

He Lives In Us & Through Us 2018-05-20

Act 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 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."

Today is Pentecost-- overlooked and misunderstood by many Christians.

- Christmas is God's Son in flesh! Easter is the risen Savior! But Pentecost?
 - Only Charismatic "holiday" celebrating speaking in tongues.
 - LEFC: ALL gifts still present and active in believers.
- Anniversary of Holy Spirit's indwelling Christians and birth of New Testament church.
 - He lives *in* us & He lives *thru* us.

"Pente" means "50"...celebrated exactly 50 days after Passover.

- Also called "Feast of Weeks"...passing of a "week" of weeks (7 weeks) 2nd of 3rd harvest festivals...Jews from all over world gather for 1 day celebrate & proclaim God fulfill His promise of provision for His people.
- 1st Pentecost after resurrection (about month after crucified), Jesus' GREAT promise to send Helper/Comforter fulfilled. Jn 14:16,17; 16:7, Acts 2:1-6

Language barriers would limit availability of gospel to all people.

- Just as God divided world with language at Babel (Gen 11) now He gathers back together using another "language" miracle.
- Babel resulted in disconnectedness and confused individualism.
 - Pentecost brought re-connectedness and unity despite diversity. Joel 2:28-29 (800 yrs before Act 2), 1 Cor 12:12-14, Act 10:43-47
 - Gentiles tongues undeniable, irrefutable evidence that same Holy Spirit is within Gentiles—without converting to Judaism.
 - New Testament church was/is multi-racial and international.
 - Gone were social, educational, age and gender barriers.

Pentecost was also the beginning of transforming work of Holy Spirit by indwelling Christians. 1 Jn 4:4, Rom 8:37 & 9b, 1 Cor 3:16, Phil 4:13, Gal 5:22-23, 2 Cor 13:5b

- Holy Spirit comfort, teach, guide, (14:16), give power for new kind of life which bears witness to Jesus' reality.
 - Power live holy lives & become like Jesus Christ = glorify/delight in Him
 - Don't have to live powerless, defeated & fearful!

Holy Spirit came not just for us to experience blessings but for gospel spreading, God glorifying, kingdom building purpose (Ryan's message) ...to empower Christians to participate in global harvest. Lk 6:45, Act 1:8, 2:1, 40-41, 4:1-4

- First-fruits celebrated beginning of harvest, (resurrection of Jesus...1st of all to follow), Pentecost mid-season...Tabernacles end of harvest.
 - 4 months between Pentecost & final harvest feast.
- On Pentecost, Holy Spirit came/filled disciples with power to proclaim Gospel.
 - LEFC desires to participate in that 'harvest' time....core value.
 - Request for your increased prayer of 10 minutes a day...specifically pray Acts 4:29-31 for LEFC, self

Pentecost ushered in church as the diverse yet united community of the Holy Spirit, was beginning of transforming indwelling work of Holy Spirit in Christians and a call to and empowering for both Christian/church to participate in the GREAT harvest.

- Jesus lives *in* us & *thru* us.....to glorify His great name & bring His kingdom to this world.