

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS CHANGE

Acts 2:1; Ephesians 5:18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There were the disciples, then Mary, Martha, Mary of Magdalene, Nicodemus, Zacchaeus and other loyal followers of Jesus, several hundred in total. The disciples were the only ones who might be called a "group" and the others were individuals following in their own way, place and time. There was no "organized" fellowship of followers of Jesus. Upon the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came, all those "individuals" who followed Jesus who had gathered in that room became as "one" and were drawn together into a fellowship of faith and oneness. The Holy Spirit brought change and has continued to bring change ever since.

1. The Day of Pentecost Brought Change to the Disciples.

- It might be compared to the day that Saul (Paul) met the Lord Jesus on the Damascus road and was permanently changed.
 - So were the disciples changed forever.
- When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were totally different people.

2. The Disciples Had Always Been Devoted to Jesus.

- The disciples had been personally called by Jesus and responded to His call and had followed Him.
- The disciples had witnessed countless miracles performed by Jesus, had listened to His wisdom teaching and had sat with Him at communion on His last night.
 - They had seen His resurrection, Jesus had even breathed on them saying, "*...receive ye the Holy Ghost...*"
- Yet with all their prior fellowship, relationship and experiences with Jesus they received something even greater on that Pentecost Day.
- The disciples were changed and became new men after the Holy Spirit filled them.

3. Jesus Wants Every Christian to be Filled With the Holy Spirit.

- There are countless people who, like the disciples, have heard the call of Jesus, and have obeyed the call, becoming Christians.
 - They have been "born again."
 - They have pledged their allegiance to Jesus and put their trust in Him, BUT have never known that Pentecostal blessing that totally changes a person.
- Countless Christians have never been filled/flooded by the Holy Spirit.
 - They have never felt like they were empty and wanted filling.
 - They are not Christ-filled, Christ-empowered as the disciples after Pentecost.
- Jesus wants every Christian to be saturated, filled with the Holy Spirit.

4. The Holy Spirit Brings Total Change to The Believer's Spirit.

- The Christian is already a believer in Jesus, already loving Him, but the attitude and outlook is changed.
- The Holy Spirit vitalizes in such a way that old things become new and the world seems like a new place.

- Remember how the disciples were before Pentecost? Fearful, behind locked doors, uncertain, but afterwards, bold, unafraid, ready for anything, going out on the streets preaching Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit came and filled every part of the disciples, totally changing attitudes, faith, outlooks and willingness.
- In order to be used as the Lord wants, every Christian needs to be totally filled with the Holy Spirit as were the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

5. What Happened to the Disciples on Pentecost Can Happen to Every Christian.

- The Christian already is a believer, already loves the Lord Jesus, trusts the Lord, tries to obey Him, but needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit and then everything is energized and vitalized for him/her and his/her old faith becomes really alive.
- *"...Not by might and not by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord..."*
- No Christian should rest until he/she receives the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Sometimes in order for this to happen, God sometimes leads the believer along some strange ways, and humbling paths in order to bring a believer to his/her own great day of Pentecost.

6. The Holy Spirit Gives Believers a Fuller Comprehension of What is Right.

- The nature of the disciples was changed and also was their comprehension of what was right and wrong.
- *"...When He, the Spirit of truth, is come He shall guide you into all truth..." "...He shall take of mine and shew it unto you..."*
- No new truth, but the deeper, real meaning is revealed.
 - After Pentecost, Peter preached a sermon that everybody understood, yet there were no new facts, Peter had a different understanding of things he already knew.
- What the Christian already knows about the Lord Jesus is understood in a different way after the Holy Spirit fills that person.

7. The Holy Spirit Causes Believers to Have Total Confidence.

- All that the Christian knows about the Lord becomes alive and real in such a way that there is total assurance and confidence as never before.
- No longer is there a struggle to believe and disbelief is impossible.
 - The outward witness of God's Word is confirmed by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.
- There is within the Christian the living, mighty, indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- When filled with the Holy Spirit, the Christian will never seek nor need the advice of some "Biblical Scholar" for he/she has been to his/her Pentecost.

CONCLUSION:

1. The filling of the Holy Spirit brings total change to the Christian's outlook and perception.
2. The filling of the Holy Spirit equips the Christian to serve as never before.
3. The filling of the Holy Spirit empowers the Christian to do things he/she never thought of before.
4. The filling of the Holy Spirit gives the Christian complete, permanent confidence.
5. The filling of the Holy Spirit is commanded by Jesus for every believer/Christian.