

Pentecost: A New Day of Different Power ...and... Something More to Be Experienced

Pentecost 2019

June 9, 2019

INTRO ...Explaining the “Experience of Pentecost”

“...I happen to be one of those people who is not content merely with experience. I want to know something about that experience; I want to know what I am experiencing, and I want to know why I am experiencing it and how it has come about. ...If we are to grow in grace and to go forward and exercise our senses, as the author of the epistle to the Hebrews puts it (Heb 5:14), then we must of necessity ask certain questions and be anxious to know how the things that have happened to us really have come to take place.” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (from “Lloyd-Jones on the Christian Life, Doctrine and Life as Fuel and Fire”, p. 79)

“A New Day of Different Power”

“A NEW DAY” – The Opening of the N.T. Chapter of God’s Redemptive Story

- **John the Baptist**—the Forerunner of the New Day

Lk 3:15-16 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptized you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’”

...For John—***THIS was the clarifying work he chose to highlight!***—
“He’s the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit” ...He Inaugurates the “New Day of Different Power”

Jn 1:33 “I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

"When John the Baptist announced that the One coming after him would baptize in the Holy Spirit, he probably understood that the One whose way he was preparing was God Himself. No one but God could pour out God's Spirit on His people!

John was not thinking in terms of only this or that aspect of the Spirit's ministry, of one experience or another, he was thinking of God's promise to fully empower His people with His own presence at the time of the end, the time when He would restore His people. This is why different New Testament passages may employ the language of 'baptized in the Spirit,' 'receiving the Spirit,' and so forth, in somewhat different ways. All of these ways are encompassed in the original promise. Our various traditions may draw on the language or emphasis of one passage or another, right in what we see but neglecting what others rightly see in different passages.

When we get past the nomenclature, though, most Christians agree: we receive the Spirit in some way at conversion, and we can also have subsequent experiences with the Spirit. We all desperately need God's power to fulfill God's work." Dr. Craig Keener (from the Foreword of "Baptized in the Spirit: God's Presence Resting Upon You with Power")

- **Other O.T. Prophets who Anticipated This New Day**

Is 44:3 “[I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring...” [Isaiah saw a day characterized by “an outpouring of the Spirit”—NOT what he knew in his day or even in the history of Israel]

Joel 2:28-29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

...Joel saw a “Different Day” ...**an “outpouring”** (not so selective as in the N.T.) ...**w/ particular characteristics** (prophesy, dreams, visions)
...**more common to all** (“all flesh”, “sons & daughters, young & old, male & female servants)

- Peter Connected This Prophecy to Pentecost — **Acts 2:16**
“... **THIS** is what was uttered through the prophet Joel” — This SORT of THING!

- **Jesus Anticipation of this “New Day of Different Power”**

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.

Lk 24:40 “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4-5, 8 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ...⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

...Jesus anticipated the dawn of a New Chapter in the Activity and Ministry of the Holy Spirit—one that would be significantly different than what had been previously known. ...One that would contain the unexpected, the unfamiliar, and the unusual!

>> **Summary: We are going to experience the “nearness of God”... AND ... “the empowering of God” in Ways that are Uniquely Suited for Our Times!**

“DIFFERENT POWER”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Understanding what this power is, by understanding what it is not.

- **Not the power of the Gospel (Rom 1)** ... although they will very much need that power too!
- **Not the power of mere human effort** ... although they will need various forms of self exertion!

- **Not ingenuity or education or acquired wisdom ...although that will be helpful as well!**

...it is an "Infusion of Power"—more akin to "Plugging in an Appliance" than it is to "Enrolling in College".

Pentecost = Power Made Personal

- The OT images were much more corporate and 'over there' and rare

Exodus 31:3 and I have filled him [Bezalel] with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,

Judges 14:6 The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

Numb 11:25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do it again. (NASB)

1 Samuel 10:10 When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them. (NASB)

1 Sam 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. (NASB)

- The NT image are more individually experienced, contain greater variety, and are more common!
 - **The residing fire on INDIVIDUALS in the Upper Room**
 - **The anointing and empowering of EVERYONE in the room** (no longer a handful of priests and a couple of prophets!)
 - **Corinth ...the established "normalcy" of—"All these [spiritual gifts] are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY as he wills" (1Cor 12:11) —"When you come together, EACH ONE has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation..." (1Cor 14:26)**

“NEW DAY Expectations” ...If we just pondered These 2 Particulars in Our Midst This Pentecost—What would we consider and welcome in our lives:

- Pentecost inaugurated a ***“New Day of Different Power”***.

“The single most notable characteristic of the Spirit of God is his power. ...Thus, the Spirit of God is recognized as the invisible power creating or effecting a whole variety of realities. ...The Spirit of God, therefore, meant the effective working of the power of God. It is probably fair to say that even though the two words (spirit and power) are not coterminous, the presence of the one (spirit) always implies the presence of the other (power).” **Gordon Fee**, *“God’s Empowering Presence”*, p. 906-907

- Pentecost brings that ***“Different Power”*** to us Individually

Something More to be Experienced!

Am I a Christian who lives in an Old Day of Power? ...a N.T. Christian who lives by O.T. Power

Is there an Experiential Dimension to the Ministry of the Spirit?

- **Non-Experiential Descriptions**

1 Cor 6:11 But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Cor 6:15-19 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ...¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him ... ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Martyn Lloyd-Jones describes "regeneration is (1) a radical change in the disposition of the soul, (2) a change that impacts the whole person, (3) instantaneous, (4) unconscious, and (5) done by God." (from "Lloyd-Jones on the Christian Life, Doctrine and Life as Fuel and Fire", p. 82)

1 Cor 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

"Paul is not saying all Christians receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit (as described by Luke in the Book of Acts) at conversion. Certainly not. First Corinthians 12:13 is not describing an experience; it refers to an objective, unconscious event. It is therefore not a reference to the baptism with the Holy Spirit as described in the Book of Acts. Neither is it a verse that says you get it all at conversion. And to those who would say that 1 Corinthians 12:13 shows you get it all at conversion and is supported by 1 Corinthians 1:7 ('You do not lack any spiritual gift'), I ask: Why does Paul urge the Corinthians in the same letter to covet the best spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:31)?"
R.T. Kendall, "Holy Fire", p. 133

- **Experiential Descriptions**NOTE: There is a VAST presentation of a certain aspect of the ministry of the Spirit that is related to a particular set of words: "baptized in the Spirit" ... "filled with the Spirit" ... "received the Spirit" ... "the Spirit came upon/fell upon"

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." **Acts 2:4**

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." **Acts 4:31**

"...they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that

the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, 'Give me this power...' **Acts 8:14-19**

"While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word... ⁴⁵ the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God." **Acts 10:44-46**

"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' **Acts 11:15-16**

"And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying." **Acts 19:6**

So... What Do We Do with this Pentecost Experience—This "New Day of Different Power"

"If the preceding pages of exegesis and theology are even moderately accurate, then it must be candidly acknowledged not only that the experience and life of the Spirit were for the most part more radically in the center of things for Paul and his churches than for most of us, but that the Spirit was a more genuinely experienced reality as well. It is that acknowledgment that has led to the title of this final chapter. But proper humility will also acknowledge that 'I don't know' is the most appropriate answer to the question. ...What is said here assumes the essential validity of the Reformation principle that the church must always and simultaneously be 'reformed but always being reformed,' and that the essential ingredient of true 'reformation' and 'renewal' is for it to become more self-consciously biblical in its life and outlook." Gordon Fee, "God's Empowering Presence", p. 896

"Any teaching which would say that any blessing in the spiritual realm can be received in a kind of mechanical automatic manner—'Do this, and there it is'—seems to me to violate a very vital principle in the whole realm of this teaching. ...Take the terms that are used—he is 'poured out', 'they were filled', or he 'fell upon them'. Here are these people, they are the recipients; but the action is outside, it is objective if you like, it is given, it is the Lord who does it. Now the very variations which you will find in the different instances described in Acts help to bring out this element very prominently. ...

*...The point I am establishing, then, is that these very variations in the way in which this happens all point to the same fact that the given element is the important one. You cannot stereotype or systematize this, or say, 'Very well then, this is what you have to do.' No, it is always this given element, the pouring out, the falling upon, the being filled. ...It is he who is the giver ...He does so in his own way and in his own time, and we must never lose sight of this all-important principle." **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, "Joy Unspeakable - Power and Renewal in the Holy Spirit", p. 50-51*