

AFTERMATH OF PENTECOST

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The Feast of Pentecost is the birthday of the church, fifty (50) days after Easter following Jesus' resurrection. It started when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles in the form of tongues of fire. After the descent, they received the power and gifts of the Spirit to evangelize Jesus' message. This marked the beginning of the Church (Acts 2:1-11). Hence, Pentecost is the crowning of grace, a celebration of the presence of God through the Holy Spirit.

How can the Holy Spirit aid us?

1. The Holy Spirit teaches us to obedience.

In the Old Testament, we are given the Law, to obey, but we are not endowed with the strength and the power to fulfill them. However, the Holy Spirit empowers us to obey the law and truly become the children of God.

2. The Holy Spirit leads us to overcome our sinful desires.

Concupiscence is innate, a consequence of the fall of Adam and Eve. Hence, we become vulnerable to temptations and predisposed to desires. However, the Holy Spirit pleads with God on our behalf (Rom. 8:26-27). We then grow in moral virtues, putting to death the deeds of the body to overcome and resist the impulse of sin.

3. The Holy Spirit aids us in our sufferings.

If we share Christ's suffering, we will also share His glory (Rom. 8:17-18). Human nature is weakened in its power, subject to ignorance, inclination to sin/ suffering, and the domination of death. God allows suffering as our way of conforming to Christ. The Holy Spirit allows us to understand and to see God's movement in our life. In the midst of our sufferings, the Holy Spirit enlightens us in our prayer, thus, making us

closer to God.

4. The Holy Spirit fills us with boldness and courage.

The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples at Pentecost and they were inspired to preach boldly the Gospel. With dispelled fear, they were empowered to traverse every corner of the world, proclaiming God's message. Therefore, there is no need to muster courage and strength on our own, but submit to the Spirit of God within us.

5. The Holy Spirit leads us to be missionaries.

We are empowered to be witnesses to the world, in word and in deed, to make known Jesus Christ to the world and His saving power, through His death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit is the continuing presence of Christ and His agent to fulfill the task of mission. Therefore, let us put our trust and faith in Jesus by witnessing for Him.

CONCLUSION:

As Christians, we had received the Holy Spirit, and began to live an entirely new life, though it has not been perfect. The sins and weaknesses we inherited from our fallen nature **remain with us until death. God has set us free** from our sinful lifestyle since we are set apart for God's service. Therefore, we must cooperate and submit to Him, allowing Him to change our lives and become more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTON:

As member of a community, what action have you taken to change your life and become more like Christ?

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