

Living a Life Led by The Holy Spirit

If the Body of Christ, the church, will make a difference in the world must seek to live a life led by the Holy Spirit. We like the Church on the Day of Pentecost must first be of One Accord! When the day of Pentecost came the apostles were all together in one place. It was the day that Christ had promised. Beginning with Easter, the resurrected Christ had appeared at various intervals to the disciples. They knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was the eternal living, Lord. Jesus had ascended to the Father, and they waited in expectation of what they knew not. How could they possibly have known that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, was about to descend upon them? The result would be the beginning of the church. They received God's power on a day when they were in one accord. They shared all things in common; we learn later. Sadly, it would not be that way forever. But, in the early days, they were of one accord. It was to that setting that the Holy Spirit came. Unfortunately, sometimes even people in churches love their ideas, opinions and positions more than they love Jesus. Nothing takes the place of community. If we expect great things to happen, then we must be of one accord. Everyone who claims salvation in Christ Jesus are to do all within our power to strive for unity in the Body of Christ – the Church!

Secondly, we like the Church on the Day of Pentecost must be Joined Together by Constant Fervent Prayer. So many Christians have lost their desire to dedicate themselves to prayer expecting the Holy Spirit to move in their presence and change lives. We need to pray for God to order our lives. But there is another reason, and I think it is the greater reason. Abraham Lincoln said these words proclaiming a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer on April 30, 1863: "We have been the recipients of the greatest blessings of heaven. We have been preserved in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand, which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God who made us. We should be moved then to humble ourselves before God, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." Our need for prayer has not changed. Nations as well as individual people stand in need of prayer. Prayer for guidance. Prayer for deliverance. Prayer to shape us into people of integrity. Prayer to God to forgive us of our sins.

Finally, we like the Church on the Day of Pentecost Must Repent of Our Sins! Spirit-led life is possible only where sin is adequately dealt with! In Peter's very first sermon of the church, Peter reminded them of their most egregious error: God was at work through Jesus, Peter proclaimed to them, but you handed Him over, put Him to death nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to the right hand of God. He repeated the accusation one more time in verse 36: "Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When he finished giving his sermon, the people asked him: "What shall we do?" His response: REPENT. We cannot experience the blessings of God or revival if we do not first repent and turn from sin and to our savior. It is the basic requirement for entrance into Heaven. To experience the continual outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us, we must each strive for Unity in the Body of Christ, humble ourselves in prayer, surrender to the will of God and repent of our sin acknowledging our complete dependence of Jesus! It is by this act that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and can live a life led by the Holy Spirit!