

I. INTRODUCTION: Pentecost Sunday

- The Christian holiday of Pentecost, which is celebrated the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) from Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles

II. THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:1-18 AMPC "Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on God; believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely also on Me. **2** In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. **3** And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. **4** And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way. **5** Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way? **6** Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me. **7** If you had known Me [had learned to recognize Me], you would also have known My Father. From now on, you know Him and have seen Him. **8** Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father [cause us to see the Father—that is all we ask]; then we shall be satisfied. **9** Jesus replied, Have I been with all of you for so long a time, and do you not recognize *and* know Me yet, Philip? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say then, Show us the Father? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? What I am telling you I do not say on My own authority *and* of My own accord; but the Father Who lives continually in Me does the (*His*) works (His own miracles, deeds of power). **11** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of the [very] works themselves. [If you cannot trust Me, at least let these works that I do in My Father's name convince you.] **12** I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father. **13** And I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified *and* extolled in (through) the Son. **14** [Yes] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]. **15** If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—**17** The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know *and* recognize Him. But you know *and* recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless]; I will come [back] to you."

Acts 1:4-8 AMPC "And while being in their company *and* eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. **5** For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. **6** So when they were assembled, they asked Him, Lord, is this the time when You will reestablish the kingdom *and* restore it to Israel? **7** He said to them, It is not for you to become acquainted with *and* know what time brings [the things and events of time

and their definite periods] or fixed years and seasons (their critical niche in time), which the Father has appointed (fixed and reserved) by His own choice *and* authority *and* personal power. ⁸ But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.”

- Jesus is telling the apostles not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promised Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send
- It was understood that the apostles and those that came to believe in Jesus as their Savior were to continue the work begun in Jesus’ ministry and that they were to do even greater works after He ascended to Heaven.
- We can be assured that we today were also promised that same experience that the 120 experienced in the upper room.
- Some may say that the Holy Ghost experience was only limited to the 120 that were there that day, but Peter states in

Acts 2:39 “For God’s promise of the Holy Spirit is for you and your families, for those yet to be born and for everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- We all can choose to simply be saved by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, at this time the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within us.
- But there’s more even beyond just salvation!
 - Watching movie that ends on a cliffhanger
 - Some in theater will clap when the movie ends and get up and exit the theater.
 - They are grateful for the experience and will go and go about their lives
 - There are a few however that have heard of the possibility of post credit scenes that come after most have left the building that will reveal a setup for a sequel what’s to follow.
 - Can I tell you that the bible both old and new testament is filled with post credit scenes! Can I tell you that there is a greater experience that is available to all believers, following Salvation!
- We all can also choose to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 AMPC “But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.”

- **Receive** - Gr. Lambano as a verb denotes either “to take” or “to receive”; in many uses of this word lambano suggests a self-prompted taking.
- **Power** - Gr. Dunamis - power, ability - physical or moral as residing in a person or thing; power in action
- **What were they to take and receive? POWER!**
 - *Ability*

- Physical power, whether bodily or mental; natural or acquired; force of understanding; skill in arts or science. ability is active power, or power to perform; as opposed to capacity, or power to receive.
- *Efficiency*
 - Efficiency is the (often measurable) ability to avoid wasting materials, energy, efforts, money, and time in doing something or in producing a desired result. In a more general sense, it is the ability to do things well, successfully, and without waste. "Efficiency is thus not a goal in itself. It is not something we want for its own sake, but rather because it helps us attain more of the things we value".
- *Might*
 - the power, authority, or resources wielded (as by an individual or group)
- **With this revelation, all excuses can now be taken off the table:**
 - "I can't do this," "I don't know how" "I don't have what I need"
 - You have been given everything that you will ever need

Philippians 4:13 AMPC "I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]."

- The Holy Spirit was given by the Father on the day of Pentecost
- That same experience is available to believers, those who are saved.
- We do not need the baptism in the Holy Spirit to be a Christian, but we do need it if we desire to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and if we desire to be powerful witnesses to others.
- The power must be something that is wanted and taken. It's not just a "come by here Lord experience." It's available to those who ask and free for the taking.

- **Jesus even gave us a glimpse of what was possible as His witnesses:**

John 14:12 AMP "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, anyone who believes in Me [as Savior] will also do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these [in extent and outreach], because I am going to the Father."

- But the work they were to do wasn't to be done in their own strength, might and understanding
- Jesus had promised to send them another Helper, Who would help them in their lives and ultimately fulfilling all that God had designed for them.

John 14:16 AMPC "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever."

- You don't have to be in the ministry to be a witness. Witnesses for Jesus are needed in every place. Whatever your occupation, job, calling your life can be a powerful witness.

III. THE EXPERIENCE

Acts 2:1-4 TPT "On the day Pentecost was being fulfilled, all the disciples were gathered in one place. 2 Suddenly they heard the sound of a violent blast of wind rushing into the house from out of

the heavenly realm. The roar of the wind was so overpowering it was all anyone could bear! 3 Then all at once a pillar of fire appeared before their eyes. It separated into tongues of fire that engulfed each one of them. 4 They were all filled and equipped with the Holy Spirit and were inspired to speak in tongues—empowered by the Spirit to speak in languages they had never learned!”

Acts 2:17 TPT “This is what I will do in the last days—I will pour out my Spirit on everybody and cause your sons and daughters to prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will experience dreams from God. 18 The Holy Spirit will come upon all my servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy. 19 I will reveal startling signs and wonders in the sky above and mighty miracles on the earth below. Blood and fire and pillars of clouds[ad] will appear. 20 For the sun will be turned dark and the moon blood-red before that great and awesome appearance of the day of the Lord. 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord] will be saved.”

- The gift of speaking in tongues that comes when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, can be spoken in our everyday life, as we are going about our day, as we are spending our personal time with the Lord and as we are in a corporate setting.
- **Some of the benefits of praying in tongues are** (taken from Article by Kenneth Copeland):
 - 1. It allows You to Speak Directly to God**
 - “For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won’t be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.” -1 Corinthians 14:2
 - *When you pray in tongues, you are praying God’s will, directly to Him. It allows your mind to get out of the way so your spirit can commune with the Father.*
 - 2. Praying in Tongues Keeps You in Tune With the Holy Spirit**
 - “And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” -Acts 2:4
 - *Tongues is a gift from God. It allows you to pray the will of God by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. When you pray in tongues, you are yielding to the Holy Spirit who dwells in you. Then you are allowing that same Spirit to pray through you, so you are in tune with Him.*
 - 3. Praying in Tongues Strengthens Your Spirit**
 - “A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.” -1 Corinthians 14:4
 - Praying in tongues builds you up spiritually and helps you to live a Spirit-led life.
 - 4. Praying in Tongues Allows You to Pray Even When You Don’t Know What to Pray**
 - “And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.” -Romans 8:26
 - *Even when you don’t know how or what to pray, you can still pray...in tongues. You can trust your spirit to pray the perfect will of God, regardless of the situation.*
 - 5. Praying in Tongues Is a Weapon Against the Work of the Enemy**

- “And then he told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved.... These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.... They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.’” -Mark 16:15-18
- Jesus proclaimed several things that would happen to those who followed Him and continued His work. Speaking in tongues is one of those gifts, and it allows Jesus’ followers to stand against the work of the enemy.
- Again, praying in tongues is a gift that’s available to every believer. It allows you to pray God’s will to Him. It keeps you in tune with the Holy Spirit and strengthens your spirit as you stand against the work of the devil. Don’t discount this powerful gift from God. Desire it. Embrace it and relish the strength it adds to your spiritual life.

IV. CLOSING

- **How do I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues?**
 1. Ask! (Luke 11:9-13)
 2. Thank God for what He is going to do.
 3. Begin to speak out in faith whatever is there. (Acts 2:4)
- **What if I’ve already received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues but I want that fire back?**
 1. Realize that the Holy Spirit is still within you (John 14:16)
 2. You must stir up the Holy Spirit within you - Rekindle fire, afresh and anew, keep it in full flame. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)
 - a. That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands with those of the elders at your ordination]. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.
 3. Remember like with any natural fire, the flames die down if it is neglected