

## What Happened at Pentecost?

By Myron F. Boyd

Perhaps there is no subject that has been more fully discussed and yet more misunderstood than that of Pentecost. To get this picture before you, let me say that the day of Pentecost was the inauguration day of this present dispensation. In the Bible we see very clearly that history has been divided into three distinct periods. There was the Old Testament period under the leadership of God the Father. Then, Christ appeared on the scene in human flesh. Following His ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension, we have the coming of the Holy Spirit as the Executive of the Godhead on earth. The Day of Pentecost was that great day—the first day in the administration of the Holy Spirit. On an inauguration day there is always a great deal of show, a parade, high emotions, and a special address and ceremony. The phenomena that accompany such an event are not intended to continue day after day. They were for that time only. However, there are some lasting results from such a day that continue day after day through the administration of the one inaugurated.

When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, some things happened to them. Let me enumerate at least six of them. **First, their hearts were purified.** Peter, in talking about Pentecost, said God purified their hearts as well as the hearts of the Gentiles in the House of Cornelius. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in an impure heart. As he enters, He purifies it. He cleanses it from all sin. "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin." A young lady came to my study one day to discuss the problem of spirituality. She claimed she had been baptised with the Holy Spirit. "But," said she, "I still have my sensual desires and live an immoral life." I had to tell her that she was deceived. No one living in sin and controlled by the sensual desires of the carnal mind is baptised with the Holy Spirit. They don't go together—they are not in any way compatible.

The very least that one can say about a fully sanctified life—a life filled with the Spirit—is that that life is both pure within and without. Holiness and purity are synonymous—where you find the Spirit, you always find purity.

**Secondly**, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, **they received a new vision.** It was the greatest challenge that had ever gripped them. They now had something that demanded every ounce of energy, every moment of time, every bit of talent, and all their possessions to accomplish their purpose and attain their goals. They had a new vision of God's Word, of vital salvation, of sin and Judgment, of Heaven and Hell.

**Thirdly**, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, **they received a new spiritual discernment.** One of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit's ministry is to take the "things of Christ" and clarify them. When one is filled with the Spirit, he senses God's checks more easily. He is conscious of God's desires. He responds more quickly to the inner voice knowing more clearly that it is God speaking. He senses error more easily. There is a ring

in truly spiritual things that the Spirit-filled man can detect from the counterfeit. His ear is tuned to Spiritual things. A man with an ear for music can tell you immediately whether the violin or the piano is in tune. The more musically minded he is the more quickly can he discern harmony. So one with the ear in tune with God can distinguish heavenly music.

**Fourthly**, these disciples when they were filled with the Spirit, **received a burning passion for souls, a holy enthusiasm to go out after them.** It was only a matter of a short time—a matter of hours at the very longest—when these men had won at least three thousand souls. They became men of one passion—evangelism. The church that is overflowing with God's love is a living epistle of what God can do when He gets a consecrated personality through which He can manifest Himself to the world. You may never get all your loved ones saved, but you will get more of them saved if your life is filled to overflowing with the love, power, and glory of God because of a mighty baptism of the Spirit in your heart.

**Fifthly**, these disciples when they were filled with the Spirit, **became genuinely spiritual.** There was a naturalness about their religious devotion. There was no sham or put-on or make-believe or any such thing in them. When they testified, it came from the heart; when they prayed, it was in sincerity; when they sang, it was with praise and love to Jesus; when they talked with their fellowmen about their souls, it was that they wanted to see them saved from the awful consequences of sin. Tears came because of a burden; shouts came because of a genuine happiness born of an eternal hope; holiness came because of a likeness to God.

**In the sixth place**, when the disciples were filled with the Spirit, **they lived in the Spirit daily by the control of a sanctified will.** Their body and mind were both brought into subjection to the will of God. The reasoning power, the imagination, the emotions, the body with its various senses and organs were all placed under the direction of a will fully yielded to the desires of God. Such a man would rather do all the will of God than anything else in the world. He strives to the limit of his capacity to do that will.

Now, let me tell you something about how Spirit-filled men and women live today. They express God's indwelling presence through their desires and motivating forces. Strong desires always necessitate discipline. If a man wants to be rich, he must be industrious and know how to economize. If a man wants to be healthy, he must know how to govern his appetite and protect his body. So it is with the man who wants to be spiritual. He gladly disciplines himself as does the athlete, in order to attain his highest ambitions.

Such a life is also expressed through the spirit one manifests. He has the Spirit of forgiveness. He is kind, gentle, patient, loving, and sympathetic. In fact, his experience is described in the 13th chapter of First Corinthians.

Such a life is also expressed through loyalty to principle and duty. It is sometimes expressed through a courage that shocks the world. It is expressed also through a poise that holds one steady in the hour of trial and misunderstanding. Such an one always senses his need

## "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

These words were not penned on the Mount of Transfiguration; neither were they written when the Gospel was sweeping across Asia and on into Europe like a mighty prairie fire. They are from the Lamentations of Jeremiah (3:21-22).

The desperate tides of the whole world's anguish were forced through the channel of a single heart. Around him was widespread desolation. The once magnificent city of Jerusalem, with its beautiful palaces, its great and significant temple, its proud citizens, was in ruin. Yet from the deep well of this giant soul Jeremiah came the words, "Great is thy faithfulness."

Jeremiah could weep his heart out and callous his knees with long vigils in prayer over Judah's calamities, but he could not doubt the faithfulness of God.

He saw his warnings twisted, misquoted and disregarded; he saw his sermon cut to ribbons with a pen knife, and the ribbons tossed on the fire by the angry king; he could endure smitings, imprisonment, and the mire of the dungeons, but he could not give up his belief in the faithfulness of God. God had spoken. That was the end of argument.

This divine truth should deter men from sin. He who follows the path of wrong-doing will inevitably be overwhelmed. He will be bound with chains which he has forged. He who refuses the reconciliation in Christ will be refused a palace in Christ's Kingdom.

The faithfulness of God is the ground of the Christian hope. Jeremiah said, "Jerusalem is destroyed, but there will be another Jerusalem. The temple is in ruins, but it will rise again. Israel is in captivity, but Israel will return."

God's faithfulness is unto all generations. Wickedness is loathsome, flagrant, idolatrous, but God has promised that "righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."

Evil men are savage, beastly, defiant, yet all shall be brought to judgment, and there every man "shall be judged for the deeds done in the body."

"Great is thy faithfulness."

Take courage, troubled heart! God's Word liveth and abideth forever!

"I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord" (Hosea 2:19-20).

—Oliver G. Wilson,

from Wesleyan Methodist

of depending upon God. Last, but not least, such a life is expressed through a generosity that astonishes the world. People in general can't understand one's love for and devotion to Christ, the church, and spiritual things.

The Spirit-filled life is the normal life planned by God; is the life of the greatest manifestation of the spirit of Jesus; is the life of the richest fruit-bearing; is the life of the greatest usefulness and influence; is the life of the most rapid growth in grace; the life with the smallest number of regrets; and it is the life that shineth brighter and brighter until the perfect day. Oh, friend, why not come to God now for a mighty baptism with the Holy Spirit!—American Holiness Journal.