

Pentecost Sunday

5/19/2024

INTRO

Today is the day we celebrate Pentecost ... An event that occurred in Acts 2 ... An event that continued to occur after this initial event in the upper room ... This morning, I want us to examine this event we call Pentecost along with answering the question - - Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit a spiritual experience that believers ought to be seeking today?

The Promise Declared

Luke 24:45 New King James Version

And He opened their understanding, - that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Luke 24:46-48 New Living Translation

And He said, - “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die - and rise from the dead on the third day. ... 47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, - beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ ... 48 You are witnesses of all these things.

Luke 24:49 New International Version

I am going to send you - what My Father has promised; - - but stay in the city - - until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Promise Delivered

Acts 2:1-4 The Voice

When the holy day of Pentecost came 50 days after Passover, they were gathered together in one place. ... 2 Picture yourself among the disciples: A sound roars from the sky without warning, the roar of a violent wind, and the whole house where you are gathered reverberates

with the sound. ... 3 Then a flame appears, dividing into smaller flames and spreading from one person to the next. ... 4 All the people present are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin speaking in languages they've never spoken, as the Spirit empowers them.

The Promised Event Continues

Acts 4:31 New Living Translation

After this **prayer**, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. ... Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Acts 9:17 New Living Translation

So, Ananias went and found Saul. ... **He laid his hands on him** and said, - "Brother Saul, - the Lord Jesus, - who appeared to you on the road, - has sent me - so that you might regain your sight - - and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 10:44-46 New Living Translation

Even as **Peter was saying these things**, - the Holy Spirit fell upon all - who were listening to the message. ... 45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed - that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out - on the Gentiles, too. ... 46 For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Acts 19:1-7 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. ... 7 There were about twelve men in all.

Jesus was Baptized in Water and by the Spirit

Luke 3:21-22 Good News Translation

After all the people had been baptized, - Jesus also was baptized. ... While he was praying, heaven was opened, ... 22 **and the Holy Spirit came down upon Him** - in bodily form - like a dove. ... And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

Luke 4:1 Easy-to-Read Version

Now filled with the Holy Spirit, - Jesus returned from the Jordan River. ... And then the Spirit led him into the desert.

So – let me ask you ... Has this event occurred in your life? ... Have you been “clothed” with power from on high? ... Has this event occurred more than once in your life?

Ephesians 5:18-19 Complete Jewish Bible

Don't get drunk with wine, - because it makes you lose control. ... Instead, - **keep on being filled with the Spirit** ... 19 sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to each other; - sing to the Lord and make music in your heart to Him;

Let me help those who have not yet been filled – or clothed – with the Holy Spirit

First ... Do you believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit? ... Do you believe the baptism is relevant for today? ... Do you believe you can live a Christian life and walk out your destiny without it? ... In other words – do you deem the baptism of the Holy Spirit necessary for you?

Second ... Obviously – if you do not deem the baptism – as being necessary for you – then you will never receive it ... Right? ... God is never going to force Himself upon anyone who

doesn't want what HE has to offer them ... We understand this when it comes to salvation ... Salvation was provided for all – but not all will avail themselves to the provision

Now – if you do deem it necessary – to be an essential part of your Christian life ... Do you have the faith to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? ... Faith is a deep knowing – that the promise is for you ... So – do you know deep down in your heart that this is a promise for you from Father God? ... In other words – do you have any doubt that this promise is yours and that you want it? ... Remember – doubt is unbelief and without faith you can't please God.

Third ... Now – if you believe the baptism is for today and didn't stop happening ... If you have a deep knowing – faith – that the promise is for you to receive ... Now – for the most critical question ... Do you believe that the Father is Faithful – to do what He said HE would do – for you? ... Remember – belief is becoming aware of a truth – the baptism is for you – today ... Faith is a demonstration of that belief – putting into action what you believe – knowing that God is faithful to do what He said HE would do.

Acts 2:16-18 New Life Version

The early preacher Joel said this would happen. ... 17 God says, 'In the last days - I will send My Spirit on all men. ... Then your sons and daughters will speak God's Word. ... Your young men will see what God has given them to see. ... Your old men will dream dreams. ... 18 Yes, on those I own, - both men and women, - I will send My Spirit in those days. ... They will speak God's Word.

Luke 11:12-13 The Voice

If your boy wants an egg to eat, - will you give him a scorpion? ... 13 Look, - all of you are flawed in so many ways, - yet in spite of all your faults, - you know how to give good gifts to your children. ... **How much more** - will your Father in heaven - give the Holy Spirit - **to all who ask!**

So – belief says – Yes, the baptism is still relevant today and I need it in order to walk out my divine destiny ... Faith demonstrates that belief – by asking the Father for the promise of the

Holy Spirit ... There is an area of faith that I believe we do not fully comprehend ... Faith is not a one-time action or event ... Faith is not asking once and never asking again ... Faith is such a deep conviction of a truth ... That conviction is manifested by a behavior that continually asks – until the promise is received

Matthew 7:7-8 Easy-to-Read Version

“Continue to ask, and God will give to you. ... Continue to search, and you will find. ... Continue to knock, and the door will open for you. ... 8 Yes, whoever continues to ask will receive. ... Whoever continues to look will find. ... And whoever continues to knock will have the door opened for them.

Luke 18:1 Living Bible

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must keep praying until the answer comes.

Luke 18:6-7 New Living Translation

6 Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ... 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end. ... So, don’t you think God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day and night? ... Will He keep putting them off?

Now catch this revelation ... You’re not “asking” for God’s sake ... You’re not trying to move His hand on your behalf ... He knows if you have faith to receive what you are asking for ... God tells us to keep asking for our sake ... If you truly believe that the promise is for you ... If you have the faith to demonstrate that belief by your continual asking ... If you are willing to fight for what is yours ... You will receive.

TAKE AWAY

Matthew 11:11-12 New Century Version

11 I tell you the truth, John the Baptist is greater than any other person ever born, but even the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. ... 12 Since the time John the Baptist came until now, the kingdom of heaven has been going forward in strength, and people have been trying to take it by force.