

Sunday Celebration (May 23, 2010)

Pentecost 2010

"Pentecost... Redefining Power for God's People"

Acts 2:1-4, 14-21, 33, 38-39

INTRO ... Pentecost—The Redefining of POWER (Acts 1:8)

... "Power" has Not Always Meant the Same Thing

What Do You Know & What Do You Expect of Pentecost and the Era of the Spirit?

Deut 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law"

1 Cor 12:1 "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed."

Acts 19:1-2

"This cannot mean that they had never heard of the Spirit at all, for he is referred to many times in the Old Testament, and John the Baptist spoke of the Messiah as baptizing people with the Spirit. It must rather mean that, although they had heard John's prophecy, they had not heard whether it had been fulfilled. They were ignorant of Pentecost." John Stott, "The Message of Acts", p. 304

- This is Not an ANCILARRY ISSUE for Paul—It's the 1st QUESTION he asks them!! It was Not ANCILARRY to CHRIST—It's marked by ANTICIPATION

John 7:37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who

believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

We're not merely told of the Trinity—we are VASTLY INFORMED of the Ministry of the Spirit. Why Does This Matter and How Important Should It Be to Us?

"Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from his fruit, and no effective witness without his power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead. ...Pentecost was the inauguration of the new era of the Spirit." John Stott, "The Message of Acts", p. 60, 61

"no life without the life-giver"

The "BORN-AGAIN" Theology of John – Jn 1:12-13; Jn 3:3-6; 1Jn 3:9-10; 1Jn 5:1

"no understanding without the Spirit of truth"

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,
1 Cor 2:10-12 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

"no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit"

"no Christlikeness of character apart from his fruit"

"We also emphasize the Holy Spirit's role because we believe it's often misunderstood and undervalued in Christian circles today. In many instances when the work of the Spirit is recognized, the focus is limited to his gifts for ministry rather than his role in transforming our lives. But the truth is, the Spirit's role is essential in our day-to-day sanctification" **Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington**, *"The Bookends of the Christian Life"*, p. 84

- Pentecost is the key to our transformation!

2 Cor 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

1 Thess 1:4-7 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

"no effective witness without his power"

Rom 15:18-19 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience — by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God — so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

1 Cor 2:2-5 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The "Witness of the Church" Through its Life & Message is strengthened by the Holy Spirit's Ministry of Gifts

Rom 12:4-8; 1Cor 12; Eph 4:11; 1Pet 4:10-11

"the new era of the Spirit"

- *What does it mean to live in the new era of the Spirit?*

...The Era of the Spirit is an Era of POWER

"We must realize that the day of Pentecost is much more than an individual event in the lives of Jesus' disciples. The day of Pentecost was the point of transition between the old covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit and the new covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Of course the Holy Spirit was at work throughout the Old Testament... But during that time the work of the Holy Spirit in individual lives was, in general, a work of lesser power.... The day of Pentecost... was a remarkable day in the history of the world, because on that day the Holy Spirit began to function among God's people with new covenant power. " Wayne Grudem, "Systematic Theology", p. 770

"The ability of the gospel to motivate us as believers increases as our reliance on the first bookend [the righteousness of Christ] grows. But motivation by itself is insufficient; we also need the strength to carry out our motivation. An athletic team playing a clearly superior opponent needs more than a desire to win. It also needs ability and power. The same is true in the Christian life. We're up against a triumvirate of powerful opponents: the world, the devil, and our own flesh. We don't have the strength within ourselves to engage these powerful foes. That's why God provided the second bookend, the power of the Holy Spirit, to enable us." Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington, "The Bookends of the Christian Life", p. 81

Eph 3:16-21 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

... I am Forgiven, Justified, and ENABLED!

"We must be enabled, not merely helped. What's the difference? The word help implies we have some ability but not enough; we need someone else to supplement our partially adequate ability. By contrast, enablement implies that we have no ability whatsoever. We're entirely powerless. We can do nothing. But when by faith we renounce self-sufficiency and embrace reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive divine empowerment, enablement, and strength for personal transformation and ministry." Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington, "The Bookends of the Christian Life", p. 85