

Great Things About Pentecost

No. 264

Introduction.

I. I would like to invite your attention to the reading of Acts 2:1-4.

1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

II. Luke here tells us about some exciting events that took place on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus.

- A. Pentecost [Greek meaning 50th] was the holy day celebrated by the Jews 50 days after the Sabbath of the Passover week. It was called the "feast of weeks" in the Old Testament. (Exod. 34:22)
- B. This was one of three times each year when all Jewish males were suppose to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem. (Deut. 16:16, 17). It was celebrated by offering the first fruits of the wheat harvest to God.

III. This feast day had been celebrated hundreds of times throughout the centuries, but this day is one of special interest to us.

- A. This is the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and the gospel was preached to the Jewish multitude. It was the day that 3,000 people were baptized and that the church (the kingdom) had its beginning.
- B. Let us notice several great things about this Pentecost.

I. **A Great Demonstration Of God's Power** - Pentecost offered a great demonstration of God's power.

- A. On the day of Pentecost the apostles were filled with the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. (Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5,8). About 10 days after Jesus ascension the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles for a number of reasons.

1. The Holy Spirit gave them **power to speak in tongues or languages.** (Acts 2:4, 6-11).

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God. "

- It is clear the tongues were not babbling. They were actual languages the people understood.
 2. The Holy Spirit **guided them into all truth.** (Jn. 16:13).
 3. The Holy Spirit **enabled the apostles to recall what Jesus had taught.** (Jn.14:26).
 4. The Holy Spirit **gave the apostles the power to perform miracles and to impart spiritual gifts to others.** (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 6:6; 8:14-17).
- B. The miraculous manifestations of the Spirit serve the purpose of proving the message the apostles preached was true. (Mk. 16:19-20).

" 19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

II. Offered A Great Preacher - Pentecost offered a great preacher.

- A. Early in the ministry of Jesus, Andrew brought his brother Simon to Christ. (Jn. 1:41, 42).
 1. Here Jesus prophesied Peter's later greatness. He called "Simon" "Cephas" which is Aramaic for "a stone."
 2. Peter is the Greek form of the name "Cephas."
- B. **Peter was a great man.** (Matt. 16:16; Jn. 6:68-69).
 1. Yes, Peter was a great man, but he was far from a rock during the ministry of Christ.
 2. Because of lack of faith Peter began to **sink as he walked on water.** (Matt. 14:28-31).
 3. He **denied the Lord 3 times** the night Jesus was betrayed. (Matt. 26:74, 75).
- C. **Despite all of his failures and weaknesses, Peter stayed the course.** He kept coming back and became a great, courageous follower of Christ.

III. Offered A Great Sermon - Pentecost offered a great sermon.

- A. Though all the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and preached at first, Peter was chosen to address the Jewish multitude on Pentecost. With great boldness and courage he stood before the multitude and said. (Acts 2:14).
- B. Some had tried to explain the apostles speaking in tongues by saying they were drunk, but Peter denied that charge. He affirmed what the apostles were doing was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. (Acts 2:16).
- C. Peter then set out to prove that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ). He offered 3 great proofs.
 1. The first proof was **the miracles of Jesus.** (Acts 2:22).
 2. The second proof was **Jesus fulfilling prophecy.**
 - a. He quotes the 16th psalm. (Acts 2:25-31).

25 "For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; 27 Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. 28 'Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.'

29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

b. Many students of scriptures in that day thought David was speaking of himself. Peter pointed out that David was dead and his burial place was known to them. David was still in the grave. The prophecy of the resurrection did not apply to David who had undergone corruption and decay, but to Christ. (Acts 2:31).

3. The third proof were the witnesses of **Jesus' resurrection**. (Acts 2:32).

a. Peter declared that he and the other apostles were witnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

b. They had seen the resurrection with their own eyes.

D. Peter closed his sermon with the bold **affirmation that Jesus was both Lord and Christ**. (Acts 2:36).

1. He does not pull any punches. He did not show favorites.

2. He declares to the Jewish multitude that they were guilty of the worse possible sin. They had crucified the Son of God.

IV. Pentecost Offers A Great Question - Pentecost offers a great question.

A. Many being convicted of the horrible deed of crucifying Christ were "cut to heart" and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

B. **They were truly penitent of killing the Son of God**. The reaction was caused by the powerful gospel message they heard that day. It was not caused by the Holy Spirit working miraculously on their hearts. The Holy Spirit, through His spokesman Peter, convicted them of sin.

C. **The audience deserves a lot of credit for the way they received the gospel**.

1. Some years later Stephen's audience heard a similar sermon, but they gnashed their teeth, stopped their ears, and stoned Stephen to death. (Acts 7:58,59).

2. These people, on Pentecost, did not respond with violence or with apathy, but with genuine repentance and obedience.

V. Pentecost Offers A Great Answer - Pentecost offers a great answer.

A. Peter responded to their question with these powerful words. (Acts 2:38).

1. Peter hearers already believed in Christ as is evidenced from verse 37.

2. Peter informs them that they needed to do 2 things to be saved.
 - a. They must “repent,” that is, turn from their sins.
 - b. They must “be baptized for the remission of sins.”
 - c. Those who obeyed these commandments would receive “the remission of sins” and “the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

B. Today those who have come to believe in Christ are saved in the same way.

1. We must repent of our sins. We must turn from the sin that separates us from God.
2. We must also be baptized. Baptism is not an option, but it is a must. Only those who let their faith lead them to be buried with Christ in baptism will be saved.

VI. Pentecost Offers A Great Result - Pentecost offers a great result.

- A. Three thousand precious souls responded to the gospel that day. (Acts 2:41).
- B. **It is significant to mention that not every one was saved that day.** The Bible says only those who “gladly received his word” were baptized. Some heard one of the most powerful gospel messages ever preached, and hardened their hearts and left that day unsaved.
- C. **The church began with 3,000 responding to the gospel, but their number quickly increased.** Soon according to Acts 4:4, the number grew to 5,000 men not including the women and children. Then Luke tells us that the church grew even more rapidly. The number of the disciples multiplied greatly. (Acts 6:7).
- D. **Those who were being saved were added to the church.** This is significant because the Bible tells us that Jesus died for the church. (Eph. 5:25).

Conclusion.

- I. **Pentecost was truly a great day in the history of Christianity.** It was the day the church or kingdom began. It was the day when thousands came to Christ and lead the way for thousands, even millions, later to obey Christ.
- II. We can receive the same benefits today which were first offered on Pentecost.
 - A. We can have the remission of sins. We can have the gift or indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We can become a part of God’s family - the church, the kingdom. We can have all the joys and blessings of salvation.
 - B. **We need to heed the words of Peter.** (Acts 2:40).
 - C. **These words are applicable to men in every age.** No one can believe for us. No one can repent for us. No one can be baptized for us. No one can be saved for us. Each one of us must act individually. We must individually turn from our sins and individually be baptized.
- III. **There is no better time than now to obey Christ.** Now is the time to come to Christ. Now is the time to be saved. Come to Jesus as we stand and sing.

