

Text Acts 2:3-4a: -- "...they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

TOPIC/TITLE: "Filled With the Holy Spirit"

Date written: May 28, 1982.

Places and dates used:

MAY 30, 1982 - ST. JAMES U.M. CHURCH, AVOCATA, GA

INTRODUCTION: A celebration

Pentecost is a celebration with long-lasting and deep roots in Judaeo/Christian religions, carrying messages basic to the faiths.

1. Background:

a. PRE-JEWISH

(1) Canaanites harvest festival, celebrated at the end of the 7 week period of grain harvest, after the last sheath had been

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(1) Celebrated harvest

festival, celebrated at the

end of the 7 week period of

rain harvest, after the

last Christian day

harvested. This background revealed in Exodus 23:16, where it is called the "Feast (or Festival) of the Harvest."

MY GARDENING experience helps me appreciate the celebration of completed harvest far better than I did when I simply bought my foods.

Driving through SOUTHERN GEORGIA this week (May 24), I saw grain harvesting, and thought that PENTECOST IS TIMELY here where we live.

b. JEWISH.

- (1) Still a harvest festival
- (2) Exactly 50 days after the Passover
- (3) Said to be also a commemoration of the giving of the Law (the 10 Commandments) at Mt. Sinai.

c. CHRISTIAN:

- (1) Jewish background important. As today's Scripture indicates, Christian Pentecost took place as all believers were gathered in one place to celebrate Pentecost.

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place to celebrate Pentecost.

(2) The Scriptural Pentecost happening had:

(a) a sound from heaven (the sky) like the rush of a mighty wind.

(b) what looked like TONGUES OF FIRE which spread out and touched each person there. Our METHODIST EMBLEM has flames representing these tongues of fire.

(c) All were filled with the Holy Spirit.

(d) Speaking in tongues which people attracted to the scene by the commotion understood, each in his own language, even though they came from many lands where many languages were spoken (15 such lands are listed in the Scrip.)

(e) AMAZEMENT of all. Some calling the Christians drunk. Peter denied this, saying it was only 9 in the morning, and that this was taking place to ILLUSTRATE THE PROPHECY FROM JOEL which

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(e) ANNOUNCEMENT of all some calling the Christians drunk. Peter denied this, saying it was only in the morning, and that this was taking place to ILLUSTRATE THE PROMISE FROM JOHN 14:17

is part of the Scripture.

(f) PETER'S SERMON about Jesus and Jesus' ministry of mighty works, wonders, signs, crucifixion, and resurrection. Peter quoted ^{THE PROPHET ISRAEL AND THE ANCIENT KING} DAVID as in Psalm 16:8-11 and 110:1, to say that Jesus was the Messiah and Savior so long looked and hoped for. BUT, they (the listeners) had crucified Jesus. HOWEVER, they can repent, turn away from their sins, be baptised in the name of Jesus. THEN they WILL BE FORGIVEN and RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT too.

(g) MANY BELIEVED, so that 3000 were added to the church that day, there and then.

(h) The new BELIEVERS SPENT THEIR TIME (thereafter) in learning from the apostles, fellowship, and sharing.

(3) Christians since have
(a) Begun their own Christian experience with a Pentecostal experience

in part of the scriptures.

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(4) Christians since have

(a) begun their own

Christian experience with

a Pentecostal experience

(b) Remembered and celebrated the original Pentecost, to help keep fresh its meaning and promise.

2. For me, PENTECOST TODAY IS REAL, a part of me, in THREE BASIC WAYS, which I hope you share:

- a. The SPIRIT OF GOD IS KNOWN.
- b. THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS FELT (experienced).
- c. THE SPIRIT OF GOD GUIDES throughout life.

I. THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS KNOWN.

KNOWING means certainty. The Spirit is real. It makes sense.

2. Colin Williams: John Wesley's Theology Today, has a chapter entitled "The Order of Salvation: The Work of The Spirit." Wesley argued with respectable logic that the Spirit is indeed God. God shows himself in 3 chief ways, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each expression is fully God. The theory makes sense, and can be known.

3. Too many level-headed good people from all types of background have testified that they believe in and know the Holy Spirit to allow us easily to discount the reality.

(b) I remembered and said -
I tried to do it last time -
cost, to help keep fresh
its meaning and promise.

2. For me, PRESENT TENSE IS
REAL, a part of me, in THESE PAST
WAYS, which I hope you share.

- a. THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS KNOWN
- b. THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS KNOWN
(experienced).
- c. THE SPIRIT OF GOD CRIES
throughout life.

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3. Tabernary level-headed good people
from all types of backgrounds have
testified that they believe in and
know the Holy Spirit to allow us
to be born again.

4. KNOWING IS WITH THE MIND.

Knowledge alone is cold and has little comfort. Study can be boring and lonesome. More is needed. Pentecost indicates the "more."

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FELT, experienced.

1. In the Scripture, these people FELT the Spirit first, so vividly that they described it as hot flames of fire touching each person. However they had been believers before this experience, and so had some preparation enabling them to receive the Holy Spirit.

2. John Wesley himself experienced the Holy Spirit in a sudden conversion moment, at Aldersgate. Early in his ministry and writings he stressed the importance and necessity of a vivid conversion experience. Wesley always remained convinced that conversion is always accompanied by awareness of real change. It has to make a difference in your life.

3. Later, Wesley modified his emphasis on conversion in an instant, to favor the sound truth that the Holy Spirit operates in an infinite variety of ways among people, so

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II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TEST, EXPERIENCE

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3. Later, Wesley notified his disciples on conversion in an instant to favor the sound truth that the Holy Spirit operates in an infinite variety of ways among people, so

a person can come to feel the Spirit in long and quiet ways, as well as in the flashing and flaming moment.

4. However it may happen, YOUR EXPERIENCE of the Holy spirit is unique and personal, the way of knowing that God is with you.

5. MY OWN EXPERIENCES:

- a. Childhood at-church going-forward experiences.
- b. Duke chapel balcony feeling
ck ² Subsequent moments of assurance.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD PRESENT HERE AND NOW TO SHARE, GUIDE AND GIVE STABILITY throughout the Christian life. The Holy Spirit motivates my living and yours.

1.

1. New birth, being born again, is traditional terminology for the experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit to you and to me.

2. As with the physical birth of a baby, new birth from the Holy Spirit is an important, painful and joyous experience which is a beginning. As the baby begins to change and grow from the moment of birth, so must

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1. Now birth, being born again, is traditional terminology for the experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit to you and to me.

2. As with the physical birth of a baby, new birth from the Holy Spirit is an important, painful and joyous experience which is a beginning as the baby begins to change and grow from the moment of birth, so must

the new born Christian constantly change and grow. A Christian growth is toward a similarity, a likeness toward Jesus.

3. John Wesley had committed himself mentally and in decision and effort to the normal Christian virtues before Aldersgate, but it took the conversion experience, the feeling and assurance that the Holy Spirit was with him and in him, to enable him to be happy in trying to do good. Now HE WANTED to do good things as an expression of his joy and happiness over the assurance of God's love and presence which he felt within himself as the Holy Spirit.

4. However, because you know the Holy Spirit you are not freed to do anything you like. You still need to check the Scriptures for understanding and guidance as to how you should live. The Holy Spirit sustains you as you search, making the search interesting, enjoyable and revealing. So the Holy Spirit motivates and guides you to understand ever more fully the Bible.

5. Finally, the Holy Spirit can give peace and acceptance at the moment of death.

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a. I have heard dying Christian patients express their relief and joy that they are "going home," "going to be with God," soon.

b. Christian people who have been brought back from cardiac arrests, who momentarily have been physically dead, speak of peace, and light, and brightness, happiness and beauty, which they saw "on the other side."

CONCLUSION:

The Holy Spirit can be with you. You will know the Holy Spirit with your mind, experience the Holy Spirit with you feelings, and have motivation and guidance of God's spirit every day. Only believe. Then, soon, you will be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. And when you're filled, that's enough! That's all there is!

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