

Pentecostal Distinctives

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INTRO

Happy Mother's Day

Last week – on Monday night – I did the funeral service for Rich's dad ... I say this because while I was there chatting with folk before the service – I engaged with a woman who asked me what denomination we were ... I told her we were Pentecostal ... She then proceeded to tell me about her aunt – I believe – that was a Pentecostal – who lived in Canada ... That got me thinking – along with next week being Pentecost Sunday – that it has been a while since I have preached / taught on our Pentecostal distinctives ... In other words – what makes us Pentecostal? ... Now – don't zone out thinking you know what our distinctives are ... Let me remind you – we are moving into the dimension of becoming a son of God ... We are looking to become spiritual – rather than becoming trained in religious ideology.

2 Peter 1:12-13 New Living Translation

Therefore, - I will always remind you about these things - **even though you already know them** - and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. ... 13 And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.

John 6:63 The Voice

The Spirit brings life. ... The flesh has nothing to offer. ... The words I have been teaching you are spirit and life,

Not a Denomination?

I think the first thing I want to remind you of is this – **Pentecostalism is not a denomination** ... Pentecostalism is a general term that describes those who have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit ... Those who have received the Baptism will fellowship and organize into a church

... What is interesting – they come from various religious backgrounds ... They are Spirit-filled believers from all kinds of denominations because it is an event – not a doctrine.

The Holy Spirit Baptism is an event that occurs in one’s life – that is separate and distinct – from your salvation experience ... Although it can occur with your salvation experience.

The Apostle’s salvation experience

John 20:22 New King James Version

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle’s baptism experience

Acts 2:4 New King James Version

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Corneilus salvation and baptism experience

Acts 10:44-46 New King James Version

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ... 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, - as many as came with Peter, - because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ... 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Why is it that so many people miss out on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Acts 19:1-6 New Living Translation

While Apollos was in Corinth, - Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. ... 2 “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**” - he asked them. ... “No,” they replied, - “**we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**” ... 3 “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. ... And they replied, “The baptism of John.” ... 4 Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. ... But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” ... 5 As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ... 6

Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

Why is it that so Many have not Heard?

Cessationism

“In Christian theology, - Cessationism is the view that the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit, - such as tongues, prophecy, and healing, - ceased being practiced early on in Church history. ... Cessationists usually believe the miraculous gifts were given only for the foundation of the Church, - during the time between the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, c. AD 33 (see Acts 2) - and the fulfillment of God's purposes in history, - usually identified as either the completion of the last book of the New Testament - or the death of the last Apostle.”

Hebrews 13:8-9 New King James Version

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ... 9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. ... For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Religious Ideology / Hybrid Christianity

Man has created doctrines and religious ideologies around the principle of intellectual comprehension ... In other words – if it doesn't make sense to our human understanding – such as tongues / prophesy / healing – then those who are religious – will tend to dismiss it ... I have shared with you many time – the natural mind cannot comprehend the spiritual truth

1 Corinthians 2:14 New King James Version

But the natural man - does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, - for they are foolishness to him; - nor can he know them, - because they are spiritually discerned.

TRANS

In Christendom – we have lost some basic foundational principles of the faith – that were designed to keep us rooted and grounded in biblical truth ... Let me begin by sharing just two of them with you this morning.

Jehovah is Faithful

What does Faithful Mean?

Steadfast in affection or allegiance – loyal ... Firm in adherence to promises ... Given with strong assurance – binding ... True to the facts – to a standard

Now catch this spiritual revelation ... The faithfulness of God has nothing to do with you or with me ... God is faithful – just because He is ... He has decided to be faithful – regardless of anyone – or anything ... If God's faithfulness towards you – was dependent upon your good works – then He would not be a faithful God – He would be a respecter of persons ... He is simply faithful towards us because He chooses to be ... We need to simply accept this truth by faith and thank Him for it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 New Living Translation

But the Lord is faithful; HE will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

Lamentations 3:22-23 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions fail not. ... 23 They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 New King James Version

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, - We shall also live with Him. ... 12 If we endure, - We shall also reign with Him. ... If we deny Him, - He also will deny us. ... 13 If we are faithless, - He remains faithful; - He cannot deny Himself.

I declare this morning – you will experience the faithfulness of God in this house ... I praise you Lord – that You remain faithful – even when we are not ... I thank you for your mercy and grace which is new each day – even when we don't recognize it ... You have chosen to be faithful to Your kids – we worship You and thank You – for the benefits that Your faithfulness brings – in Jesus' name

Faith verses Belief

Matthew 9:1-4 New King James Version

So, He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ... 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. ... **When Jesus saw their faith**, - He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." ... 3 And at once some of the scribes (*the teachers of religious law*) said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" ("*That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?*") ... 4 But Jesus, - knowing their thoughts, - said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

"When Jesus saw their Faith"

Faith is not a matter of the heart ... Faith is not a belief in your mind ... Faith is an action ... People should be able to look at you and SEE your faith ... Catch this – Jesus recognized what these 5 people had done as faith.

Faith isn't – "I believe" ... Faith and belief are different ... Faith is an action ... That action proceeds from a heart that knows for sure – that God is faithful – to perform what He says in His Word ... Catch this – people's problem isn't their belief ... You believe the Word of God is true ... Your problem is not always faith ... What do I mean? ... I have faith that every time I come to church – that God is here and He will meet with me ... I display my faith – by coming to church each week ... So, where is the disconnect? ... You believe ... You demonstrate your faith by your actions ... So where is the problem? ... Let me ask you – do you believe that God is Faithful to Do what He said HE would do? ... For example – you believe in healing ... You will make declarations (faith action) that you are healed ... Yet you remain unhealed – why?

Consider this – let's be honest ... The majority of people live their life by sight and not by faith ... Know what is interesting – I dare say – pretty much everyone in this room has experienced healing – in some manner ... You know it is true and have personally experienced it – yet there are still some issues that you struggle with ... Why? ... Could it be you have drifted back into "sight over faith"? ... Could it be you are no longer certain of God's faithfulness towards you?

Think a minute about this text we just read ... We see four guys have decide to carry their paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing ... All five are functioning in faith or else they wouldn't be doing this ... They go to some guy's house where Jesus was ... Because of the size of the crowd, they could get inside ... So, they decided to do damage to this guy's roof – in order to get their friend inside ... They rig up some kind of system of ropes to lower the guy down from a roof they just tore up ... And what was Jesus's response? ... “He saw their faith.”

Now catch this revelation – What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man – in response to their faith? ... “**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**” ... Forgiveness of sin came because of faith ... You have been taught that forgiveness comes from repentance ... You receive from the spirit realm – only through exercising your faith

Hebrews 11:6 The Voice

Without faith - - no one can please God - - because the one coming to God must believe He exists, - and He rewards those who come seeking.

Ephesians 2:7-9 The Voice

He did this for a reason: so that for all eternity - we will stand as a living testimony - to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness - that He freely gives to us - by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed. ... 8-9 **For it's by God's grace that you have been saved. ... You receive it through faith.** ... It was not our plan or our effort. ... It is God's gift, pure and simple. ... You didn't earn it, not one of us did, so don't go around bragging that you must have done something amazing.

TAKE AWAY

Our faith is a demonstration of our belief ... Do you believe you are born again? ... How do you demonstrate that belief so that others can see it?

Ephesians 5:1-2 New Living Translation

Living in the Light

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ... 2 Live a life filled with love, - following the example of Christ. ... He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, - a pleasing aroma to God.

NLV

Do as God would do. ... Much-loved children want to do as their fathers do.