

## **Pentecostal Life – Eph 1:13 and select passages**

***Pentecost Sunday 2009***

**Introduction** – For the last several years, we have begun to celebrate Pentecost which might be best considered as the time in which the church was “born-again” into the New Covenant. The story Luke records in Acts 2:1-13 has, in the last couple of centuries, been misunderstood by some to teach that a true, Holy Spirit filled church will experience the manifestations of the Spirit’s coming in some manner similar (although quite watered-down in actuality) to what the apostles and disciples of Jesus experienced 50 days after His resurrection. I have addressed the theological errors and dangers of modern day Pentecostalism in previous messages.

But that is not to say that we ought not be a Spirit-filled people, for we are the descendants and fellow-recipients of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church of Jesus Christ, just as He promised (John 16:5-15). The result of His coming to the apostles is held in your hands now, and the same Spirit testifies to us of His truthfulness, convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is this same Spirit, this Person of the Trinity, who testifies to our spirit that we also are children of God (Rom 8:16). And it is this same Spirit who leads and guides the church in true Pentecostal (or Spirit-filled) living. This is a life that comes from above, that transforms us from the inside out, and that is all a gracious work of God. We will explore some of what this means by looking at several passages from Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians.

**Pentecostal Sealing** (Eph 1:13-14) – This verse (and the whole of the New Testament teaching) stands in stark opposition to the idea of a second-baptism of the Spirit. The work of the Spirit opens the ears, changes the heart, and transforms the person fundamentally as a new creation by the One who creates and re-creates. Residing in the believer, He is a Personal guarantee of our inheritance – of all the promises that are ours in Christ and of all the promises that are Christ’s regarding us.

**Pentecostal Access** (Eph 2:18) – Reconciled by one Spirit of peace, Jew and Gentile both have access to the Father by this one Spirit. There was once a wall of separation, a veil between God and His people, and a priesthood necessary to be a mediator for us to God. But by the Spirit, we now have access through Jesus before the throne of the Father. The Spirit teaches us and leads us to draw near to the Father with the boldness of children in whom God delights (Heb 4:16).

**Pentecostal Building** (Eph 2:19-22) – God’s purpose in this is to build a House for His name (Leithart) and by God’s Spirit we are built together to be a temple of the Spirit. We are His building materials and He, the Master Builder, is the One doing the building. This has always been God’s plan as His Spirit has revealed (Eph 3:5).

**Pentecostal Strength** (Eph 3:16) – Of course, God’s plans will be fully and completely accomplished, both in you as an individual, as well as in His church, the dwelling place of His Spirit. But Paul offers up a prayer where He invokes God the Father to testify to us and strengthen us through His Spirit of this dwelling place which is also described as the place in which Christ dwells and the place of His love (vv14-21).

**Pentecostal Living** – The Spirit-filled life is not something the first disciples earned or even asked for. It was God’s purpose and delight and He promises that He will continue His perfect work (in you and in the church) to the end. His means of doing so includes the work of the church and so, regarding the work of the Spirit, Paul instructs us to be faithful means.

Therefore, we are commanded to –

Keep the Unity of the Spirit – (Eph 4:3-4)

Grieve Not the Spirit – (Eph 4:30)

Bear the Fruit of the Spirit – (Eph 5:8-10)

Be Controlled by the Spirit – (Eph 5:18-21)

Make War with the Sword of the Spirit – (Eph 6:17)

Persevere in Prayer in the Spirit – (Eph 6:18)

You were saved by grace through faith, and this was a work of the Holy Spirit. It was not simply a transaction that took place between you and God. It was the work of a Person sent at Pentecost to the church to accomplish the work for which Jesus died and rose again. He has built and is building a dwelling place where we dwell with Christ and Christ dwells in our hearts. And it is this Person who continues His work in and through those who have been baptized into the church, into the fellowship of the Trinity and all who dwell in His dwelling place.