

A lit matchstick is positioned vertically in the lower center of the frame. From the tip of the match, a large, billowing cloud of white smoke rises, filling the right side and top of the image. The background is a solid black, which makes the white smoke and the yellow-orange text stand out. The matchstick itself is a light tan color, and the tip is dark and charred.

PENTECOST LOST

Don't Believe It!

PATRICIA HOLLAND

Pentecost Lost

---Don't Believe it!
A Call to Know Holy Spirit

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Please note that all nouns and pronouns used to reference God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit have been capitalized.

Also, please note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized in this book. We chose to violate grammatical rules by choosing not to acknowledge him.

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Preface

I wish I could have this conversation with you - over a cup of really good coffee and one of my fresh-from-the-oven, cinnamon rolls - on the back porch overlooking the mountains. Maybe one day we will, but today, for the sake of convenience, we're meeting through the pages of this book. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you about my dear friend, Holy Spirit.

You probably noticed I left off the article "the" when I mentioned His name. I'll do that throughout the book, not out of irreverence, but as a reminder that He is not a thing or an "it" but God, the third person of the Trinity. He is so special to me that often I call Him precious Holy Spirit.

In this book, I want to share my lifelong pursuit to know Him. I want to help you know Him better, love Him more, and experience Him more deeply. I want to talk with you. So, get comfortable, and by all means, grab yourself a cup of coffee, and let's talk.

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I have been extremely blessed to have people in my life that have believed in me and have motivated and encouraged me to follow the leading of precious Holy Spirit during the writing of this book. I wish to provide special recognition to each of them:

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my precious grandchildren, Ashlyn, Brayden, Karyn and Keira. You bring so much joy to my life. I pray that you will walk in the fullness of God's plan for your life; a fullness available through the knowledge and power of Holy Spirit.

Introduction

What is the significance of Pentecost? Is it merely a historical event in the Jewish culture? What does Holy Spirit have to do with Pentecost? Are tongues of the devil? Was speaking in unknown tongues just for the disciples? Is Pentecost just too much trouble for us to understand?

There seems to be a menacing fence - complete with a huge “Keep Out” sign - surrounding Pentecost and its accompanying infilling of Holy Spirit. Religion says, “You receive all you need when you get saved.” But Jesus told His disciples after His resurrection to “receive the Holy Spirit¹.” Instead of searching, discovering, and receiving Holy Spirit, we are content to leave that portion of the Bible boarded up and as far removed from our lives as possible. That choice robs believers of enjoying an incomparable relationship with Holy Spirit. Confused and frightened by the hounds of tradition and ignorance, far too many believers remain silent and powerless. Could the Person of Pentecost be the missing dynamo in the modern, anemic church?

Pentecost ignored is Pentecost lost. When we fail to embrace Pentecost, we forfeit its benefits. This decision robs believers of a vast gold mine of spiritual gifts that are available. Pentecost must be taught to be sought. Pentecost must be believed to be seized.

In this book, we will un-wrap the mystery of Pentecost using scripture, stories, and illustrations, so you can know Him well enough to understand and communicate that understanding more effectively to your family and friends. You will have word pictures and information to help you talk about Him more effectively with others.

In this book, we will look at seven biblical pictures that describe Holy Spirit. Each picture begins with the letter “P” to make them easy to remember: Pentecost-Calendar; Presence-Water; Present-Gift; Partnership-Wind; Passion-Fire; Purpose-Oil; Power-Electricity.

¹John 20:22

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Chapter One

Pentecost- Calendar

Bonsai

While I agree bonsai trees are both beautiful and treasured, still I find them to be profoundly sad. Trees are designed to be big! You climb in them, swing on their branches, or rest in the shade of their bushy canopies. The bonsai trees are too small for any of those activities. Mature trees will reach heights of 50 to 150 feet, but a mature bonsai tree will only reach 12 to 14 inches. Bonsai trees are not dwarfed by genetics; they are miniature by deliberate design. The blueprint locked inside the DNA of the young seedling promises a mighty giant, but that destiny is deliberately altered to create a bonsai. To grow a bonsai, the taproot is clipped, and the branches are pruned. Then, the developing seedling is planted in a shallow container. The bonsai reaches maturity, but it never reaches its potential. The miniature lives in a shallow dish, while its giant relative grows unconstrained outside. Locked inside every bonsai is the unfulfilled potential to kiss the sky.

The reality that there are bonsai Christians goes beyond sad to heartbreaking. A bonsai Christian is the result of unrealized and unleashed potential—God-implanted potential. God’s incorruptible seed was destined to produce believers who would be called “...trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3 KJV). You are called to be like a tall, magnificent tree, visually displaying the nature and glory of God. You are called to be like a giant sequoia, a tree of righteousness, so God can receive glory from your life. He doesn’t get glory when you live your life chained and defeated by sin or stunted with tiny faith and miniature results. Too many believers live satisfied and content as bonsai Christians instead of being the giants God intended.

The giant sequoias that grow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains are among the oldest and largest living things of the earth. The bark on these towering wonders is over 12 inches thick. A picture doesn’t capture the enormity of the sequoia. These supersized giants are spectacular, reaching heights of 250 feet. When I stood at the base of the General Sherman tree, named for its exceptional stature, I commented to my husband, “Look how small the branches are.” My husband read the sign to me: The lowest limb was so high that it appeared to be very small; yet, it was six feet, eight inches in diameter, more than the average man’s height.² I felt like a tiny bug in comparison to their towering majesty.

Although God put the seed of potential in every believer to live super-sized Christian lives, too often we live like a bonsai with bonsai results. Something is missing. That something is actually “Someone.” We are missing precious Holy Spirit.

Our unbelief has frozen Pentecost into a myth or a relic of the past, like a dinosaur. Whether by deliberate neglect, fear of the unknown, or skepticism, we have pushed Holy Spirit into a

²www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/sherman.htm/ (accessed May 27, 2011).

dark corner in the basement of our lives. Our inability to produce desired results leaves us questioning Him instead of questioning our beliefs and values. Oh yes, we have an abundance of activities, programs, and ideas - but no power. We have plenty of knowledge but little wisdom. We know how to compromise, organize, and economize, but we refuse to evangelize. Every believer has the DNA to be a spiritual king, but we have dropped the scepter and shirked away from the responsibility. We live as if Christianity was another self-help program, picking and choosing scriptures as though they were suggestions. We employ self-discipline to produce righteousness and holiness just as we would if we were trying various tips to stay on a diet. Our theology insists Holy Spirit exists, but divorced from His living presence, we live like deserted, hopeless orphans.

The early church was born in the fire and power of Holy Spirit. If the early church needed power, why don't we still need it? Did God intend for the church to be born in a dynamic fire only to fizzle out? Or, has the lid of wrong teaching kept us from expecting and experiencing the infilling of Holy Spirit? Has unbelief cut our taproot, so we fail to reach for and receive the deep things of God? William Robinson Clark said:

I believe that the cause of the general ignorance on this subject is that God will not reveal His fullness to a partially consecrated soul. Until our whole being is yielded to Him we cannot understand these things. God only reveals His fullness to those who are willing to go all lengths with Him.³

Let's dedicate our hearts to discover God's truth. What is the truth concerning Holy Spirit? We all have questions but some don't seem to have clear answers; others are simple to understand when you know where to look. Who is Holy Spirit? Do you receive Holy Spirit at the same time you receive salvation? Is there a second work of grace? Have tongues stopped? The truth is hidden in the seed of a mystery. Unlocking the mystery will enrich your life beyond your wildest dreams. In these seven lessons, I will take you on a journey through Scripture to unlock the mystery of Pentecost.

It's Like a Party

I love celebrations, even when we sing the birthday song off-key around the birthday cake. Celebrations give us a break from the drudgery of the routine and the ordinary. My favorite part of any celebration is the food. Everything tastes better when shared with friends. Some celebrations or festivals are pretty strange, like the following: The Pickle Festival in North Carolina; The Onion Festival in Georgia; or the Possum Festival in Florida. You must love onions a lot to have an Onion Festival. Groundhog Day is a very strange celebration. Who thinks a groundhog can predict the weather?

³William Robinson Clark, *The Paraclete: a series of discourses on the person and work of Holy Spirit* (Toronto, Canada, George N. Morang and Company, Limited: 1900), 33, http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA33&dq=Holy+spirit&lr=&id=Swc3AAAAMAAJ&as_brr=4#v=onepage&q=&f=false (accessed April 3, 2011).

Every culture has unique celebrations. In the Jewish culture, there is a significant celebration called Pentecost or Shavuot (weeks). Pentecost, which derives its name from “Pente” (which means 50), occurs 50 days after Passover. While some of the Jewish celebrations are optional, every Jewish male was required to attend three annual feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacle.⁴ Pentecost was during the harvest season and lasted one day. While that may sound like a long party, some of the Jewish feasts lasted seven days. Let’s look at each of these three feasts in the order of their occurrence to discover the meaning behind each celebration.

Passover Mystery

For four hundred years⁵, the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt. In the desert, they made bricks and built buildings in the glaring, hot sun. Wary of the cruel oppression and servitude, the Israelites remembered God and began to pray. God responded by sending Moses, their deliverer, who arrived in Egypt with a staff in his hand, instructions in his head, and a promise in his heart⁶. As Moses obeyed the voice of God, amazing miracles followed. Pharaoh’s hasty, harsh, hateful, and hard-hearted verdict would hatch his most horrible heartache. (Exodus 7-11) Try saying that three times really fast!

It was time for their evacuation, and God gave rigid instructions for their departure: prepare a Passover meal; kill a lamb; put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of your house; pack your belongings; put on your traveling clothes; tie on your shoes; and eat your meal in a hurry. At midnight, the death angel would kill the oldest son in every household, except the houses where there was blood on the doorposts. In those homes, the oldest son would be saved, because the death angel would see the blood of the lamb and “pass over” to the next home⁷. The Israelites carefully obeyed God’s directives, and their households were saved from bitter loss and death. At midnight, death ripped through every other home whose doorpost was without the blood, killing the oldest son. Pharaoh’s son was not exempt. Finally, Pharaoh groaned through bitter tears, “Get out!” And, they did. Passover, designed to become an annual event, commemorated the death angel passing over the blood of the lamb. (Exodus 12:6-42)

But there’s still more to the story. God tucked a more powerful mystery into the picture of Passover. That mystery was unfolded and fulfilled many years later when Jesus, the Lamb of God, gave His life to pay the penalty of sin for all of mankind. Let’s fast forward to the New Testament to see that mystery unfolded.

Jewish families celebrated Passover as outlined by Leviticus 23:15–22. They gathered in Jerusalem, remembering God’s protection over their eldest sons in Egypt, and joyously celebrated together. Sacrifices were offered; old friends were reunited. They ate together. The ritual of the Passover meal, with all its symbolism, was repeated.

Just before His death, Jesus ate His last meal with His disciples at Passover. (Luke 22:15-20) There, He unfolded the mystery of Passover and changed its focus. From that point on, the focus of Passover was to remember Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb, every time they ate Passover. He

⁴ Exodus 23:14

⁵ Exodus 12:40

⁶ Exodus 4:12

⁷ Exodus 12

compared His body to the bread that would be broken for them. He compared His blood, which would be spilled for them, to the Passover wine. Communion originates from the Passover meal, but Jesus moved the emphasis from an Old Testament memorial to a New Testament relationship.

Passover also celebrated the beginning of the barley harvest. As a reminder that God was the source of every good harvest, they were required to bring a bundle of grain to the priests. Before they brought the grain, they had to remove all the leaven or yeast from their homes. Yeast makes bread rise, and it is a symbol of sin in the Bible. This activity illustrated their need to banish sin from their hearts. The bundle of wheat was lifted and waved as a wave-offering. This grain, without any leaven, is a picture of Jesus, who came to cleanse man from all sin. I thank God for giving us a picture to help us understand, but the picture is incomplete without Pentecost.

Old Testament Pentecost

The Israelites began their trek through a hot, dry, sandy desert. Each day was the same: gather personal things and walk; watch the children and walk; round up the straying sheep and walk. After 47 days of travel, Moses was visibly excited. God promised that He would bring him back safely to this exact place, and finally they had arrived. The people watched and rested as Moses climbed a mountain alone. They didn't have a clue what was about to happen. It was unimaginable that God would actually talk to them!

Cell phones have transformed our scope of communication. Wherever you are, as long as the area has coverage, you can be reached instantly with a call or a text message. God had exciting news to share with His servant on the top of that mountain in the desert, but He didn't need a cell phone. "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6)

God revealed His love with a promise to make them His treasured possession and a kingdom of priests. Don't miss God's conditions, *"If you obey me and keep my covenant..."*

What does it mean to be a kingdom of priests? God intended that each person would serve as a priest, ministering to God and people. A priest ministers upward to God (through worship) then outward to help people know and love God. God's loving provision enabled them to possess a land with everything they needed to live fruitful, happy lives. In their role as priests, they were to become agents of change, resulting in the inhabitants of the land serving the one true God.

Their preparation was essential. Boundaries or rules to govern their actions and a structured worship that would produce holy people who loved God had to be instituted. They stood on the brink of a new era. God had a plan, and it was time to turn the page of history. God was about to reveal Himself to an entire nation.

God explained the physical and spiritual preparation that was necessary for the God Encounter, which would occur in three days. Clean clothes and a good bath are a big deal when you don't have running water or a bath tub. They obeyed and got ready. Scrubbing between their toes and pulling on clean, scratchy, sun-dried clothes was more than dressing up for a special occasion. It was an activity of consecration and obedience that honored God.

On the third day, God showed up! The ground shook. Fire kissed the mountain top with the Shekinah Glory of God. The mountain smoked. The noise grew louder and louder. The meeting with God was spectacular and terrifying. The descriptions resemble a volcano.

A voice from the fire spoke clearly and distinctly to them. Everyone heard it. It was God's voice speaking their language, aloud. "And God spoke all these words..." (Exodus 20:1 KJV)

It is important to notice their travel time was forty-seven days; after that, their preparation was three days. The total time from Passover was exactly fifty days - or Pentecost.⁸ Two revolutionary things took place at the Old Testament Pentecost: God gave them the Ten Commandments (or the Pentateuch), and they experienced His manifest presence. They heard the Word of God and experienced the presence of God. He was offering them the tools they needed to be a nation of priests.

God gave them a choice, and their response would be crucial. They could choose God's way or the way of natural reasoning. How did they respond? They were terrified by the supernatural, so they backed away. I wonder if they grabbed Moses' sleeve as a group gathered around him, muttering in short, and frantic sentences something like this: "Moses, we're scared! From now on, you tell us what God has to say. We'll listen to what you say. Just ask God not to talk to us anymore. We're afraid that we might die." The rest of the people must have nodded their heads and clamored in agreement with this group.

Their commitment was brief. While Moses was on the mountain, the people worshipped a golden calf.⁹ Now, instead of becoming priests, they needed one.

In spite of their fear and rebellion, God didn't want them to forget what they had experienced and been given. He instituted Pentecost as an annual Jewish holiday to remind them. This feast celebrated both the giving of the law and the end of the wheat harvest. In addition to the animal sacrifices, they were required to bring two loaves of bread - not raw grain, like that required at Passover - but loaves of bread, baked with leaven.

Why would God have them bring an offering containing leaven if leaven symbolized sin? Another secret is about to be unraveled. The bread they brought to God was a picture of the Church. The Church would not be perfect. It would be filled with people of varying degrees of commitment and consecration. Their imperfections could never diminish His love. His plan was to fill the church with His abiding presence and to cleanse it. Sin should not be something we try to hide or something that will hinder us from coming to God. Sin loses its hold in His presence. The Church was born at Pentecost.

Pentecost-Personalized

Although the Jewish people had celebrated Pentecost for hundreds of years, they only understood half the picture. God had more for them. It was a picture that Jesus would bring into clearer focus for both Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus explained to His disciples. "I am going away. But don't be sad." ¹⁰

⁸M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., *Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition*, (Thomas Nelson, Limited:1897)

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/eastons-bible-dictionary/pentecost.html> (accessed May 27, 2011)

⁹ Exodus 32

Did He say, “Don’t be sad”? Their minds must have bristled with alarm. It sounded ridiculous! Jesus was leaving, and He told them to not be sad!

Jesus explained and promised that He would send Holy Spirit after His ascension to Heaven. Don’t miss what Jesus was saying. Did you see two very important clues to unlock the mystery of Pentecost?

First, Jesus was limited by His physical body to occupy one place at a time. He could only teach and touch a limited number of people. Holy Spirit would not have those limitations because He was not clothed with a human body. He could be everywhere and anywhere.

Secondly, the disciples enjoyed a great friendship with Jesus. But, Holy Spirit would be more than a visitor. He would live inside them as a constant companion - teaching, guiding, talking, and loving. He could be with them anytime and anywhere. A deeper relationship would be available when Holy Spirit arrived.

New Testament Pentecost, which occurred 50 days after the crucifixion, opened the door for believers to move into a new dimension in their relationship with God. This new dimension would change the way believers live as much as telephones changed the way people communicate. Pentecost would change a believer’s attitude and actions. Receiving the Person of Pentecost would affect all aspects of life. Holy Spirit would take each believer’s living, being, and serving to a brand new level—a new dimension. He would enlarge a believer’s capacity to know and serve God, much like a balloon remains stretched after it has been blown up.

Let me try to explain one aspect of the new dimension Holy Spirit would open for a believer. As we have already discussed, the Old Testament Pentecost celebrated the giving of the Ten Commandments. While Moses was still on the mountain with God, the Israelites constructed and worshipped an idol, which broke one of God’s laws. Breaking God’s law is sin. Jesus came to pay the ultimate price for our sins; that is redemption. The Book of Hebrews reveals God’s ultimate plan as being both redemptive and regenerative. But, this time, God would not write His laws on tablets of stone. Holy Spirit would write them on the hearts of His people. Those laws would be remembered and obeyed out of a heart of love that is energized by The Dynamo, Holy Spirit, resident in every Spirit-filled believer. Jesus testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts so they will understand them, and I will write them on their minds so they will obey them." (Hebrews 10:16) Ezekiel prophesied this event, which would affect a change so great that, instead of obeying out of a string of stringent laws, our love for Him would energize our obedience.¹¹

Here are some clues for you to think about. At the Old Testament Pentecost, God gave the Word. The New Testament Pentecost enabled believers to understand and obey that Word. Jesus is the Word made flesh, and He is revealed to all through the infilling of Holy Spirit. One of the primary jobs Holy Spirit was sent to do is help all to know Jesus better. “All that the Father has is mine; this is what I mean when I say that the Spirit will reveal to you whatever he receives from me.” (John 16:15)

Some movies are filmed in three dimensions, which add to the viewing experience. Not only are new movies being produced with three-dimensional technology, but movie makers are

¹⁰ John 16:5-14

¹¹ Ezekiel 36:23-27

remaking old classics with this technology. The difference between two and three dimensional viewing is amazing. This is what the Person of Pentecost came to do for you. He wants to engage you in a new adventure. He wants to take the scripture, help you understand what it means, then give you the ability to live out what you see.

Pentecost Infilling

Easter baskets filled with coloring books, toys, and candy are special treats for little children. But, for me, personally, forget the extra stuff; just give me the chocolate bunny. I don't like the solid bunnies, because they are too hard. I prefer a good quality, real chocolate, hollow bunny. Yet, I have learned from experience to be very careful when I pull the bunny out of the box. The fragile, chocolate bunny collapses easily because it is hollow.

Unlike chocolate bunnies, believers should not be hollow. With the arrival of Holy Spirit at Pentecost, believers can and should be filled to overflowing. He came to fill believers. When He fills us, we don't cave in to temptation or fear. His presence gives us strength to face obstacles.

There seems to be an innate underlying awareness of hollowness that people try to fill with things: popularity, wealth, self-gratification. This is like trying to fill your chocolate bunny with toilet paper. Not too appetizing, is it? Chocolate bunnies weren't made to be stuffed with paper. Temporal feelings and possessions cannot fill the hollow place in your life. Stuff is fine. God wants you to enjoy stuff, but only to the extent that it enriches your life, not fills it.

Also, there seems to be an innate awareness in the heart of believers that God has more for us. Over the years, I have noticed some children responding repeatedly to the salvation invitation. While a child can be immature or misunderstand the invitation, I think in their hearts they knew God had more for them. I don't think this feeling is limited to children. God wants to give all of us more. We can all be filled with Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1:4 (KJV), Jesus issued a reminder and a reassurance, "Wait for the promise of the Father." After three years of intensive, hands-on mentoring, they still lacked one essential component: they needed to be filled with Holy Spirit. It wasn't enough for them to see the miracles or know the teachings of Christ. They needed more. To do the works of Christ required that Holy Spirit indwell and empower them. If the disciples needed Holy Spirit, then this generation needs Him, too! We need His sustaining presence today! Samuel Chadwick says:

The Christian religion begins in a New Birth in the power of the Spirit. It is developed under His guidance, and sustained by His presence; the power to attract is in attractiveness, and it is useless to advertise the banquet if there is nothing to eat.¹²

Pentecost Energized

Strategically, on the day of Pentecost, as promised, Holy Spirit arrived. His glorious and powerful introduction was supernatural. Tongues of fire, sounds of a mighty wind, ordinary people energized and equipped for extra-ordinary acts, and speaking in unknown languages;

¹² Samuel Chadwick, *The Way to Pentecost*, (Light and Hope Publications, Berne, Indiana, Limited:1937), 5, <http://wesley.nnu.edu/wesleyctr/books/0401-0500/HDM0496.pdf> (accessed June1, 2011)

hardly begins to describe this event. The amazed crowds stopped when they heard Galileans praising God in their language; they realized it was a language that was unknown to these Galileans. The first church was born that day. It was born in the fire of Holy Spirit. They would become "God's Power and Light Company" on the earth because they tapped into the energy of heaven.

Look at the events of Exodus 19 and Acts 2.

Look at the similarities between the two accounts. The New Testament Pentecost is the Old Testament Pentecost personalized. God was launching a new entity: the church - the body of believers. They would need new power and an indwelling presence of God to accomplish their mission.

We have solar lights in our yard. There are no electrical wires running to the lights. The lights are powered by a solar panel on top of each light. It collects energy from the sun to recharge the batteries. Amazing technology! My lights come on automatically at dusk and burn all night long. Then, the batteries are recharged the next day. With sufficient sunlight to recharge the battery, I will always have light at night!

Old Testament	New Testament
<p>Exodus 19:16</p> <p>Mt Sinai</p> <p>50 days after Passover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sound of trumpet •Fire •God spoke •Received the Word 	<p>Acts 2</p> <p>Jerusalem</p> <p>50 days after Passover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sound of wind •Tongues of fire •They spoke as the Spirit gave them Words •Received Holy Spirit

The power of Pentecost is the living presence of Holy Spirit in your life. Worship and prayer provide an atmosphere for His manifest presence that energizes you to shine for Christ. Life in the Spirit enables you to overcome sin. Life in the Spirit recharges you to fulfill your God-given destiny at work and at home.

Pentecost is not a frozen glacier to visit and

observe. Pentecost is not an extinct, terrifying dinosaur to fear or ignore. Pentecost is experiencing and receiving the Person of Holy Spirit. Pentecost is designed to be a living dynamo - the power generator - inside each believer. Pentecost is the fulfillment of God's promise to send precious Holy Spirit to become a resident inside believers. He comes with the assignment to reveal Jesus and empower you with a blazing passion that radiates the love of Christ to the lost.

You face a personal choice; the same choice was faced by the Israelites at the first Pentecost and again at the New Testament Pentecost in Jerusalem. Will you receive or refuse Him? If Pentecost is not a blazing fire on the altar of your heart, it can be. Precious Holy Spirit can change a frozen, historical Pentecost to a personal, living experience when you receive His infilling personally.

Pentecost Personified

Pentecost is dramatically more than an event. It is the giving of Holy Spirit. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ into this world, although we see glimpses of His presence in the Old Testament. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." (John 1:10 KJV) We celebrate Christmas because God sent His Son into the world as a little baby, clothed in humanity, to be born in a Bethlehem stable. "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father." (John 1:14) The descent of Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a unique event in the history of the world. We see His activity and power throughout the Old Testament, beginning at Genesis, but only as a visitor and then only for specific people or situations. Although we see Him empowering individuals in the Old Testament, Pentecost was the date of His introduction to the world as "The Promise" and "The Gift" for every believer. St. Augustine clarifies it: "He was now to come no longer as a transient Visitor, but as an eternal inhabitant."

William Robinson Clark encourages us to understand:

Pentecost was as necessary to the Church and to the world as Christmas Day. If man needed to know God manifest in the flesh, the High Priest of Humanity, he no less needed the presence of Him who dwells in the body of the Church, and in the heart of the Christian, to illuminate, to purify, to enliven, to strengthen, and to comfort; to lead into all truth in thought and word and deed.¹³

If the symbol of Christmas is a tree or a star, then the symbol of Pentecost is fire. Don't miss the ramifications of that moment in Jerusalem. A fire would begin in the hearts of believers that would turn the world upside down! The prophets said it would happen. Joel prophesied that Holy Spirit would be poured out on men, women, sons, and daughters in the last days. He saw not only the initial outpouring but the flood gate of gifts that the original infilling would initiate. He saw that prophecy, visions, and dreams would come as a result of the Spirit's outpouring in a believer's life. At Pentecost, Peter affirmed that this event was exactly what Joel said would happen.¹⁴ It was a pivotal event that resulted in the conversion of three thousand believers.

Pentecost- Second Work of Grace

Being filled with Holy Spirit is a second work of grace, separate and distinct from being born again. A believer receives a measure of Holy Spirit when he receives Jesus as his Savior, but being baptized with Holy Spirit is a separate experience. We see the law given on the mountain. We see the living Word, Jesus, clothed with a body, arriving on the pages of humanity in the

¹³Clark, *The Paraclete*, 55.

¹⁴ Joel 2:28,29

New Testament. We need the living Word, Jesus, to give us the new birth, making us a child of God.

Jesus explained the change that takes place in a sinner after repentance with a metaphor in Mark 2:22: "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. The wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine needs new wineskins." I struggled over the meaning of this verse for a long time.

First, what is a wineskin? In the arid regions where the Bible was written, the nomadic people used every part of an animal, much like the Native American Indians. That included the skins of cows, sheep, and goats, which were scraped and stretched to make a variety of useful items, including bags or containers. Sometimes, the entire skin of a goat was tied off to form a bag and used like a bottle to hold the grape juice from wine making. As the wine fermented, it would puff up in the bag, like yeast bread rises in a pan. Because a new skin is soft and flexible, it can stretch as the wine creates little bubbles. An old, tough, brittle wineskin will burst and spill the wine.

As sinners without Christ, we are like old wineskins. We cannot be a container for Holy Spirit until we receive Christ as our Savior. Believing on Jesus changes us. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) We become a soft, new wineskin, but the metaphor continues. The wineskin needs to be filled with new wine.

Christ's redemptive story continues with His ascension and instructions not to leave Jerusalem until they had received Holy Spirit. Historically, the majority of churches have been satisfied to experience only the truth of Jesus, the living Word. They fail to embrace the second step, New Testament Pentecost, the infilling of Holy Spirit.

Reader Harris, from the early 1900's, said:

Be filled with the Spirit. This is a command of God, as binding as any in the Decalogue: but a command that is to-day, to a great extent, ignored. Thank God, though, for the signs of revival of the spirit of enquiry all over the world. Thank God for the question which is agitating the Church to-day: "Is there a second DISTINCT WORK OF GRACE after conversion, and if so, what is it?" This is the question of questions. Satan has cheated nine-tenths of God's people out of this great big blessing; a blessing that would not only make them happy, but also effective for God. I believe it to be the will of God that all who know and experience this mighty blessing of the filling of Holy Spirit, should not be slow to declare it!¹⁵

Samuel Chadwick gives his personal testimony of receiving God's second distinct work of grace:

I owe everything to the gift of Pentecost. It came to me when I was not seeking it. I was about my Heavenly, Father's business, seeking means whereby I could do the work to which He had called and sent me, and in my search I came across a prophet, heard a testimony, and set out to seek I knew not what. I knew that it was a bigger thing than I had ever known. It came along the line of duty, in a crisis of obedience. When it came I could not explain what had happened, but I was aware of things unspeakable and full of glory.

¹⁵Reader Harris, *When He is Come*, (Andrews Brothers, 1897) 46.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=Hf0OAAAAQAAJ&pg=PR4#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed June 1, 2011)

Some results were immediate. There came into my soul a deep peace, a thrilling joy, and a new sense of power. My mind was quickened. I felt that I had received a new faculty of understanding. Every power was vitalized. My bodily powers were quickened. There was a new sense of spring and vitality, a new power of endurance, and a strong man's exhilaration in big things. Things began to happen. What we had failed to do by strenuous endeavor came to pass without labor. It was as when the Lord Jesus stepped into the boat that with all their rowing had made no progress, "immediately the ship was at the land whither they went." It was gloriously wonderful.¹⁶

Jesus was born into this world through a supernatural activity of Holy Spirit. He did not begin His ministry until He had experienced the work of Holy Spirit at the Jordan River when Holy Spirit descended on Jesus during His baptism. Jesus was modeling more than water baptism; He was showing the importance of being filled with the Spirit. If Jesus needed Holy Spirit, then we need Him, too.

During the first revival after Pentecost, we see the new church operating under a new paradigm. Their actions revealed that there was a new emphasis on believers being filled with the Spirit, not just being born again. Phillip went to Samaria¹⁷ and preached Jesus. Many people were converted. When the amazing revival news reached the Church at Jerusalem, they sent Peter and John to the new converts at Samaria. Their job was to teach and pray with the new converts to help them receive Holy Spirit.¹⁸

DUI?

The crowd, gathering in response to the events of Acts 2, was both astonished and confused. What was happening? Why were these people acting so crazy? How was this event explained?

Like a policeman spotting an erratic driver and pulling him or her over to investigate a possible DUI, one spectator in the crowd suggested, "They're all drunk." Peter explained they were not drunk, yet he issued the first DUI. He explained that the things they saw were all Deeds Under the Influence; not under the influence of wine, but under the influence of Holy Spirit. Peter's list of DUIs began on Pentecost and continued throughout his ministry.

Let's look at some of them. At Pentecost, three thousand people were converted. Then, at the gate Beautiful, the lame man was healed. Countless miracles of all varieties were experienced. So many miracles took place that people would lay their loved ones along the street, expecting Peter's shadow to bring healing.

But, Peter wasn't the only one with DUIs. The book of Acts is called the Acts of the Apostles. Perhaps a better title would be the Acts of Holy Spirit. The believers in Acts were only conduits for precious Holy Spirit to flow through. God is using conduits in the earth today, so DUIs can be issued that bring Him glory. Every believer should demonstrate God's love and power with DUIs. I must warn you, we will not see Deeds Under the Influence unless we learn to "Dwell Under the Influence." That means that we must learn and practice spending time in God's

¹⁶ Samuel Chadwick, Way to Pentecost p.17

¹⁷ Acts 8:5

¹⁸ Acts 8:14

presence. We must allow His love to penetrate our will and emotions to the point that it influences our attitudes and actions. Our focus in this book will be to Dwell Under the Influence, so we can have Deeds Under the Influence.

Think about it:

DUI: Dwell Under the Influence

Dear God, What do you want me to take away from this chapter?

Did I receive a fresh revelation of Pentecost?

How will I allow that fresh revelation to be reflected in my life?

