

This is Pentecost

Luke 24:44-49

Jesus
paid
it

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

i. Introduction

1. Today is the Day of Pentecost. On this date in history, somewhere around 33AD, about 1,988 years ago, the church was born in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem.
2. Since then, millions of people across the world have experienced a repetition of what occurred on this day in history.
3. Our church takes its name from that experience that occurred all those years ago. **We call ourselves Pentecostal because we want to retain the tie to the church that was born on that date by (1) preaching the same gospel of Jesus Christ they preached, by (2) experiencing the same Holy Ghost experience they did, and by (3) being baptized in water in the same way they were baptized.**
4. This is Pentecost.
5. That passage we just read was Jesus' final words getting the disciples prepared for Pentecost, to go to Jerusalem and wait for

the “promise of my Father” to be endued with power from on high.

6. So today, if anyone wants that same experience of Pentecost, it is available for you.
7. And something we find in scripture is how this Pentecostal experience is equated with entering the Kingdom of God.

II. The kingdom of God

A. The kingdom and the church

1. The kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God, is a very large idea in scripture that encompasses God’s redemptive affairs beginning with Jesus’ ministry:
Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
2. He sent His 12 apostles out preaching that same message.
3. And as Jesus began what we could call spiritual warfare, He said the Kingdom is

come:

Matt 12:28-29

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

4. The easiest way to describe the kingdom of God is to say, when the church is being the church, they are the kingdom on God.
5. To see how this works, one day, Jesus was astonished at the great faith of a Roman centurion, the likes of which He had not seen in all of Israel.
6. With that soldier's great faith in mind, Jesus added this amazing remark about who will get into the kingdom and who will not:

Matt 8:11-12

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit

down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

7. That paradise of God will be filled with many people from all over the world who have demonstrated faith in following Jesus, but some of those who should have been there yet lack faith in Jesus and obedience to the gospel, will be cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 8. **One thing that is clear very about God's kingdom, you will want to be in it.** If you don't have that want-to now, you will reach that conclusion at some point.
 9. To be excluded from that promise of the kingdom includes the greatest remorse and trauma.
- B. Entering the kingdom

1. As you see, Jesus offered the kingdom, and the promise of the Father to everyone.
2. **And receiving the promise of the Father is seeing the kingdom, it is receiving the kingdom, and it is entering into the kingdom.**
3. A man named Nicodemus brought his questions to Jesus about the kingdom, and Jesus made it clear it requires being born again in order to see or enter into the kingdom:

John 3:3-5

*3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.*

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of

*the Spirit, he cannot **enter** into the kingdom of God.*

4. What was a little fuzzy to Nicodemus at that point, all began to make more sense as the day approached that the kingdom was to be inaugurated in a visible way.
5. As we read at the beginning, in Jesus' final words to His apostles, Jesus had suffered, died, and rose again, and said, hang in there for what is coming next—for what you must do to participate in the kingdom:

Luke 24:47-49

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

6. The whole thing about the kingdom that Jesus had been preaching about, was

getting ready to happen—go to Jerusalem to receive the promise of the Father, which was power from on high!

7. Along with this heavenly power, would also come repentance and remission of sins in His name.

III. The Day of Pentecost

A. For the Jews

1. So, let's follow the disciples to Jerusalem and see how the kingdom came, and see how to be part of the kingdom.
2. We are at Jerusalem and it is the Day of Pentecost. That was one of the feasts that Jews were required to go to Jerusalem to participate in. It was the feast that commemorated the giving of the Law of God on Mount Sinai, a very important event for Israel.
3. God's law allowed them to establish and govern themselves as the kingdom of Israel.

4. It is no coincidence that God chose that feast as the day He would give the ultimate promise to His people—the gift of the Holy Ghost—that would write God’s laws in the heart to govern our hearts and the kingdom of God.

5. So how did it happen?

Acts 2:1-4

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.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

6. Jesus said the promise of the Father was awaiting them, and here it had come. The

promise of the Father was being filled with the Holy Ghost, and it happened in a dramatic way!

7. How was it known that they received the Holy Ghost? When they received the Holy Ghost, they spoke with other tongues, in other words, they spoke in a language they did not know.
 8. And many of us can testify that the promise of the Father is still being poured out and you still speak with other tongues when it happens.
- B. For the Gentiles
1. This Holy Ghost outpouring didn't happen just once, but happened again and again. And each time the Holy Ghost filled someone, there was this accompanying sign of speaking with tongues, & sometimes prophesying.
 2. I want to pick just one of those occasions to speak of that relates most to us.

3. It seemed to be a common expectation among Jews of the first century, that the kingdom of God was going to be a rebirth of the nation of Israel under their Messiah.
4. But God ultimately demonstrated it was not only a promise for Jews only, but Gentiles as well.
5. In Acts 10 we read another amazing account of the Holy Ghost being poured out, this time on a group of Gentiles.
6. After God convinced the stubborn preacher, Peter, that he needed to go to the house of a Gentile, he did and preached the message of the kingdom.
7. Let's read just the final part of his message:
Acts 10:42-46
42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.
43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in

him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

8. The Holy Ghost was poured out on all of those people that day and they spoke with tongues, just as it happened for the Jews that first time in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.
9. And another thing that had happened on the Day of Pentecost was people were baptized in then name of Jesus Christ by the thousands.
10. And here in this home of the Gentile family, everyone in the house received the Holy

Ghost and was baptized in Jesus' name.

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

11. These believers received a Pentecostal experience for themselves, the same as it had happened in the beginning.
 - c. We are Pentecostal
 1. Well, because it still happens here just as it happened in the beginning, we took the name "Pentecostal," to bridge our experience with what happened on the Day of Pentecost.
 2. We do not take lightly this inaugural event of the church when the kingdom of God began on earth.

3. It is important because if you want to enter the kingdom of heaven, you need that experience Jesus told Nicodemus about, that Pentecostal, born again experience:

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

4. Be born of water and the Spirit.

IV. Conclusion: It's for you – save yourself!

1. Not only was the Holy Ghost for those in the Bible, it is for you and for your children too:

Acts 2:38-40

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward [perverse] generation.

2. **Be saved from this perverse generation** and find repentance and remission of sins in His name.
3. And be filled with the promise of the Father, be endued with power from on high, be filled with the Holy Ghost.
4. This is Pentecost – how it happened to me.