

BIBLE STUDY LIVE

The Power of Pentecost Series

Lesson 1: "The Holy Ghost Our Comfort"

We Just Can't Tell It All!

We could spend years studying the ministry of the Holy Ghost and would have barely scratched the surface of all there is to know of His work. We do know that the Holy Ghost is God and being God there would be no end to what there is to know and understanding about him. However, in these short series of lessons we will attempt to etch out a very small portion of the work and purpose of the Holy Spirit as it relates to the work He does in the lives of every born again believer.

Understanding Pentecost

Acts 2:1-2

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. KJV

Acts chapter two verses one and two are a rather familiar passage of scripture. Most of us avid Sunday School attendees and perhaps even the most casual bible reader is familiar with the arrival of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. But did you know that Pentecost a day that was celebrating by the Jews long before these early disciples had ever gathered in the upper room? "Pentecost is the second of the Jewish holy festivals. Pentecost occurs seven weeks after the Passover celebration and is often referred to as the actually means "fifty" and it culminated fifty days after the Jewish celebration of Passover. Often referred to as "the feast of weeks," the word actually means "fifty." Pentecost was observed by the Jews bringing an offering to God consisting of the very first portion of the barley and wheat harvest. They offered the first of the harvest blessings to God, fully believing that God would provide even more through the harvest yet to come. **QUESTIONS:** Why would these early Jews give God the blessing they could see, all while praising and thanking God for a blessing that they could not see? What motivates you to trust God? Pentecost in the New Testament church is celebrated fifty days after Easter and commemorates the inauguration of the church by the arrival of the Holy Spirit. It marks the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ and the supernatural empowerment of its members through the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to each of us.

God Won't Let You Forget

John 14:26

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. KJV

In this modern age there is increasingly more and more things that we are required to remember. Swirling around in our heads are countless numbers, passwords, codes, phone numbers, address and directions. I am almost embarrassed to admit that I probably don't even know the phone numbers of most of my close friends and relatives because my cell phone just dials their numbers for me! I even have special services that secretly encode my various passwords so I don't even have to remember them. Then I rarely use a map; who needs to know where you're going when your GPS can simply guide you to your destination? It's probably a good thing too - chances are I wouldn't be able to recall most of these things anyway. God knows of our limited ability to remember and to recall a lifetime of events. Jesus acknowledges to his disciples that he would shortly be departing back to his Father and would no longer be on hand to lead, instruct and remind them of the words he had spoken unto them. This would

be accomplished by the work and ministry of the Holy Ghost. We all have experiences situations where we were almost provoked to respond in a less than godly manner when suddenly the Spirit reminded us of who we are in Christ; or perhaps the Spirit brought a scripture to our mind that help to redirect us towards a more Christ-like response. **QUESTION:** Why is it important that we are reminded of the power, promises and purpose of God in our lives?

The Comforter of God

The word “Comforter” or “*parakletos*” only appears in John’s gospel and is defined as an “assistant” or one that comes “along side.” The work of the Holy Spirit is most certainly a comfort to us along life’s tedious journeys. In his letter to the Romans Apostle Paul provides a wonderful illustration of the comforting work of the Holy Ghost.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth (*Meaning: to lift with us*) our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. KJV

Here in Romans, the Apostle brilliantly explains the manner in which the Holy Spirits “comforts” the believer. The Holy Spirit is said to “help” our infirmities or our weakness; meaning that the Spirit “lifts” with us. **QUESTION:** How might the Holy Spirit “lifting” with us be a great comfort? Just knowing that we are never left to our own abilities but when we have given our all the Holy Spirit then subsidizes our efforts.

God Wants To Keep You Informed

1 Cor 2:9-10

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. KJV

The Apostle explains eyes can’t see, ears can’t hear and our mind can’t conceive the things God is preparing for them that love him. This passage begins by pointing out the inability for the natural man to comprehend what God has prepared or “made-ready” for him. **QUESTION:** So, does this verse mean God is “hiding” his blessings from us? We have only to read the next verse and we will discover that while the natural man’s human faculties are unable to find out the things of God, these things are “revealed” or uncovered unto us by his Spirit. This concept is further expressed in: 1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. KJV **QUESTION:** Why doesn’t rabbit ear antennas and aluminum foil no longer work on our television sets?

If You Would Have Only Known

1 Cor 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. KJV How many sleepless nights have we endured or how many times have we experienced worry and even dread only later to discover that God had already made a way for us but we were ignorant of his work? The Holy Spirit’s presence comforts us with the knowledge of God’s never dying love for us. Paul reminds us that we “not the spirit of the world” because we have been called out of the world and no longer belong to it. One of the Holy Spirit’s purposes is to provide us with comfort by coming alongside us throughout our life journey.