THE TWELVE AND PENTECOST

(John 16:7) Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.

(John 16:13) Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.

(John 16:14) <u>He shall glorify Me</u>: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(John 16:15) All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Lots of people deny the reality of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 2. The change in the lives of the apostles proves that something big changed them around.
- 3. Jesus' disciples, with the Holy Spirit's power, changed the world.

THE CRUCIFIXION LEFT JESUS' DISCIPLES DEVASTATED

1. They all ran away when Jesus was arrested.

Matthew 26:50-56

2. None of them were present for Jesus' burial.

Mark 15:42-47

3. Even after early reports of Jesus' resurrection, they were hiding out for fear of the Jews.

John 21:19

JESUS' APPEARANCES LEFT JESUS' DISCIPLES WITH A MISSION.

- 1. They were told to go into all the world. Mark 16:15
- 2. They were told to make disciples.

(Matthew 28:19,20) <u>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations</u>, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

3. They were convinced that Jesus truly was alive.

JESUS' APPEARANCES LEFT JESUS' DISCIPLES WITH A MISSION.

- 4. They were given specific instructions.
 - (Acts 1:3,4) To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days ... And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the Promise of the Father.
- 5. They were given a promise of divine power.
 - (Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1. PROPHESIZED:

By Prophet Joel 2:27-32 (about 800 BC) (cf. Acts 2:16- 20) – partially fulfilled.

By John the Baptist (Matt. 3:11, 12).

2. PROMISED BY JESUS:

<u>Promise of the Father</u> (John 14:16, 26; Luke 24:49) – Heaven's Throne Gift.

Promise of the Son (John 16:7) – sent by Jesus Christ.

2. PROMISED BY JESUS: (continued)

Person and Purposes:

"Another" – of the same kind, just like Jesus (John 14:16, cf. Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19).

"Comforter" – One along-side to protect, comfort and provide – with and in us.

Spirit of Truth – to teach all truths and to glorify Jesus (John 14:17; 16:13-14).

Power for witnessing (John 16:8-11; Acts 1:8).

3. PROMISE FULFILLED

<u>To the Jews</u> – at Pentecost (Acts 2) – Principle of first mention.

Sound as of <u>rushing wind</u> (cf. John 3:7, 8; 20:22) – freeness, force, elevating and inspiring influence (Hebrew – "<u>ruach</u>" breath or wind).

Tongue as of fire (Matt. 3:11) – great purging and purifying agent, to root out and destroy self and sin.

<u>All filled</u> – conscious of a new life, a mighty inward impulse, caught up with Divine energy, quickening and invigorating.

<u>To the Jews</u> – at Pentecost (Acts 2) – Principle of first mention. (*continued*)

They spoke with other tongues ... the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:4, 8, 11).

Every man heard in his own dialects (language, tongue) wherein they were born.

The Gospel message was delivered by different individuals in different languages.

This also fulfilled the promise made of power to witness.

<u>To the Jews</u> – at Pentecost (Acts 2) – Principle of first mention. (*continued*)

Extended preaching by Peter on God's counsel (Acts 2:23), crucifixion, resurrection and exaltation (:31-33) with the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit.

The gift, that is the Holy Spirit, would then be given through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38, 39) – to the Jews first (Mark 7:27).

3,000 received God's Word and were saved and added to the church (:41).

- 1. Pentecost gave Jesus' disciples new Dedication and Power.
 - A. The Holy Spirit came upon them in a powerful way.

 Acts 2:1 -11
 - B. Peter spoke about Jesus clearly and boldly. Acts 2:14, 22-24 (Acts 2:2,3) And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
 - C. Peter confronted the Jewish leaders with who Jesus really was and that He had risen from the dead. Acts 4:1-12

- Pentecost gave Jesus' disciples new Dedication and Power.
 (continued)
 - D. The apostles performed many miracles. Acts 5:12-16. The religious leaders did not believe.
 - E. Peter and John refused to obey when the Sanhedrin commanded them to stop teaching about Jesus. Acts 5:25-32

- 2. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples changed the world.
 - A. The calendar by which the whole world operates is based on the year Jesus was born.
 - B. The disciples went different directions to tell people about Jesus.
 - C. In less than 300 years, the Roman Empire went from being totally anti-Christian to having Christianity as its official religion.
 - D. Some 2,000 years later, Christianity is still the leading religion in the world.

1. THE WIND (Acts 2)

The <u>power</u>, <u>invisibleness</u>, <u>immaterial</u> nature and sovereign purpose of wind in creation have their counter-part in the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.

1. THE WIND (Acts 2) (continued)

Four examples:

Ezek. 37 – one of death and despair to one of life and hope (:9, 14).

<u>John 3</u> – wind known by its effects, so is the Spirit, sovereignly accomplishing work.

Acts 2:1-2 – mighty power and sovereignty (Acts 4:31; 7:55).

<u>2 Peter 1:21</u> – moved by the Spirit, giving motive, power and direction. His presence and power, all-pervasive, that divine life, constituting life and bearing.

1. THE WIND (Acts 2) (continued)

He <u>convicts and converts</u> non-Christians (John 16:8-11). Beware of blaspheming (Matt. 12:31, 32).

He <u>convicts and conducts</u> to conform Christians into Jesus' Image (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29). Beware of resisting the Spirit (Ps. 106:13-15)

Beware of resisting the Spirit (Ps. 106:13-15).

Ingratitude to blessings

Lusting after things of the flesh

Disobedience to His will Rebellion

2. THE SEAL (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22)

The Holy Spirit is <u>Himself the seal</u> rather than the one who does the sealing. His indwelling Presence is the sign and seal of the ultimate fulfillment of God's redemptive purpose.

2. THE SEAL (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22)

Various uses of the seal:

Stamped on a document, it signifies authenticity. Impressed with a royal signet, a mark of security. Attached to an article purchased, establishing ownership.

Subscribed to a written contract, like a notarial seal, full and <u>binding acceptance</u> of all conditions and obligations. Authority, recognition, secrecy.

The seal leaves <u>an impression upon the wax</u> which corresponds to it.

3. THE DOVE (Matt. 3:16) – the intimacy

Dove, as released by Noah (Gen. 8:6-12) is <u>typical of the Holy</u> <u>Spirit in various dispensations</u>.

Visible, bodily form of the dove at Jesus' baptism – <u>signifies His</u> <u>Presence with and delight</u> in Christ

(Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32).

3. THE DOVE (Matt. 3:16) – the intimacy (continued)

At least 4 aspects:

- A. Beauty/purity
- B. Peace
- C. Gentleness/love
- D. Guilelessness and transparency (Matt. 10:16).

Watch out:

Sin of grieving the Spirit (Eph. 4:25-32) – sin of the flesh

Sin of quenching the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19-23) – "to suppress, stifle"

3. THE DOVE (Matt. 3:16) – the intimacy (continued)

Be being filled by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-21) – to be controlled (cf. 2 Peter 1:21).

Way to Christ-consciousness and control in life. Relate rightly with God and man (Ps 66:18; 1 John 1:9; 1 Peter 3:8, 9).

Results of control (Eph. 5:19-21 – singing and submitting) Boldness in prayer (Rom. 8:15; 26) and in witnessing (Acts 1:8; 4:31).

Glorifying Jesus Christ (John 16:13, 14; Acts 4:31) with Fruit (Gal. 5:22,23).

1. How do we have the gift – the Holy Spirit?

We receive him as the gift by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

There is the inner witness in us and the privilege of calling God, our Father.

2. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit for victorious living and service for him and others.

We need to die daily, to yield every member of our body and our soul and spirit to him and by faith, to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

He is with us, in us and for us.

- 1. <u>Security</u>. Seek to know and understand how the Spirit provides security.
 - A. The Holy Spirit gives us the new birth and indwells in us (John 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:19).
 - B. We receive the Holy Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:2; Rom. 10:17; John 20:31).
 - (Galatians 3:2) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

- 1. <u>Security</u>. Seek to know and understand how the Spirit provides security. (*continued*)
 - C. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).
 - D. He is our witness and our Spirit of Adoption.

 (Romans 8:15,16) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
 - E. He glorifies Christ and enables us to grow to be like Christ (John 16:13,14; Eph. 3:16).
 - (John 16:14) He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- 2. Partnership. Learn what He promises and how He works.
- A. He will always be with us (Psa. 139:7). Live in His Presence, moment by moment.
- B. He searches our hearts (Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:10). Change my heart, O Lord.
- (Psalms 139:7) Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy Presence?
- C. He leads and guides (John 16:13; Acts 13:4; 16:6). Lead me and I will follow.

- 2. Partnership. Learn what He promises and how He works. (continued)
 - D. He will teach us (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:13). Teach me, O Lord.
 - (Acts 16:6) Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia,
 - E. He will counsel and help us (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). Give me your wisdom.
 - F. He will fill us and control us (Rom. 8:6; Eph. 5:18). Control my will.
 - (Ephesians 5:18) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

- 2. Partnership. Learn what He promises and how He works. (continued)
 - G. He will convict and correct us (John 16:8; Rom. 9:1; 1 Cor. 4:4). Convict me.

(John 16:8-11) And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Of sin, because they believe not on Me;

Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see me no more;

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

- 2. Partnership. Learn what He promises and how He works. (continued)
 - H. He will change us (2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 3:3). Make me like Jesus.
 - I. He helps us live His life (Rom. 8:2; 4-6; 9,11,13,26). Live in and through me.
 - (2 Cor. 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the Glory of the Lord, are changed into the same Image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- 2. Partnership. Learn what He promises and how He works. (continued)
 - J. He gives us gifts for ministry (1 Cor. 12:2-12). Enable me to be faithful.
 - **S** SPIRITUAL GIFTS
 - **H** HEART
 - A ABILITY
 - **P** PERSONALITY
 - **E** EXPERIENCE

3. Prayer for His promise of His presence and provision.

(Luke 11:9-13) And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

(Acts 2:41) Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 2:43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

(Acts 2:44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

(Acts 2:45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

- 1. The reality on the ground work in progress. Work In Progress
 - A. Counterfeits (Acts 5:1-11). God took care.

(Acts 5:4) Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

(Acts 5:5) And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

- 1. The reality on the ground work in progress. Work In Progress. (continued)
 - B. Fears and Persecution (Acts 5, 8).

Prayed and counted it joy to suffer.

(Acts 5:41) And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

(Acts 5:42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

- 1. The reality on the ground work in progress. Work In Progress. (continued)
 - C. Widows not taken care of (Acts 6)

Leaders elected ... judgment calls made.

(Acts 6:1,2) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there <u>arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews</u>, because <u>their widows were neglected in the daily ministration</u>.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, <u>It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables</u>.

- 1. The reality on the ground work in progress. Work In Progress. (continued)
 - D. New believers from Gentiles (Acts 10)

Gospel for all. God decided.

(Acts 15:13,14) And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His Name.

- 1. The reality on the ground work in progress. Work In Progress. (continued)
 - E. New leaders added (Acts 13, Paul and Barnabas)
 Leadership took time... Paul two years in desert.
 Leadership problems Paul and Barnabas
 (Acts 15:39) And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

2. Four elements of steadfastness

(Acts 2:42) And they continued steadfastly in

the Apostles' doctrine

and fellowship,

and in breaking of bread,

and in prayers.

- 2. Four elements of steadfastness (continued)
 - A. Apostles' Doctrines
 - 1). Main source of nurture and strength
 - 2). Faith and lives developed
 - 3). Serving from overflow.

- 2. Four elements of steadfastness (continued)
 - B. Fellowship
 - 1). Unity with the Lord and one another
 - 2). Open hearts, giving freedom to grow
 - Commitment, Accountability and transparency.

CARE needed -

C – Connect;

A - Accept;

R – Respond;

E - Endure

one another

- B. Fellowship (continued)
 - 3). Open hands, giving to needs
 - Physical needs and comfort (e.g. Dorcas, Acts 9:36;Jesus, Acts 10:38)
 - 4). Building relationships
 - a. Listen attentively with third ear.
 - b. Self-give with understanding and patience.
 - c. Serve in practical ways.
 - d. Forgive as we have been forgiven.

- C. Breaking of Bread
 - 1). Love meal, communal feast.
 - 2). Time for fellowship, at temple and from house to house.
 - 3). Caring, sharing and working through problems. (Acts 6, murmurings; 15, Gentiles' problem)

D. Prayer

- 1). Relationship with God nurtures worship, love and service.
- 2). Calling and waiting upon His resources
- 3). Changes us, people and circumstances.
- 4). Nurturing involvement in things prayed for.

3. Pattern of Spirit's visitation

A. Great Grace

(Acts 4:33) And with great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

(2 Cor. 9:8) And <u>God is able to make all grace</u> abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may <u>abound to every good work</u>:

- A. Great Grace (continued)
 - 1). In Perfect Concord

(Acts 4:32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

2). In Perfect Charity

(Acts 2:44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

(Acts 2:45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

- A. Great Grace (continued)
 - 3). In Prevailing Calm

(Acts 5:41) And they departed from the presence of the council, <u>rejoicing that they were counted worthy</u> to suffer shame for his name.

(Acts 5:42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

B. Great Power

(Acts 4:33) And with great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

1). In Wrestling

(Acts 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.

B. Great Power

2). In Witnessing

(Acts 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.

3). In Wonders

(Acts 2:44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

(Acts 2:45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

C. Great Fear

1. Inside the Assembly

(Acts 5:11) And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

2. Outside the Assembly

(Acts 5:13) And <u>of the rest dared no man join himself to</u> them: but the people magnified them.

C. Great Fear

3. Among the demons

(Acts 5:16) There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

(Act 19:15) And the evil spirit answered and said, <u>Jesus I</u> <u>know, and Paul I know</u>; but who are ye?

D. Great Increase

(Acts 5:14) And <u>believers were the more added to the Lord,</u> multitudes both of men and women.

1). Addition

(Acts 2:41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

2). More Addition

(Acts 5:14) And <u>believers were the more added to the Lord</u>, multitudes both of men and women.

D. Great Increase (continued)

3. Multiplication

(Acts 6:7) And the <u>Word of God increased</u>; and the <u>number of the disciples multiplied</u> in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

4. Thousands

(Act 21:20) And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

- 1. Which of the elements are you and the church doing well and why?
 - A. Apostles' Teaching; B. Fellowship; C. Breaking of Bread;
 - C. Prayer; D. Witnessing
- 2. How desperate are you for the Holy Spirit to visit you in which area/s and why?
 - A. Great Grace B. Great Power C. Great Fear D. Great Increase
- 3. Please assess your reasons why and how you desire to be being filled with the Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what a wonder You are!

Thank You for making me with such high potential – to think and to act like Jesus and to be One with You.

When I mess up, You do not give up. Thank You for taking my broken life and transforming me to be like Jesus.

Thank You for revealing to me what You want me to be and how I can become what You plan.

Thank You for growing me up into the likeness of Jesus and thank You for the growth that lies ahead.

Thank You for companioning with me daily, and for giving those wonderful weapons to win out in life: Prayer, the Word and Your people.

I desire to be a faithful reflection of You. I desire to be used of You to the maximum.

My life will honour You only by Your work in and through me, so I ask with confidence that you work powerfully Your will and promises.

I desire to walk with You all the days of my life. I do trust and love You.

Here is my life, body, soul and spirit – all of it, past, present anf future, for You to do as You please.

I am Yours, gladly and forever. To the praise of the Glory and Grace of God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.

Amen

1. Since Jesus died, rose from the dead, and offers us eternal life, we should believe in Him. John 3:16; Acts 16:31.

(Acts 16:31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

(Romans 10:13) For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

Will you call upon Jesus to save you right now?

2. Are you secure in your relationship with Jesus Christ?

(John 20:31) But <u>these are written</u>, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name.

(Romans 10:9) That if thou <u>shalt confess with thy mouth the</u>
<u>Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart</u> that God hath raised
Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

3. If those twelve ordinary men could change their world with God's power, we can change ours too! Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8.

(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, LORD OF YOUR LIFE?

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. WHAT THREE LESSONS HAVE I LEARNT FROM THE STUDIES? Please be specific and in detail.
- 2. WHAT WILL BE THREE BLESSINGS TO SHARE IN MY LIFE AND MY MINISTRY?

To whom and how?



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