



Sunday, May 23, 2010: "Pentecost and the Work of the Holy Spirit"

Scripture: Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-4; 8:4-24

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Pentecost takes place seven weeks after the Passover.
2. It's important that for us the work of the Holy Spirit is not just an abstract doctrine.
3. If we truly understood the work of the Holy Spirit, our lives would be impacted by it.
4. God is most 'empirical', most near to us, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.
5. There is a danger that we come to the doctrine and Person of the Holy Spirit flippantly and lightly, forgetting that He is God.
6. It's grieving to hear of the Holy Spirit spoken of as "it", as if He was merely a force or energy.
7. We don't get power from the Holy Spirit for our own ends. He takes hold of us for His own ends.
8. We don't believe that God expresses Himself in three forms. That's the heresy of modalism. God doesn't come as the Holy Spirit; the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit.
9. We need to recognize both God's sovereignty and His immanence.
10. In Acts 19:2 Paul asks the believers: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"
11. Receiving the filling/baptism in the Holy Spirit is different from conversion. The disciples themselves were first converted and then later received baptism in the Spirit.
12. The Spirit of God gives gifts as He wills. Identification of one or two special gifts alone with baptism in the Spirit is not biblical (i.e. prophecy or tongues).
13. A mark of having received the Holy Spirit is to truly know the love of Christ in our lives, transforming us.
14. Tozer asked, "Have you a heart theology?" What we know intellectually has to live in our hearts.

15. You cannot tell a person what it really is to know God by His Spirit; they must experience that for themselves.
16. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the only source of that yearning in our hearts to serve and worship God.
17. We are not to live in the past. We are to live in terms of God's purpose now, in terms of His continued filling of us with the Holy Spirit.
18. We do not know the mind of God or the order of His decrees in conversion and in the filling of the Holy Spirit. Our duty is to ask God for the filling of the Holy Spirit and to continue in His service.
19. We need to be more than just defenders of the faith; we need to be witnesses, able to give personal testimony of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
20. We must avoid extremes: we must not be deceived by the hype and superstition of some, nor be guilty of the dry intellectualism of others.

Application Questions:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? Defend your answer from Scripture.
2. Do I show proper reverence for the Person of the Holy Spirit?
3. When you pray for the filling of the Spirit, are you seeking an experience or are you seeking Christ?
4. Are you timid in sharing God's Word? Do you ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit for boldness to witness?
5. Is there evidence of the indwelling of the Spirit in me? Is Christ at work in me transforming my life?
6. Do I hold a dry, abstract theology of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit? Do I accept sensationalism and superstition regarding the Person and work of the Holy Spirit?