

ON WHICH SIDE OF PENTECOST ARE YOU?

Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4

Introduction: What our churches need today is not greater preachers nor is it greater singing, it is not greater attendance, although all of these are commendable. What our churches need today more than anything is the presence of the Holy Spirit. Think about what churches emphasize today: programs, organizations, methods, seminars, upbeat music and just about anything that might cause somebody to attend. What is really needed is the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can break us, melt us, mold us, make us into what we are supposed to be. All the dynamic speakers, contemporary music and give-aways in the world, no matter how famous or popular can do what the presence of the Holy Spirit can. There must be a personal, definite, heartfelt, soul-regenerating, life-changing experience with the Lord Jesus Christ. Then there must be just as definite, just as great, just as certain, just as individual an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

I. ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN GIVE CHRISTIANS THE NEEDED SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS

1. There is no question that only the Holy Spirit can bring one to salvation in the first place.
2. Equally true is the fact that only the Holy Spirit can enable the Christian to live and serve as he/she should.
 - The apostles are first examples of this fact. Before the Holy Spirit came upon them they were afraid, unusable, useless but after the Holy Spirit came, they were totally different people. They were brave, courageous, unafraid, bold and quick to witness.
 - We need to be like the changed apostles for most Christians are like the apostles were before the Holy Spirit came upon them - hesitant, uncertain, uncaring, unsure.
 - Only the Holy Spirit can make Christians today like the Apostles were after Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them.
3. Only the Holy Spirit can give stability, confidence, assurance, forgiveness, assurance that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life and that we have a home in Heaven.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US INTO WHAT/WHO WE NEED TO BE FOR THE LORD

1. Look again at the disciples/apostles. Before the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them what they were like: selfish, anxious, quarreling, jealous, fearful, unsure, doubting.
 - It is still the same today. Christians are acting just like the disciples/apostles in being filled with worldly habits, attitudes, and selfishness.
 - The Holy Spirit can do nothing with Christians such as most of our Churches are filled with today for they are just like the pre-Pentecost disciples.
2. When the Holy Spirit comes people become humble, thoughts are centered around what does Jesus want and are just the opposite of what they were before the Holy Spirit took over.
3. The Holy Spirit can't fill us and change us into what/who we need to be for the Lord if we are already filled with our own selves. So how obedient are we going to be?

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES THE CHRISTIAN UNEXPLAINABLE COURAGE

1. Once again the disciples/apostles are the example. Remember when Peter wanted to walk to Jesus on the tossing waves and when he took his eyes off Jesus he began to sink into the waves. Or when Peter was in the courtyard when Jesus was being tried and the little maid accused him of being a follower of Jesus and he was so afraid of her that he even cursed.
 - Pentecost made the difference. Both Peter and John stood in the very same courtyard and rebuked the Sanhedrin after the Holy Spirit came upon them.
2. It can be the same today. Christians who do not witness and are afraid to do anything openly that might cause them to be "in the spotlight" and be recognized or afraid that they don't know enough, or afraid that somebody might be offended can become just like the disciples after Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gives unexplainable courage. It's not by the Christian's own strength, might or wisdom, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. How can this happen to us?
 - We must give ourselves completely into the hands of the Holy Spirit with total devotion.
 - We must pray continuously, day and night with all our hearts, minds, souls, and passion.

CONCLUSION:

1. When the Holy Spirit is present genuine revivals come, souls are saved, churches are revived and built up, the Kingdom of God is advanced, Satan is overcome and Christ is magnified.
2. On which side of Pentecost are you?
 - Has your Christian life been only "so-so?"
 - Or has your Christian life been filled with Spirit led activities?
3. Only you can decide if you want to be all that God wants you to be, so what will it be?