



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"

Sunday, March 12, 2006 : Study 7

"THE DAY OF PENTECOST : Part 1"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

METHODOLOGY : Before we begin today's Study, I want to highlight the methodology I've used. We have just concluded four Studies that examine the Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in bringing us to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

Study 3 : *Drawn by the Spirit* (Feb 12) : The Spirit convicts us of sin and impresses on us the Good News about Jesus

Study 4 : *Born of the Spirit*, (Feb 19) : The Spirit "regenerates" us - makes us a New Creation in Christ. Our past is wiped clean; we are born again.

Study 5 : *Sealed by the Spirit* (Feb 26) : The Spirit is God's "mark" of ownership and protection; his presence in us is the "guarantee" of all God has planned.

Study 6 : *Baptised With the Spirit*. (March 5) We noted that there were only 7 references to "Baptism with the Spirit" in the Scriptures. 6 of them repeat the promise that Jesus would "Baptise with the Spirit." These references are Mk1:8; Mt3:11; Lk3:16; Jn1:33; Ac1:4-5, & 11:16. None of these references explained the meaning or purpose of the Baptism with the Spirit. Only the 7th, 1Cor12:13 does :

"For we were all baptised by (with) the one Spirit into one body ... whether Jew or Greek, slave or free."

Note that the underlined words are past tense and inclusive : The Baptism with the Spirit is the INITIAL experience of EVERY Christian. This explains why there are commands to appropriate what we already have. Eg "Be filled with the Spirit, " but no command anywhere in the NT to the Christian to seek the "Baptism with the Spirit."

These points need to be established before we turn to Acts 2 ... which describes what happened on the day when the Holy Spirit was first "unleashed" on the Church. Our methodology is that truth is ESTABLISHED from the "propositional" sections of the New Testament. This then GUIDES our understanding of the "narrative" sections. To turn this principle around is to make experience and / or emotion the basis for truth. Eg If we established "truth" from the account of Paul's conversion in Acts 9, then we would conclude that a genuine conversion included the convert hearing God's voice and going temporarily blind.

So what did happen on the Day of Pentecost ... and why did it happen that way?

A. THE SYMBOLISM

1. OF PENTECOST ITSELF :

Pentecost (Gk "Pentekostos") means "FIFTY" - a Jewish feast held 50 days after Passover. As the Passover always falls on a Sabbath (the 7th. day), Pentecost falls on the first day of the week 7 by 7 plus 1. This puts both the resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Spirit on a Sunday ... which is the historical reason why Christians began to meet for worship on the first day of the week.

Pentecost was a HARVEST celebration. (See Ex23:1, 34; Num28:26-28; Lev23:15-19) On the 50th day, the worshipper made an offering of two loaves of bread made with the harvest's first grain.

Meaning? The "first fruits of the harvest" suggests both the Holy Spirit himself as the "first fruit" or "deposit" of all that God intends for us. (Rom8:23; Eph1:14) and also of the response of the 3000 to the first gospel sermon by Peter.

2. OF WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (recorded in Acts 2)

- A. WIND (Ac2:2) Associated with the mighty POWER of God (Ezek37:9; Jn3:8)
- B. FIRE (Ac2:3) Associated with the purifying PRESENCE of God (Ex3:2-4, Is6:6-7)
- C. TONGUES (Ac2:4-11) Associated with a clear PROCLAMATION of God's acts.

B. AN ESCHATOLOGICAL SIGN

This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy ... The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Ac2:16-21 c/f Joel 2:28-32

1. A new ERA is inaugurated - the last days : God has nothing more to say or do.

All the promises of God are "yes!" in Christ. 2Cor1:20

The two "indicators" of the last days are the COMING of the Spirit and the MINISTRY of Jesus

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets ... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ... Heb1:1-2

2. The Gospel is UNIVERSAL - for "all people" - "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord."

Not just a vague principle - but specifically on every nation, and without respect of sex or age.

(Note : "sun to darkness" and "moon to blood" : apocalyptic language used in the OT to indicate the close of a political era - this language does not necessarily indicate the end of the world or Jesus' 2nd Coming. See

Is13:9-10, Ezek32:7-8, Is34:4-5, and Amos 5:18,21, 8:9)

C. THE PURPOSE OF "TONGUES" ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The gift of tongues was

A. a consequence of being "FILLED" by the Spirit (2:4a)

B. constituted KNOWN languages and needed no interpretation

C. not EFFECTIVE in itself - caused amazement, confusion, and mockery raised many questions but did not supply any answers. (2:12) Plain teaching cleared up the confusion.

REMEMBER 1Cor12:13 the purpose of the Baptism with the Spirit? To MAKE US ALL MEMBERS OF ONE BODY So then, the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost

1. Powerfully DEMONSTRATED that the Gospel was for all races. Note the list of nations in 2:8-11 Everyone heard God praised in their own language.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus Gal3:28 See also Eph2:11-22

2. Acted as OBJECTIVE evidence that in Christ all are indeed one! See Acts 10: 34, 44-48. Peter in a Gentile's house, needed persuading that the Gospel was truly for non-Jews!

Can anyone keep these people from being baptised? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Ac10:47

D. THE EFFECT OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT

1. ACCURATE Understanding. (Acts2: 22-36) Peter, who before could not bear to listen about Jesus' death (Mt16:21-22; Mk9:31-33), now fully understands its purpose and that it was clearly foretold in the Old Testament.

2. BOLD Presentation. Peter, who had denied Jesus before a servant girl's innocent question, (Jn18:15-17) now openly speaks about Jesus, without fear, before a huge crowd.

3. EFFECTIVE Communication. (Acts2:41) 3000 people responded in Baptism, believing that Jesus is who he claimed to be and that his death was effective to forgive their sin.

4. FUNCTIONING Community. (Acts2:42-47) : The Church immediately displayed the essential marks of the Church : Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witness.

(The Study continues next Sunday . It will expand Point C, - looking at what led to the "Jerusalem Church Meeting" as recorded in Acts 15 and how the events of Acts 8 :14-17 and 19:1-6 fit.