

Warring for the Holy Spirit

Saturday, June 3, 2017

7:22 AM

Acts 1:1-8 (NIV)

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with ^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with ^[b] the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues ^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Introduction:

Today is Pentecost Sunday the day that we celebrate the outpouring of The Holy Spirit. Like other New Testament events it has its origination in the Feasts prescribed by God in the Old Testament.

1. What is it?

- a. The Feast of Passover (Jesus sacrifice on the cross)
- b. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Our being brought out of sin)
- c. The Feast of First Fruits (Christ's Resurrection - this also commemorated the beginning of the Barley harvest)
- d. The Feast of Weeks (The outpouring of the Holy Spirit - 7 weeks of weeks or 7 x 7 and on the 50th day after Passover - this also commemorated the beginning of the Wheat harvest)

2. Who Was IT For?

- a. Peter's message to the people that day helps us answer that question

Acts 2:14-18 (NIV)

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ““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.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy

- b. "All People" - Everyone
- c. Specifically for all those who have repented of their sins and entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ

Acts 2:38-39 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

3. What Happened?

- a. We call it an outpouring (there was the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and tongues of fire came down or rained down, the began to speak in other tongues so there was an outpouring of the praises of God from the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives)
- b. *In the Old Testament, God sent rain from heaven to bring in the wheat harvest. In the New Testament God sends the Holy Spirit from heaven to bring in the human harvest of men and women into his kingdom. That’s the biblical significance of Pentecost. - Ray Pritchard*

- c. **People were changed**

It was the coming of the Holy Spirit that transformed Peter the denier into Peter the preacher. It was the coming of the Holy Spirit that took Thomas the doubter and turned him into Thomas the missionary. It was the coming of God’s mighty Holy Spirit which took those cowardly, fearful, doubting, hesitant disciples and made them flaming evangelists for [Jesus](#) Christ who were ready to lay down their lives for him. It was that and nothing else. It was the work of the Holy Spirit coming into ordinary men and women who transformed them from ordinary men and women into evangelists for Jesus Christ.- Ray Pritchard

Think about how this power transformed the first-century believers. Prior to Pentecost, Simon Peter couldn't stand up for his faith when strangers asked him if he was a follower of Jesus. After the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost, Peter stood up and boldly preached the gospel, resulting in 3,000 people being saved.

After Saul of Tarsus became a believer on the Damascus Road, God led Ananias to go and pray for him. He was then filled with the Holy Spirit, and from that moment on, he went out and proclaimed Christ in the synagogues.

This power is for a purpose. It is not power to be crazy or power to do weird things. It is power to be a witness . . . power to have the courage to tell someone about Jesus Christ . . . power to tell people about what Jesus has done for you. - Greg Laurie

But an even greater question for us to answer is - how can we participate in this gift that God has given?

WARRING FOR THE SPIRIT

Waiting

- Obedience
- Lingering
- Focus
- Stillness

Lamentations 3:24 (NIV)

²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Asking

- Desire
- Trust
- Perseverance

Luke 11:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for ^[a] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Receiving

- Faith
- Surrender
- Action

Mark 11:24 (NIV)

²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.