "Bully for him!"



HS: - "Bully for you!"

¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2)

B. What is "being born again"?

1. It is a Spiritual mystery - because it is a work which God does by his Holy Spirit:

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3)

2. The Holy Spirit gives you the gift of Faith allowing you to believe and repent

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2)

3. You are declared "okay" in God's court of judgment: Forensic Justification

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5)

4. You receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit:

⁹ *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (Romans 8)*

- so you may be adopted as a child of God

¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God ... (Romans 8)*

- to help you live your new life in Christ:

¹³ *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1)*

IV HOW DOES THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTINUE IN YOU?

1. It Breaks the "Strangle-Hold" That the Old Nature Inside You Has Over Your Life:

²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2)*

⁴ *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6)*

2. It Is God's Power and Presence which Strengthens, Motivates, and Cultivates a Life of "Feeding" the New Nature and "Starving" the Old Nature:

²⁰ *But that is not the way you learned Christ! ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4)*

V. WHERE DOES THIS END UP?

1. Here's the Place Where You Now Live:

¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: (1 Thessalonians 4)

2. This results in Spiritual Transformation

A. What is Spiritual Transformation?

B. The entire person conformed to be like the wonderful Lord Jesus Christ:

- Renewed mind – think like God thinks!
- Character – a life filled with ethical virtue (“... that guy looks like Jesus!”)
- Emotions – feeling like it is good to be alive.

VI. SOME PENTECOST SUNDAYS AHEAD:

- 25th June - Spiritual Transformation #1 – What is it? How does it come about?
- 9th July - Spiritual Transformation #2 - Renewing the mind: God's Word
- 30th July - Spiritual Transformation #3 - Christlike Character
- 20th August - Spiritual Transformation #4 - Ordering the Emotions
- 17th September - Spiritual Transformation #5 - Receiving the Means of Grace