

6-9-19 PENTECOST – EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, ESPECIALLY THOSE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 2:1-4; ACTS 2:37-38; EPHESIANS 5:18

PENTECOST --- Fifty days after Easter Resurrection --- The Holy Spirit descends upon the self-avowed JESUS-FOLLOWERS in old Jerusalem in a most DRAMATIC FASHION --- WOW!!!!

- A. Pentecost is often referred to as the **'birth of the church'**. However, I think of Pentecost as **that day – that moment** when the **New Covenant is sealed BY GOD with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christian believers** -- ALL OVER THE WORLD. In Christ there is no nationality or people group of preference – no insiders – no Democrats nor Republicans – no blacks, whites, Asians, Latinos, Eastern European, European, South American, African, Americans or any other people group --- NO IDENTIFICATION or requirement of sexual orientation – ALL PEOPLE are welcomed and invited to be a Child of God (Galatians 3:28) --- to begin a JOURNEY OF FAITH & TRUST in GOD --- THE DOOR WAS OPENED UP BY THE LIFE, DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS THE CHRIST **God SEALS the NEW COVENANT** with the gifting of the HOLY SPIRIT to EVERY BELIEVER AND when we declare ourselves as CHRIST-FOLLOWERS – **we SEAL our part of the deal by:** 1) demonstrating our **DESIRE for God & for life;** 2) **SPIRITUAL BREATHING** – breathing out the evil & bad of our lives AND breathing in the goodness of God; AND 3) **SURRENDER** of the ultimate **CONTROL OF OUR LIFE TO GOD.**
- B. AND the potency, power and presence of the Holy Spirit is as real and vital as it is described in Acts 2 in the 1st century. The extraordinary life change that occurs when our lives our opened to God and the Holy Spirit enters in is truly supernatural.

Today, we're going to consider:

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?
2. HOW CAN YOU WE KNOW & EXPERIENCE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?
3. SO WHAT ???? WHY DOES IT EVEN MATTER?

Acts 2:1-4: 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 as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:37-38: When the people heard this, they were **cut to the heart** and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "**REPENT & 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.

**TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ---
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

1. **JESUS LIVING THROUGH US** – Galatians 2:20
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLING US** – DIRECTING US --- INSPIRING US --- GIVING US PEACE OF MIND & CLEAR THINKING --- COOPERATING WITH rather than FRUSTRATING US WITH the "NORMAL" WAYS
3. **IT MEANS THAT WE DO NOT LIVE ON OUR OWN, BUT RATHER IN CHRIST THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. ESSENTIALLY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE CONTROLS of OUR LIVES --- WE MUST ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT ACCESS & CONTROL**

Ephesians 5:18: Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. **Instead, BE FILLED with the Spirit ...**

HOW CAN WE BE "FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

1. **Jesus' followers** were gathered **TOGETHER**
2. **Jesus' followers** were **EXPECTING** and **PRAYING** for JESUS to DO WHAT HE PROMISED in ACTS 1:8 – THEY WERE EXPECTING, DESIRING and PRAYING
3. **Jesus' followers** learn to **breath spiritually**.
 - a. **BREATHING OUT** the "bad", the "destructive", the "hurtful", "sinful" things of our lives (1 John 1:9 & Ephesians 2:8-10);
 - b. **BREATHING IN** THE GOOD
 - 1) in times of PRAYER CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD and
 - 2) in times of BIBLE reflection, discussion, and response.
4. **Jesus' followers** learn to live a life of **AFFIRMING SURRENDER to & COOPERATION with God's leading & work.** Romans 12:1-2

IN SUMMARY:

1. **TOGETHER WITH PRAYER & EXPECTATION**
2. **WITH SPIRITUAL BREATHING:**
***** BREATHING OUT THE "BAD" – RELEASING THE "BAD" ---TURNING THE DOOR SHUT ON THE PAST AND THEN BREATHING IN THE "GOOD" – opening ourselves to GOD.**
3. **SURRENDER TO & RELIANCE UPON GOD**

DEAR GOD, I WANT JESUS IN THE CENTER OF MY LIFE AND I COMMIT THROUGH YOUR POWER TO TRUST YOU AND OBEY YOU. AMEN.

A testimony or story of personal surrender:

In Our Time: The Life and Ministry of E. Stanley Jones:

by Robert G. Tuttle, Jr. (excerpts from pgs. 78-80)

In a very dark hour Stanley was led by the Spirit of God to the Central Methodist Church in Lucknow. The Rev. Tamil David was in charge of several evangelistic services. Stanley was in the back of the church kneeling in prayer, not for himself, but for others, when God said to him: *"Are you yourself ready for the work to which I have called you?" He replied, "No, Lord, I'm done for. I've reached the end of my resources and I can't go on." The Lord replied, "If you'll turn that problem over to me and not worry about it, I'll take care of it." Stanley's eager reply, "Lord, I close the bargain right here!" Stanley arose from his knees knowing that he was well."*

E. Stanley Jones was made WHOLE! In fact, it was far more than physical healing; he was made whole—body, mind and spirit. He was flooded with a sense of energy, peace, power and adequacy. He was taken possession of by the Holy Spirit—the "Spirit of Truth"—and he had an assurance that his would "abide with him forever."

In Stanley's own words he had moved from "weakness to strength; from confusion to certainty; from inner conflict to unity; from 'myself to his Self.'"

Significantly, Stanley was truly healed. His own testimony is that he no longer relied on his own resources but was now exclusively reliant upon the Holy Spirit. Stanley's testimony was that the Spirit of Truth within makes us alive to everything and everybody. God educates us in the School of Spirit where we never graduate. Again, Stanley was aware—deeply conscious—that he would be forever a Christian in the making.

Illustration of Keith's Power Washer

1. Being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD is the only way that we'll be able to live a vital Christian life.
2. Being FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT is as important to us as having air to breathe & water to drink.
3. Being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT ENABLES US, EMPOWERS US, ELEVATES US TO BE & DO ALL THAT GOD INTENDS.