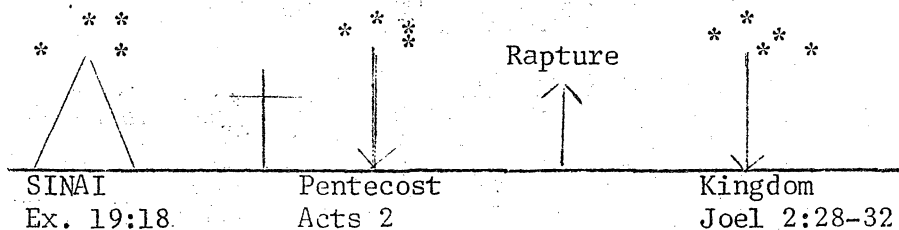


something brand new and exciting. It had to be because it had not been made known from the foundation of the world, but now it was (Rom. 16:25, 26). The whole new thing involved the bringing together into one Body both Jew and Gentile (Eph. 3:1-10). God revealed this to Paul and others (v. 5). It was an earth-shaking truth (Phil 3:1-6 cf. with Matt. 15:27). This amazing truth of the Body and the indwelling of Christ is elsewhere recorded also (Col. 1:25-27). What an unusual revelation of God!

c. Dramatically.

Modern movements just do not understand what God is doing with His pyrotechnical display of events on Pentecost. The fire, wind, tongues, and the miraculous possession of men by the Spirit is normally never associated with God's innauguration of the Holy Spirit, but that is what is going on! The same display took place when the Law Dispensation came (Ex. 19:18) and a similar display may be expected, but with greater cosmic force when the Kingdom comes (Joel 2:28:32). This is what the Day is all about.



Conclusion What happened at Pentecost has happened both historically and spiritually. It cannot happen again and never will! The new Dispensation of Grace (Age of the Holy Spirit) has come. You can't begin something of this nature twice! No more can you have a second Pentecost than you can have a second Passover or any other feast mentioned in the Old Testament (Lev. 16). They were all types of N.T. truths and each item has taken place as expected. Those which remain will happen. Friend, we cry aloud: **BACK TO YOUR BIBLE! Amen.**

THE BATTLE FOR YOUR BIBLE

"The Holy Spirit and His Gifts"

"What Pentecost Means" (1)
Acts 2

Introduction

1. True children of God should be balanced in their study of the Bible. They should consider the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Unfortunately, we live in a day of various "extremes." The arena of the Bible has not gone untouched in this particular.

2. There are "extremes" in colors, clothes, and conduct! Look on the street, the bathing beach, or the school room and you have proof of this statement. But stop and think what is happening in the theological realm. There is the age-long problem of God's sovereignty and man's free will. That is having another heyday with a revival of "extremes." Balance in the Word of God is so desperately needed.

3. Our subject of the Holy Spirit assuredly needs some balanced teaching. It is true that in many circles Who He is and what He was sent to do have been utterly abandoned. But others have given such a distorted view that it has led them into dreadful error. The meaning of the Day of Pentecost is an example in point. The Bible is clear as to what is involved on that Notable Day. Here are some Scriptural statements about the meaning of that Day:

1. IT MEANS THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

a. Promised.

Christ predicted that the Holy Spirit would be coming into the world (John 7:37-39). He laid down a specific series of chronological items:

- 1) Glorification of Christ.
- 2) Presentation of the Spirit.
- 3) Reception of the Spirit.

b. Stated.

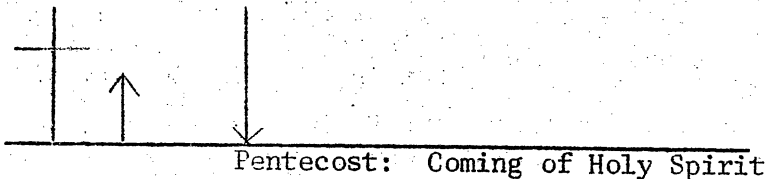
The plain testimony of the Bible is that the Spirit did come on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4; 16-21). The ensuing portions of Acts give abundant evidence to His presence following this dramatic

day of Pentecost. This is the reason our present period of time has often been referred to as the "Age of the Holy Spirit."

c. Explained.

When the Spirit came on Pentecost, He did so in a unique fashion. It became His "is" relation to the world (John 7:39). The Greek verb in that striking verse shows that until the glorification of our Lord, the Spirit "was not yet." The aorist tense of the verb "to come" in John (16:13) shows that the event did take place historically! The Spirit is the "another Comforter" Whom our Lord said would be given (John 14:16). Incidentally, the word "another" signifies "another of the same kind." What a precious truth!

ITEM: It is totally unscriptural to sing, pray or preach as if the Spirit of God has not come! Listen to your Bible. Believe it. The Spirit has come! It is time we boldly began to sing: "The Comforter has come. . . ." If Pentecost means anything, it means this blessed truth!



2. IT MEANS THE DEPOSITING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

a. Corporately.

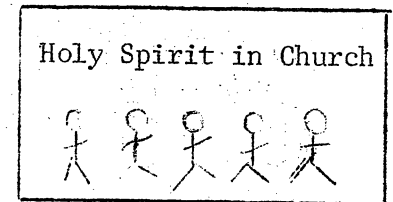
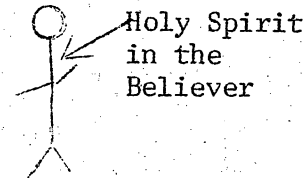
When the Holy Spirit came into the world, He came to dwell in the Church of Jesus Christ. This is His universal Church which is called "His Body" (Eph. 1:22, 23). The Body is composed of all born again believers on Christ and the Spirit dwells in this collective Body (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:20-22). Incidentally, it is also believed that the "Restrainer" (2 Thess. 2:7, 8) is the Holy Spirit. He will be taken away before the revelation of the Man of Sin during the Tribulation. This is a strong argument for the pretribulation Rapture of

the Body inasmuch as the Spirit is taken out of the way prior to the Tribulation!

b. Individually.

The indwelling of the Spirit is not restricted to a corporate level. It is affirmed that He dwells forever in the child of God individually (John 14:16, 17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 2:12, 6:19).

ITEM: It is utter nonsense and erroneous teaching of the Scriptures to say that believers do not presently possess the Holy Spirit at the very moment of their conversion to Christ. They DO and that forever! To ask for Him is to ignore this Bible truth. It is ridiculous to ask for Someone Who already has been given! Back to the Bible!



3. IT MEANS THE INNAUGURATING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

a. Dispensationally.

Simply a dispensation is the manner in which God operates His household (the world) during a variety of steps of revelation and covering a process of time. The various steps distinguish different operations of the household as God works out His eternal purpose. The different operations are called "dispensations." The understanding of these operations is absolutely essential to a proper interpretation of the Word of God. The Bible is a closed Book to those who fail to see it dispensationally! Pentecost was the beginning of the new thing which God was doing in this present Age of Grace.

b. Definitively.

That God began to do something new at Pentecost is clearly found in this Word. The introduction of the Grace Age by the coming of the Holy Spirit was