

PENTECOST BROUGHT CHANGES

Acts 1:4-5

Introduction: When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and stayed throughout Jesus' earthly life and when Jesus was about to die on the cross the Holy Spirit left Him. When Jesus gave His followers instructions to go and wait nobody could ever have even imagined the changes that would come into their lives. The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation and has been involved in every generation of mankind since but Pentecost brought something totally new involving the Holy Spirit.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ACTIVITIES RECORDED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Holy Spirit was active in the creation of all things. (*Genesis 1:1-2*)
2. The Holy Spirit was active in revealing God's Word in the Old Testament. (*2 Peter 1:20-21*)
3. The New Testament associates many Old Testament scriptures directly to the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 22:43; Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; 4:25; Hebrews 3:7; 10:15-16*)
4. The Holy Spirit was active in the inspiration and transmission of the revelation of God in writing down of God's message. (*2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 28:25*)
5. The Holy Spirit was a great restrainer of sin in the Old Testament. (*Genesis 6:3; Isaiah 59:19*)
 - The Holy Spirit prevents evil from totally engulfing our world.
 - God prevents the seas and oceans from flooding the world and thus the Holy Spirit is the great restrainer of evil and sin. However there is coming a time when the Holy Spirit will be removed and evil and sin unrestrained. (*2 Thessalonians 2:7*)

II. AT PENTECOST THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS GIVEN A NEW TEMPLE IN WHICH TO DWELL

1. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given a new, permanent temple in which to dwell.
 - The Holy Spirit indwelt the tabernacle Moses constructed. (*Exodus 40:34*)
 - Solomon later built a permanent temple in which the Holy Spirit indwelt. (*1 Kings 8:10-11*)
 - On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to indwell the believers, the Church. (*1 Peter 2:5*)
 - The followers of Jesus gathered in an upper room and waited and when the Holy Spirit came, every one was filled, indwelt and so it has been ever since that hour. Every believer in Jesus is immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - When God enters a place everyone is made aware of His presence and it is marvelous, powerful and memorable as it was in that upper room with the sound of a mighty wind, tongues like fire and speaking in other unlearned languages.
2. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to INDIVIDUAL believers.
 - Jesus promised that each one would be a temple and that every born again child of God would be individually indwelt. (*John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19*)
 - It was different in the Old Testament for the Holy Spirit never indwelt everyone and then only for a specific length of time and purpose. (*Numbers 11:25*)
 - For Moses to lead the people out of Egypt.

- For the people to have the skills to make Aaron's priestly garments and to make the tabernacle according to God's divine plan. (*Exodus 31:1-11*)
 - The Holy Spirit came upon Gideon, upon Daniel and others as well.
3. Throughout the Old Testament only a few were ever indwelt by the Holy Spirit and then only temporarily and for special purposes.
 - Jesus spoke of the high privilege believers in Him would have. (*Matthew 11:11*)
 - Jesus said that there was no man greater than John the Baptist, yet the Holy Spirit never indwelt him as he lived under the Old Testament guidelines.
 4. Today's believers have greater opportunities and privileges than even John the Baptist.

III. SINCE PENTECOST THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NEVER WITHDRAWN FROM THE BELIEVER

1. Throughout the Old Testament the Holy Spirit "*came upon...*" God's men and women temporarily and left after their task for God was completed.
 - There was also a time when it is mentioned that "*the Spirit of God departed...*" as in the example of Samson.
2. King Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit departed from King Saul. (*1 Samuel 10:9-10; 16:14*)
3. David was the only man mentioned in the Old Testament in whom the Holy Spirit never left. (*1 Samuel 16:13*)
4. In our age of Grace today, there is no possibility of the Holy Spirit departing from the believer.
 - Once a person is saved, the Holy Spirit indwells that person forever and gives that person a personal gift to be used for the Lord. (*John 14:16*)
 - Paul reminded the weak and sinful Corinthians that we may grieve, hurt, quench buffet, refuse to listen, reject advice, but the Holy Spirit will never be withdrawn from us. The Holy Spirit lives within the believer forever, even though he/she be a fruitless, poor child, but IF ever a child of God, ALWAYS a child of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. How different since the day of Pentecost. Just think, with all our weaknesses, the Holy Spirit is never taken away from us who believe.
2. Remember Peter? How often did he fall, fail, make mistakes, go astray? Was the Holy Spirit ever taken from Peter? Jesus even told Peter that Satan was going to sift him again and again and that Peter would fail again and again, but the Holy Spirit never left him.
3. Peter is an example of persistence, preaching, repentance, exhortation, devotion and ended his up and down, in and out life by being crucified but the Holy Spirit never left him. (*John 21:18-19*)
4. Thus it is with us also. We are weak, unworthy, prone to blunder into sin, yet the Lord loves us and forgives us when we go to Him in repentance. The Holy Spirit forever strives with us, encourages us, lifts us up when we fall and so it will ever be until the Lord calls us home and we see Him face to face.