

Remnant Life Church

May 28, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Pt 1

Acts 2:1-12

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost did not find its origin in the 2nd chapter of Acts

- Many believe it was the name of that time when the Holy Spirit was given to believers following the ascension of Jesus
- Pentecost, however, is the third of the six great feasts of Israel given in **Lev 23**
 1. Passover
 2. First fruits
 3. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)
 4. Trumpets
 5. Atonement
 6. Tabernacles
- The feast at Pentecost was an Old Testament yearly event known as the Feast of Weeks
 - It was also known as the Feast of Ingathering (**Ex 34:22**) - celebrates the culmination or the fulfillment of Israel's exodus out of Egypt at Mount Sinai.
 - The Feast of Weeks occurs seven weeks and one day following Passover
 - It is from the Greek term for "the 50th day" that we get the word Pentecost
- Following the historical event of their arrival at Mt. Sinai found in **Ex 19:1-3**, the people were called to a time of holiness and presenting thanksgiving offerings of grain to God (**Num 28:6**)
 - **Ex 19** also tells us that the Spirit of God descended onto Mt. Sinai offering the people the grace of forgiveness and the guidance of the Law
- In much the same way, as we read in **Acts 2**, the Holy Spirit came upon the people who were gathered together
 - It is that same grace today that allows all of us to respond to His call for us, His children, to desire to live a life of righteousness, free from the entrapment of sin

READ – Acts 2:1-12

- The day of Pentecost in the 2nd chapter of Acts is celebrated on that same day as the feast in the OT
 - The NT Pentecost occurred 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - Jesus was crucified during the time of Passover in the first week of April (**John 19:14**)
 - Following His resurrection He then spent the next 40 days appearing to His disciples and other followers (**Acts 1:3**)
 - He ascended into heaven (**Acts 1:9**) and then 10 days later, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came (**Acts 1:5, 2:1**)
- Under the old covenant, the day signified the coming of the Law; under the new covenant it signified the coming of the Holy Spirit

And look at 2 examples of how God so perfectly aligned the function and purpose of both times of Pentecost from Exodus and Acts:

- The OT Pentecost celebrated the birth of a nation, Israel (Ex 19:5)
- The NT Pentecost celebrated the birth of the church (Acts 2:41-47)
- In the OT it witnessed the death of 3000 (punishment for the golden calf – Ex 32:28)
- In the NT we witness the salvation of 3000 souls at the conclusion of Peter's sermon – the first one given under the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41)

If you were to examine how much the three parts of the Trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are taught or talked about in church you would find it very uneven

- The fact is, the Holy Spirit is not systematically described in Scripture and because of that it has been somewhat controversial down through church history
 - The Holy Spirit is vitally important to the Christian on many levels, but it is not as clearly fleshed out as many of the other doctrines of faith
 - God the Father is seen mightily throughout the OT as His words are given to His people through the prophets
 - God the Son, Jesus Christ's earthly life and ministry, are followed closely through the Gospels of the NT
 - Then Paul describes in detail for nearly half of the NT what it means to live a life that is changed because of Jesus
 - He also gives day-to-day life lessons based on the teaching and example of Jesus
 - But aside from the 2nd chapter of Acts, the Holy Spirit is not really focused on in any extended measure
- Yet the Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity becomes personal to the believer
 - We generally think of the Father as transcendent and far off in heaven – a realm completely unknown to us
 - In the same way, Jesus the Son is over 2 millennium removed from the time of our existence
 - But the Holy Spirit is alive and active right now in every believer
 - He is literally in residence within us
 - He is the part of the triad through which all three persons of the Godhead works in and through us in our daily walk with Him
- One more aspect of the importance of recognizing and knowing the Holy Spirit is that in this time and culture, there is great importance and value place on the experiential
 - It is primarily through the work of the Holy Spirit that we sense, feel, and know God's presence with us
 - It gives us a special tangibility of our relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

But there are 2 inherent problems, call them challenges, with understanding the work of the Holy Spirit

- The first, as we have already mentioned, is the lack of explicit revelation in the Bible regarding the Holy Spirit

- This is especially noted when, again, compared to the first two parts of the Trinity
- The second issue is the lack of concrete imagery
 - God the Father is understood fairly well because the figure of a father is familiar to us
 - The Son is likewise not difficult to comprehend because he appeared in human form and not only was observed but his actions recorded historically for us
 - The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, is intangible and difficult to conceptualize because there is nothing for us to grasp with our minds or cognitive senses
- Now add one more aspect and you can further see why so many Christians have a hard time understanding the nature and true work of the Holy Spirit
 - The Pentecostal movement which began around the late 18 and early 1900's was valid and powerful in the time of its birth
 - Names like Aimee Semple McPherson
 - William J. Seymour who was there at the outset of the Azusa Outpouring
 - Billy Sunday – former professional baseball player who was one of the most influential evangelists of the first 2 decades of the 20th century
 - These name, when thinking of the power of the Holy Spirit, have unfortunately become replaced with the names of those who have taught false and misleading things about the work of the Holy Spirit in order to increase their own ministries and with it their power and financial bases.

The Holy Spirit is our advocate, our helper, our guide for the will of God in our lives.