

May 13, 2018

Acts 2:1-13
We are NOT ALONE!

Jesus continued appearing to believers after His resurrection for 40 days before finally ascending to sit at the Father's right-hand (authority). Before He ascended, He told His disciples to wait for what the Father had promised...**READ: Acts 1:4,5,8**

Jesus had told them that they should be happy that He was returning to the Father because only then would the Holy Spirit come to live the new life He promised within them.

This is truly what makes the Christian life so divinely wonderful: *it's not a life you try to live right; it's life that is lived by the Holy Spirit in/thru you from His wisdom/power!*

So What is Pentecost? From the OT, Pentecost is one of the 3 perpetual feasts to be celebrated annually by God's people once they entered the Promised Land. The Feasts of Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles celebrated God's faithfulness: to save His people from their slavery, to provide sustenance for success living in the PL, & to bless the harvest of their work of their hands. Pentecost, also called the Feast of Weeks, occurred 50 days after Passover = 7 weeks (7 Sabbaths) plus 1 day. For us this year, that will be next Sunday!

Most importantly, the first Pentecost under the New Covenant (*after Christ's resurrection*) was the day the Father sent the Holy Spirit promised to all believers. The HS is the agent of conversion (*spiritual birth*) and of sanctification: *the process by which He continues transforming us & impels us to act consistently with who He made us to be at salvation – God's people!* What He accomplishes in us is the new creation, from start to finish – from spiritual birth to spiritual maturity!

So, in keeping with the OT meaning of Pentecost (*all that is needed for living successfully in the Promised Land*) the Holy Spirit is the One responsible for our success as Christians!
HE IS A VERY BIG DEAL!

READ: Acts 2:1-13 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit made His entrance in a grand way! Because He can be experienced but not seen, the proof or evidence of

His presence was manifest in 3 sensory ways: hearing, seeing & feeling (rushing wind). *He used the disciples to testify about God's wonderful works in spoken languages unknown to them!*

But the real question is: Why did the Father send the HS?

Answer: to create a people of His own, a nation for Himself who would be obedient to His covenant! The New Covenant IN Jesus Christ promised to be successful where the Old Covenant had failed: at the point of man's obedience!

READ: Hebrews 10:11-22 (NLT)

As *Heb 10* explains, The Holy Spirit ensures the success of God's New Covenant in Christ by:

1) Spiritual Conversion (Regeneration or Rebirth)

- HS creates a new spiritual identity = new heart
- No longer sinners by nature; now Saints (holy)
- "...perfected those who are being made holy"***

* "perfected" = perfect indicative = action that was completed in the past & has continuing results.

** "being made holy" = present passive participle = continuous action received by the subject of the verb (us)

2) Sanctification = on going progress is holy living

- HS's laws (rule/ways) written in our minds
- He is our guide & our power to walk with God

3) Perfect Cleansing (Forgiveness & Righteousness)

- We don't operate perfectly, but always forgiven
- Salvation is by Jesus' perfect obedience, not ours
- In Him, we enter God's presence w/ bold confid.

-THE MOST CRITICAL FEATURE of the New Covenant IS being Recreated by the Holy Spirit as God's people who share His holy nature & live with the power of His Holy Spirit

*Pentecost has one more name: **Festival of First Fruits!**

(Num 28:26) *It hints at the spiritual meaning of this Event: those who believed became the first fruits of the New Covenant in Christ; the first believers to be converted & permanently indwelt by the HS (presence) of God – never to be alone again!*

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

TESTIMONY: Adina Volle – since Easter – Resurrection Sunday, we’ve been enjoying testimonies from members about their encounters with the risen Jesus! Today, it’s Adina’s turn!

WORSHIP IN BAPTISM: Dean Hamner

Happy Mothers’ Day! As we participate in believer’s baptism – the physical picture of spiritual salvation, it occurs to me that:

Salvation in Jesus has a beautiful correlation to Mother’s Day! Our mothers gave us physical birth; and the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual birth. Every citizen of God’s Kingdom born of the flesh must be born again of the Spirit!

John 3:5-8 reads this way:

5) Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. **6)** Humans can reproduce only human life (*water of the womb*), but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life (*life from above*). **7)** So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ **8)** The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

This morning, we celebrate Dean Hamner’s salvation and public profession of faith in Jesus as Savior & Lord. And besides us, there is a Witness to Dean’s salvation who is present, but unseen: the Holy Spirit of God, who baptized Dean into Christ at age 17, and has never left him alone!

Sermon in a Sentence: We are Not Alone!

Acts 1:4,5,8 (NLT)

“Once when he (Jesus) was eating with them, he commanded them, ‘Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Hebrews 10:11-22 (NLT)

11) Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. **12)** But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. **13)** There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. **14)** For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

15) And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, **16)** “This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” **17)** Then he says, “I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.” **18)** And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.

19) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. **20)** By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. **21)** And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, **22)** let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Greek lesson:

-Heb 10:14,15 – “*For by that one offering Jesus forever perfected* those who are **being made holy. And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so!*”