

Toward Understanding Ourselves as a Christian

Lesson 8 -- Understanding Ourselves from the Perspective of Pentecost

Introduction

- A. We have been created and recreated to live in fellowship with God, I Cor 1:9. Provision has been made so we can do so, although never without trials.
- B. While the provision is always a Person, the Lord Jesus (I Cor 1:30), His work of redemption is the historical basis and revelation of that provision. In His work He represented us and we were identified in and with Him. This means we died, arose, ascended, and participated in Pentecost -- in Him.
- C. Fifty days after the Crucifixion the ascended Lord Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to His Church. Acts 2 is the account of that event.

I. The Historical Background to the Day of Pentecost.

A. The explanatory prophecies.

- 1. God promised a time when all His people would be anointed alike.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also upon servants and ... handmaids ... will I pour out my Spirit. Joel 2:28,29

(God wants you to know you are not a second-rate Christian!)

- 2. The Lord Jesus was defined as the One Who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

But he that cometh after me is mightier than I ... he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire. Matt 3:11

(God wants you to know the Messiah has the right and ability to do His work!)

- 3. Lord Jesus promised to send His people the Holy Spirit.

And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth. Jn 14:16,17

(God want you to know how great your Helper is!)

- 4. The Lord Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would empower the believer.

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me... Acts 1:8

(God want you to understand He has made every provision for you!)

II. The Explanation of the Day of Pentecost.

A. The historical event.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come ... rushing wind ... cloven tongues of fire ... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues Acts 2:1-4

B. The interpretation of the Day of Pentecost.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear. Acts 2:33

Comment: The Church, which was born on the Day of Pentecost, is a Holy Spirit baptized and anointed Church. When one becomes a believer today, he or she is made a member of that Church (I Cor 12:13). As a result the believer is baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit to live for and serve God. While the present day believer may legally possess all the value of Pentecost, most believers have yet to experience the depth of fellowship, power, and gifts that are theirs through a failure to honestly surrender to God and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18).

III. The Provision of the Day of Pentecost.

A. Divine enablement for an understanding of Scripture.

Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth ... John 16:13

(The One Who inspired the Bible dwells in us to teach us!)

B. Divine enablement to enjoy spiritual things.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom 15:13

(God made us to enjoy Him. It is His will for us (John 15:11; Gal 5:22,23).)

C. Divine enablement for freedom from the bondage of sin.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Rom 8:13

(Freedom from sin is our right -- the Holy Spirit seeks our cooperation.)

D. Divine enablement in spiritual gifts for life and service.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
I Cor 12:4,7

IV. The Responsibility in the Day of Pentecost.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.
Eph 5:17,18

Comment: The words "be filled" are in the present imperative which means, as a command, "Be constantly filled." Our responsibility is to totally and honestly surrender to God (Rom 12:1,2), ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and teach us, and then aggressively seek to cooperate with him in exalting the Lord Jesus. (See John 16:14; Gal 5:16-26)

Recommended Assignment (Preparation for the Next Lesson).

Monday: Read Hebrews 11:1-3. Write out a brief definition/explanation of faith.

Tuesday: Read Hebrews 11:1-4. (Review the story in Genesis) What was significant about the sacrifice of Abel? How was it an act of faith? _____

Wednesday: Read Hebrews 11:1-8. Explain how Abraham's journey was an act of faith.

What application can we make of this lesson for our daily life? _____

Thursday: Read Hebrews 11:23-28. (Review the story in Exodus) What do these verses teach us about the faith of Moses? _____

Friday: Read Heb 11:1-31. What has been left out of this passage? What does that tell us about faith? _____

Saturday: Read I Peter 1:7. Why does Peter say our trials are "trials of faith?"
