

## Speaking the Voice of God

‘In the [remote] mountains of Tennessee they have a type of religion in which people get saved in the spring, grow cold in the summer, backslide in the autumn, and fall away completely in the winter; then they get saved all over in the spring revival. A story goes that the revival had gone on about ten days, and people knew it was nearing its climax. A certain man came into the meeting and sat in the back row. The next night he moved halfway toward the front. The third night he was sitting in the front row. The fourth night he broke out in prayer, “Lord, fill me!” Over to one side there was a woman who knew the man well. She cautioned the Lord, “Careful, Lord! He leaks!”’

Seems that that “type of religion” they have in them thar Tennessee mountains is some weirdo kind of religion if people need to “get saved” all over again every spring. Looks to me like they never really get saved in the first place, or every successive time. Being filled with Holy Spirit is another thing altogether. We receive Holy Spirit when we are baptized, or when we first believe. But we’re not “filled” or baptized with Holy Spirit until we ask our Father God for His good and perfect gift given through our Perfect Savior, Jesus the Christ. We need to experience our own personal Pentecost. We just need to ask. Sort of like that Ten-

nessee man, but in our case, fully intending to the best of our ability, like taking a lifelong wedding vow, to always honor and obey Holy Spirit, the very presence of God, within us once He comes into us with power and signs and wonders.

Take a look at this video rendering of the “first” Pentecost.

***[“Pentecost Sunday” video] // [“All Peoples Receiving”]***

With that review of that day’s momentous, earth-shattering, world-shaking act of God in mind, let’s put it into some context so we can grasp more of the staggering heft of that day. That first Pentecost in about the year 33, occurred 50 days after Passover, the crucifixion of Christ. That’s why it’s called “Pentecost”, which, is Greek, “pentecost” meaning 50 days. But this was definitely not the first-ever “Pentecost”, for there’d been Pentecost days for thousands of years. This second of the three high feast days to which all Jewish men were required to return to Jerusalem to worship, followed Passover, and preceded Tabernacles, which occurs in the Autumn. The three great festivals thus were Pascha/Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot, to use their original Hebrew names. Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, also known as “Booths”. We know when the first Pesach, Passover, occurred. It was in Egypt when the death angel passed over the homes of the Hebrew slaves and brought death to all other firstborn of both the Egyptians and their livestock.

The very first Shavuot, Pentecost, happened 50 days later at Mt. Sinai, when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and

the Law, officially betrothing Himself to the Israelites, declaring Himself to be their forever faithful husband, keeper and protector. But something happened while the people waited for Moses to come down from the mountain. Remember? Egged on by some loud-mouthed, evil miscreants, the people grew impatient and demanded that Aaron produce a “real” god they could see and worship, and, in Aaron’s words, after melting down some gold, “out came this golden calf”. God, on the mountain was painstakingly writing out in His Own hand the words of the everlasting marriage covenant with the people, while down below, they’d already forsook Him and were having orgies around a statue of gold! The main ringleaders and wretched, wicked idolaters, all 3,000 of them, at Moses’ order, were killed by the faithful Levites.

Our God, the One and Only Living God, is the God of Restoration. That’s His business. He’s been in this business from even before the creation of the world. For from the time the first of the angels rebelled along with lucifer, God has been progressing on an intricate, meticulous, long-range plan of redemption and restoration of all things. Of course we can see this with Christ Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection. But it plays out in every perfect way, leaving “no stone unturned”. So on this first Day of Pentecost after Christ had come, yet another step in the restoration took place. For as 3,000 had died on the very first, original, Shavuot, Pentecost, so on this first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection, 3,000 new souls were added to the newly-

being-restored Kingdom of God on earth after Peter concludes his first sermon. Acts 2:41 reads: “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all”.

So at Mt. Sinai, God came into relationship with His people, giving them the Law of Love, the secret to knowing Him. Well, they turned the Law which was supposed to free them to live in beautiful fellowship with God, what had originally been the case before Adam and Eve’s fall in the Garden, the people now turned it into a prison of binding regulations that no one could possibly keep, thus ensuring that all people would forever fall short of coming to God, to Him, the Source of All Goodness and Life. After Christ’s work, the next Pentecost, the next Shavuot, God in Christ now gave Holy Spirit, His very presence, thus coming into relationship with His people once again, but this time, dwelling in their very beings and bodies. And this time, as those first believers would soon discover, with an unexpected twist. For just as the priests would on every Shavuot, offer up two identical loaves of bread on the altar, now at this new Shavuot after Christ, these two loaves can clearly be seen as representing the two peoples, Jew and Gentile, coming together as the One New Humanity, that Christ came to establish in Himself, in His Body, as He sacrificed Himself on the cross.

The coming of Holy Spirit on this new Shavuot, this new Day of Pentecost, began with a wind. Then, with flames of fire which

didn't burn up anything, the 120+ disciples occupying that big upstairs meeting room, suddenly began speaking the voice of God, declaring His wonders and wondrous works in all the languages of the hundreds of thousands of visitors to Jerusalem for the Festival of Shavuot. All could hear in their native languages. Another restoration, because now, the curse of the Tower of Babel was reversed, and while every person retained their own languages, yet God's Word was being proclaimed in every language of people there so all could understand in their own heart language.

The Holy Spirit comes upon people and groups over and over again, and sometimes even in the spectacular visible form of flames which don't burn up anything but heals the wounds people carry. On a day-to-day basis, Holy Spirit moves in us as the very Breath of God He is, as like unto a wind. As Lord Jesus, Who obviously was and is in the know, describes Him in John 3:8, "For the Spirit-Wind blows as It chooses. You can hear Its sound, but you don't know where It came from or where It's going. So it is the same with those who are Spirit-born!" (TPT). This is expressed in a modern Japanese worship song; its translation in all caps, and transliteration, is on your bulletin insert, front and back.

**[聖霊の風よ (*Wind of the Holy Spirit*)]**

Though languages hinder us, yet through Holy Spirit, we all become truly one in Christ. Just as Lord Jesus prayed. Therefore fight today's Babel-style global government, newly forming now. Don't forget. Ask God for Holy Spirit, now, and every day!

