

## PENTECOST - A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

**Text: Luke 24:49**

**Key Words:** Command, Coming, Celebration

**Key Thought:** Have You Had a True Holy Spirit Encounter?

The early church on the Day of Pentecost went through a dramatic change because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew that His disciples were in need of a power to make them witnesses of His teaching and ministry. Peter needed a radical change to overcome the fear he experienced when being tempted to deny his Master. **Something had to take place that would last NOT just for the moment, but rather for the rest of Peter's life.** This same daily experience was needed by the rest of the apostles/disciples as well as each of us today.

This is such an important area to focus upon that there have been a multitude of false teachers and prophets who are sincerely trying to lead the church into an area that they believe is right. They are sincere - but they are sincerely wrong. Anyone who has taken the time to study Church history (especially of the Pentecostal movement) can relate to the things I am about to say. There is no doubt in my mind that there are many opportunities to get off the main road and follow "Rabbit Trails." Lets keep to the simple truths of the Bible. I have met too many spirit-filled Christians who are on a power trip. They have not yet understood the reason that God poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

**\*\*** Did you know that baseball is mentioned a great deal in the Bible? We are told in the big - inning . . . Eve stole first - Adam stole second - Gideon rattled the pitchers - Goliath was put out by David - and the Prodigal Son made a home run."

**Question:** *"Did you know the name of Isaiah's horse?"*

**Answer:** *"Is Me. Remember when he said, "Woe, is me."*

**Question:** *"Where was deviled ham first mentioned in the Bible?"*

**Answer:** *"When the evil spirits entered the herd of swine."* **\*\***

Before I Get Accused of Becoming a False Teacher We Need to Look into the Holy Scriptures to See What Men Inspired by the Holy Spirit Wrote.

**I. THE COMMAND OF GOD (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5)**

**II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13)**

**III. THE CELEBRATION OF GOD (Acts 2:11b, 42-47)**

**I. THE COMMAND OF GOD (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5)**

The Scriptures make it very clear that the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost was in response to **God's unchangeable Word not the disciple's whimsical ways**. It came about because of some of the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples before ascending into heaven.

*"I am going to send you what the Father has promised; **but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.**"*

*Luke 24:49*

*"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, **he gave them this command:** "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for **the gift my Father promised**, which you have heard me speak about. 5. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

*Acts 1:4,5*

The English word "**command**" comes from the Greek word "**παρηγγείλαμεν**" "**parēngelamen.**" It was a command that Jesus gave His disciples while He sat among them at a mealtime. According to Bauer's Greek English Lexicon the word means "**to give someone strict orders.**" There are several portions of Scripture that use this word which helps us to see that there is no doubt that Jesus expected His disciples to do what He said.

Notice that this same word is used by the high priest supported by the Sanhedrin.

*"**We gave you strict orders** not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." (Cf. Matthew 27:25)*

*Acts 5:28*

## I. THE COMMAND OF GOD (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5)(Contd.)

*“The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.*

*23. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer **was commanded** to guard them carefully.*

*24. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in stocks.”*

*Acts 16:24*

It is not easy to accept a command from God that we question. God’s Word has often brought His followers into difficult situation that have tested and tried their faith.

\*\*\* “When the Wright brothers first began experiencing with flying machines, they accepted as fact the data and conclusions that were available in the theory of aviation. As they experimented, however, their own experience provided different conclusions. They began by doubting nothing, yet grew to disbelieve everything about accepted aviation theory.

Finally, disregarding everything they had learned, they relearned through personal investigation. This led them to build man-carrying gliders in which they spent hundreds of hours over Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina. In their Dayton bike shop they built a custom wind tunnel and tested more than two hundred different wing surfaces. With minor refinements, their wind tunnel became a prototype of the one used today, and the control system they devised is still used on fixed-winged aircraft.” \*\*\*

Virgil Hurley

“*Speakers Sourcebook of New Illustrations*”

p. 52,53

**When God places a period at the end of a sentence we must learn not to change it to a question mark.**

## II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13)

The main reason why Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem was because after He ascended into heaven, they would need another One who would guide and teach them. The Day of Pentecost became the time when God choose to dwell IN His people in a very intimate manner. He would now live within them every moment of every day in every situation.

## II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13) (Contd.)

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever . . .  
26. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

*John 14:16,26*

*“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”*

*John 15:26*

God the Son foretold His disciples that He was going to return to heaven. This did **NOT** mean that God was about to leave His disciples as orphans. Instead, God the Holy Spirit was about to come in Jesus’ name and dwell within every spirit-filled believer to guide, teach and strengthen them in their walk. The Day of Pentecost ushered in a new relationship between God and His Church.

*“But I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”*

*John 16:7*

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

*John 16:13*

What a wonderful design of close fellowship that God planned for His people. This was definitely an encounter with God. We live in world full of people who are searching for this kind of encounter. It is an encounter of the third kind - Father, Son and Holy Spirit!!!

Many within the Church are waiting for the return of Jesus Christ. There is no doubt that we need to be ready for that moment that will change history. But we must also be open to the fact that the Holy Spirit HAS come and wishes to fill us with Himself on a moment by moment basis. He has many wonderful gifts to offer those who desire to enter into this personal relationship with Him. The return of Jesus Christ to heaven was the beginning of THAT promise.

## II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13) (Contd.)

The Church TODAY really needs to understand what the Scriptures teach about the Holy Spirit. We may very well fall into the same mistakes as our forefathers did if we are not careful. There is a strange spirit that is trying to find its way into many modern Pentecostal Churches. A short history lesson could prove to be very helpful at this time.

The modern Pentecostal movement finds its roots in the late 1800's (i.e. 1896 with William F. Bryant in Cherokee County, North Carolina) and the early 1900's. Quite often we are reminded of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on January 1, 1901 with the director of the Bethel Bible College (Charles Fox Parham) in Topeka, Kansas. Others point to the Azusa Street Mission in California under the leadership of Pastor William Seymour.

A very important meeting took place in October 1906 between Parham and Seymour. In writings of Parham's life we find,

“When we approached the Azusa mission we heard chatterings, jabberings, and screams. When we entered, we saw shakings and falling under the power . . . Working his way to the front, he greeted Seymour, who was in charge, stepped upon the platform and declared in characteristic fashion, **“God is sick in his stomach!”** He then proceeded to show how he would not be a self respecting God if he could stand for any such animalism as was in progress there.”

C. W. Shumway  
“A Study of the ‘Gift of Tongues’”  
(Unpublished BA Thesis)  
University of California, 1914, p. 178

There is no doubt that Charles Parham was greatly concerned with what was happening within the church in his day and age. He did not agree with what William Seymour was allowing in the church under the disguise of the Holy Spirit.

“Great numbers were saved, marvelous healings took place and **between two to three hundred who had been possessed of awful fits and spasms and controls in the Azusa Street work were delivered,** and received the real Pentecost teachings and many spoke in other tongues.”

Sarah Parham  
“The Life of Charles Parham”  
Garland Publishing  
1985, p. 163-64

## II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13) (Contd.)

“Let me speak plainly to the work as I have found it here. I found hypnotic influence, familiar-spirit influences, spiritualistic influences, mesmeric influences, and all kinds of spells, spasms, falling in trances, etc. All of these things are foreign to and unknown in this movement outside of Los Angeles, except in places visited by the workers sent out from this city.

A word about the baptism in the Holy Ghost. The speaking in tongues is never brought about by any of the above influences. In all our work, the laying on of hands is practiced only occasionally, and then for the space of only a minute or two. No such thing is known among our workers as the suggestion of certain words or sounds, the working of the chin, or the message of the throat. Nonsense! The Holy Spirit doesn't need any help! **When the recipient of the Holy Ghost comes into proper relations with God, the speaking in tongues comes as naturally as any other gift from Him . . .**

The Holy Ghost does nothing that is unnatural or unseemingly, and any restrained exertion of the body, mind, or voice is not the work of the Holy Spirit, but of some familiar spirit, or other influence brought to bear upon the subject. The Holy Spirit is always strengthening, uplifting, vitalizing and invigorating.”

Ibid  
p. 168-170

## III. THE CELEBRATION OF GOD (Acts 2:11b, 42-47; 4:24,31)

Any encounter with God should quickly lead to a time of celebration. The very first outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the 120 disciples who had been together in the Upper room for 10 days brought about a time of celebration.

*“we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own language.”*

Acts 2:11b

As the Day of Pentecost came to a close, the time of celebrating God began with a new fervency. Three thousand souls were added to the church. They gathered for a feast upon the Word of God. They ate and prayed together. Many signs and wonders were performed in the name of Jesus. All the needs of the people were met. The church continued to meet and were . . .

*“praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”*

Acts 2:47

### III. THE CELEBRATION OF GOD (Acts 2:11b, 42-47; 4:24,31) (Contd.)

A Spirit-filled Church is a Church that knows how and when to celebrate with the presence of God. We do not gather to sing - we gather to worship the King of kings. We don't just come to hear a preacher speak. We come to hear the Holy Spirit speaking into the inner recesses of our hearts.

The early Church celebrated as they raised their voices in worshipful prayer (Acts 4:24) as God brought the release of their apostles from the hands of the Sanhedrin. The place literally shook under the power of God's presence as they ended their prayer (Acts 4:31).

\*\*\* A number of years ago the Pepsi-Cola Company used a slogan that read, "**REFRESHING BUT NOT FILLING.**" We need to ask ourselves whether this is all we want from God. Many crave the blessing but will not bear the yoke.

A young man sought counsel from his pastor asking, "*What is the use of telling me to be filled with the Spirit? It would be futile, for I am full of cracks as that old waste basket in the corner!*"

Silently praying to God for the right words the minister replied,

*"You say you are spiritually full of cracks. Well, brother, what if you are? If that basket were to be lowered into the sea, it would be filled and remain so! It would only lose its contents when it was lifted from the water. Young man, cracks or no cracks, if you were to abide in Christ, you will always be filled with His Spirit."*

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Our Daily Bread  
July 20, 1982

Are you searching for a greater encounter with God today? If so, consider these three very important truths that you can apply to your life.

**I. THE COMMAND OF GOD (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4)**

**II. THE COMING OF GOD (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13; Acts 2:32-33)**

**III. THE CELEBRATION OF GOD (Acts 2:11b, 42-47; 4:24,31)**

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Date: May 31/20 (Pentecost Sunday)

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: Come Oh Come (And Fill this Temple) - E

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**When God places a period at the end of a sentence we must learn not to change it to a question mark.**

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*Acts 2:11b; Acts 2:47; Acts 4:24; Acts 4:31*