

Acts 2:1-13

What Happened on the Day of Pentecost?

- **The Plan of God was being followed**
 - 400 years before, the prophet Joel had spoken of the event (Joel 2:28,29)
 - 700 years before, Isaiah had prophesied concerning the outpouring (Isaiah 28:9-12)
 - **The Promise of Jesus was Evident...A start of something that would be the "Tool of Confidence" for the church and its followers**
 - **A Gift was Given...A Promised Gift...an Experience that will never be forgotten**
 - **Baptism in water is an experience**
 - **Baptism in the Spirit is an experience**

John the Baptist announced that Jesus would baptize his followers "with the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 3:11)

Jesus reminded His disciples of John's prediction just before His ascension (Acts 1:5)

Peter never forgot this promise...and referred to it in Acts 11:15,16., "The Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord...."
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Pentecost is Where It All Began...this one time (the fullest account)...an experience signalized by the external signs of wind and fire and the internal sign of speaking with other tongues.

- ◆ **No where else were the external signs of God (wind/fire) experienced in the New Testament...although they had been experienced in the Old Testament**
- ◆ **Wind and Fire were natural forces, not of human volition**
- ◆ **Speaking in tongues involved the yielding of human will**

Human will is an obstacle of God's own creation, one that He never violates. God always requires human volition to accomplish His purposes in us.

We will never be filled with the Spirit, never speak with tongues, until we yield our whole being---mental, physical, vocal, and spiritual faculties..to God.
- **The Plan of God for The Baptism Must Be Followed...Pentecost was a Precedent/a Pattern to be followed:**
 - ◆ **Speaking in Tongues is evident**
 - ◆ **The baptism in the Holy Spirit was to be for the entire Church, not only for leaders.**
 - ◆ **Spiritual experiences may not always be understood by those outside the Church.**

- ◆ Anointed preaching was to be the major means of evangelism
- ◆ The power of the Holy Spirit was to enable the Church to reach large numbers of people.

Why Is It So Important That We Acknowledge the Working of the Holy Spirit?

- Power of God Unto Salvation
- Power That Sustains Us
- Power to Help Us Keep On Keeping On.

Power Comes By Being Filled By the Holy Spirit

- Jesus Filled (Luke 4:1)
- Peter Filled (Acts 4:8)
- Stephen Filled (Acts 7:55)
- The Assembled People Were Filled (Acts 4:31)

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Baptizo (Greek) means:

- To Overcome
- To Overwhelm

It's An Experience.....Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:15-16

It's A Gift..... Acts 10:45; Acts 11:15-17; Luke 11:13

It's An Enduement of Power.....Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

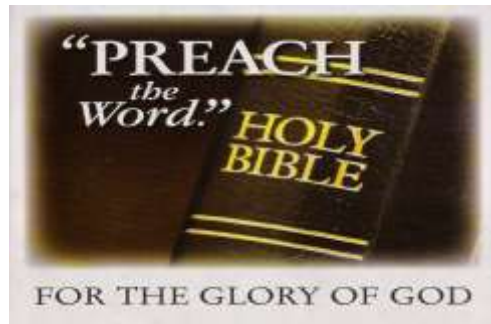
The Baptism is the Release of the Spirit in You

It is the "Overwhelming of Your Soul"

(Your Psychological Nature...Emotions, Will, Intellect and Subconscious)

Prior to Pentecost, God's Believers were Filled with the Spirit.....Pentecost Brought Baptism of the Spirit.





The First Christian Preaching

Acts 2:14-42...the account of the first Christian Sermon ever preached.

In the early Church there were four (4) different kinds of preaching:

- 1. Kerugma = herald's announcement and is the plain statement of the facts of the Christian message...there was no argument or doubt.***
- 2. Didache = means teaching and made clear the meaning of the facts which had been proclaimed.***
- 3. Paraklesis = means exhortation. This kind of preaching urged upon men the duty of fitting their lives to match the kerugma and didache (facts) which had been given.***
- 4. Homilia = means the treatment of any subject or department of life in light of the Christian message.***

Fully rounded preaching includes all four elements at some time or another.

Put simple, there is the plain proclamation of the facts of the Christian gospel; the explanation of the meaning and the relevance of these facts; the exhortation to fit life to them; and the treatment of all the activities of life in the light of the Christian message.

Acts includes mainly the preaching style...kerugma, because Acts tells of the proclamation of the facts of the gospel to those who had never heard them before.

Kerugma follows a pattern in the New Testament:

- There is the proof the Jesus and all that happened to him is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. In modern times less and less stress has been laid on the fulfillment of prophecy. We have come to see that the prophets were not nearly so much fore-tellers of events to come as forth-tellers of God's truth to men. The early preaching conserved the great truth that history is not haphazard and that there is meaning to it. To believe in the possibility of prophesy is to believe that God is in control and that He is working out His purposes.***
- In Jesus the Messiah has come, the Messianic prophecies are fulfilled and the New Age has dawned. The early Church had a tremendous sense that Jesus was the hinge of all history; that with His coming, eternity had invaded time; and that, therefore, life and the world could never be the same again.***

- *Jesus had been born of the line of David, that He had taught, that He had worked miracles, that He had been crucified, that He had been raised from the dead and that He was now at the right hand of God. And, the early Church believed that life and death were not the end and that after them came the resurrection. That Jesus was not just someone of whom they had heard and read about; He was someone they met and knew...a living presence.*
- *Insisted that Jesus would return in glory to establish His kingdom upon earth. They believed intensely in the Second Coming...that history is going somewhere and that some day there will be consummation; and that man is therefore in the way or on the way.*
- *In Jesus alone was salvation...that by believing on Him all people could receive the Holy Spirit...and that he who does not believe was destined for terrible things. Preaching in those days ended with both a promise and a threat....*

Peter's sermon had the above 5 threads woven into it.

The question is not whether the people believed what Peter preached then, but if people believe the truth of the Word that is preached today.

The test of true preaching...Does it have the Holy Spirit's approval in that He (the Holy Spirit) feels welcomed and open for commitment by the hearers (listeners) of His Word?

People and preachers make mistakes, but the Holy Spirit never makes mistakes. Be open to His presence today!

Acts 2:22-36

The Message the Holy Spirit Preached Through Peter

The message's central theme....The early preachers points of fact and conclusion (in Acts):

The message:

- *It insists that the Cross was no accident. It belongs to the eternal plan of God (v. 23).*

Over and over again Acts states this same thing....(3:18; 4:28; 13:29)

There are two serious errors Acts safeguards us from:

1. *The cross is not a kind of emergency measure flung out by God when everything else had failed. It is part of God's very life.*
2. *We must never think that anything Jesus did changed the attitude of God to men. It was by God Jesus was sent. The cross was a window in time allowing us to see the suffering love which is eternally in the heart of God.*

- ***Acts insists that this in no way lessens the crime of those who crucified Jesus.***
Every mention of the crucifixion in Acts is instinct with a feeling of shuddering horror at the crime it was (2:23; 3:13; 4:10; 5:30). The crucifixion shows supremely how horrifyingly sin can behave.
- ***Acts is out to prove that the sufferings and death of Christ were the fulfillment of prophecy.***
The early preachers had to do that.
To the Jew the idea of a crucified Messiah was incredible. Their law said, “A hanged man is accursed by God” (Deuteronomy 21:23)
To the orthodox Jew the Cross made it completely impossible that Jesus could be the Messiah. The answer the early preachers gave, “If you would read your scriptures rightly you would see that all was foretold.”
- ***Acts stresses the resurrection as the final proof that Jesus was indeed God’s Chosen One.***
Acts has been called the Gospel of the Resurrection.
To the early Church the resurrection was all-important.
We, as the Church, must remember this—without the resurrection there would be no Christian Church at all. This is what convinced the disciples...the close followers of Jesus...and should be what convinces us today.
We should be happy after the preacher says “The Lord is risen” to say “He is risen indeed.”
The Christian should never forget that he/she lives and walks with a Risen Lord!

Peter Preached “Save Yourselves.”

Acts 2:37—41, This passage shows:

- ***With Crystal Clarity the effect of the Cross.***
When people realized just what they had done in crucifying Jesus their hearts were broken.
Jesus had said, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto myself” (John 12:32).
Every man has had a hand in that crime.
- ***That experience (the cross) demands a reaction from Men/Women.***
“Repent” said Peter.
What does repentance mean?

The word originally meant an afterthought. Often a second thought shows that the first thought was wrong; and so the word came to mean a change of mind.

If a man is honest, however, a change of mind demands a change of action.

Repentance must involve both a change of mind and a change of action.

- ***When repentance comes something happens to the past.***

There is God's forgiveness for what lies behind.

The consequences of sins are not wiped out.

God has made away to escape the consequences of sin...not sins.

When we sin we may well do something to ourselves and to others which cannot be undone.

Forgiveness does not abolish the consequences of what we have done but it puts us right with God.

- ***When repentance comes something happens for the future.***

We receive the Holy Spirit and in that power we can win battles we never thought to win and resist things which by ourselves we would have been powerless to resist.