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# THE UN-SPIRIT CHRISTIAN

PENTECOST SUNDAY

## A POWERFUL DISTINCTIVE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

ACTS 1.8

- ▶ Just before his ascension to heaven, Jesus gave this promise to his disciples: a life-altering transformation from who they had been into powerful witnesses for him. When this occurred on the Day of Pentecost, the supernatural nature of the Holy's Spirit's presence and power was evident—especially to the unbelievers who heard the disciples speaking their native language as a witness to Christ.

## THE BIG DEAL ABOUT PENTECOST

- ▶ Known in the Jewish calendar as the Feast of Weeks, it occurred 50 days after the Festival of First-fruits and celebrated the beginning of the early harvest.
- ▶ After his ascension to heaven, Jesus sent the promise of his Father, the Holy Spirit, who would empower the disciples to be his witnesses:

*“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”*

- ▶ The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus is the “first-fruits” (and also in a “faith sense”, those Jews who lived in faith and expectation of God’s coming salvation, such as Simeon, Luke 2.25-32).
- ▶ The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples on Pentecost and the 3,000 people who believed that day in response to Peter’s salvation sermon, was the beginning of the spiritual harvest season.
- ▶ We are coming to the end of the harvest season as the gospel is being shared in every part of the world, including those places that have been closed for centuries to the message of Christ, and places like Tehran where the opposition is harsh and brutal but where the church is growing faster than anywhere else in the world.

## A SAD REALITY

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3.1-3a

- ▶ The sad reality is that many who claim to be followers of Christ have little evidence of the influence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- ▶ They exhibit little spiritual desire, have scant understanding about the will and purposes of God, are ignorant and undiscerning of God's prophetic timing, and are focused on human accomplishment.

## THEOLOGY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – 101

*And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*

1 JOHN 5.6b

- ▶ The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead (briefly stated, the Father determines, the Son fulfills, the Spirit enables). The Holy Spirit is not a force, but a person and personal. He leads, reveals, empowers, and gives life to true believers. He can be grieved, offended, blasphemed, and rejected. No one can know Christ or live a life worthy of Christ without the indwelling presence and influence of the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ The Holy Spirit convicts me of sin, reveals God's standard of righteousness, and convinces me of God's judgment (John 16.8-11). Without this work, I am incapable of knowing the truth or living the life that characterizes a true follower of Christ.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual life; without His influence on me, I am spiritually dead—unresponsive to God's will, ignorant of God's Word, and devoid of any true evidence of Christ's life within me. He makes me spiritually alive (John 3.5-6; Titus 3.5), He "makes sense" of God's Word and spiritual truths (1 Corinthians 2.12-13), and He produces within me an ever-increasing resemblance to Christ (2 Corinthians 3.18; Galatians 5.22-23).

- ▶ The Holy Spirit is the identifying mark that I belong to God and no longer belong to the kingdom of darkness; He is the guarantee of my future in Christ (2 Corinthians 1.22; Ephesians 1.13-14).
- ▶ The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ and make him known: to the world and through the lives of believers. When the Holy Spirit is truly present in one's life, it is apparent and identifiable –the "fruit" (Galatians 5.22-23) and evidence of His influence. There is a delight in those things that are associated with the Holy Spirit: prayer, a passion to know more about Christ, a desire to be taught God's Word, the anticipation and priority of fellowship with other believers, and a motivating concern for those who don't know Christ (Acts 2.42-44).

## THE UN-SPIRIT CHRISTIAN

*“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*

ACTS 19.2

- ▶ Strangely, it is possible to know Christ and believe in him as my Savior and Lord—which is also an exclusive work of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12.3)—and yet not live a life that is under the influence of the Holy Spirit . . . spiritually dangerous, but possible. It is possible for such a person to have a life of great success and yet have nothing to show for their lives when judged by Christ.

► In his first letter to the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul characterized them as “un-Spirit” believers—

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and then warned them of the ultimate outcome—

*. . . his work will be shown for what it is, for the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3.1-3, 13-16

- ▶ The un-Spirit Christian can be identified by certain characteristics:
  - ▶ a lack of conviction about his sinfulness and little desire for holiness;
  - ▶ a shallow attention span, little interest in or understanding of God's Word;
  - ▶ little desire for prayer, individually or with others;
  - ▶ no motivating longing for fellowship with God's people;
  - ▶ easily drawn into temptation with little ability to overcome sin;
  - ▶ the absence of the priority of knowing and fulfilling God's specific will for one's life;
  - ▶ no involvement in helping others grow in Christ-likeness;
  - ▶ no urgency or ability to tell others about their need for salvation;
  - ▶ without an eager anticipation of Christ's return.

## THE ULTIMATE PROMISE AND GIFT

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

JOHN 16.7

- ▶ The Holy Spirit, with His supernatural influence and indwelling presence, is the ultimate gift that the Father has for us and should be our highest priority. Don't neglect it in pursuit of other agendas in life!

*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

LUKE 11.13