

Application Guide: “Pentecost Sunday” (Acts 2)

May 8th, 2005: Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park Church, took a week off from his study on *Matthew* to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. He gave an overview of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, showed parallels to the Old Testament, and provided several application points for us to consider.

1. Why do we make such a big deal about the coming of Jesus but largely ignore the coming of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. What place should we make for the Spirit in our Christian life? Conversation? Celebrations? Praying and singing to God? (cf. Jn. 14:26; 16:13-14; Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 1:17; 3:16)
 - b. What is the role of the Holy Spirit? How is his role distinct from the Father and the Son? (cf. Jn. 16:7-11; Rom. 8:5-11, 15-16; 2 Cor 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. The work of the Spirit is the first sign of the Lord’s presence in our lives and our church.
 - a. How can we tell the difference between the work of the Spirit and sheer emotionalism, charismatic preaching, or eye-opening entertainment (or even the work of the devil)? How can we “test the spirits” (1 Jn 4:1-3)?¹
 - b. What things in your life and in the church body get in the way of seeing the Spirit work in our midst (cf. Eph 4:29-31)? Do we even make time in our lives to see the Spirit at work?
3. Pastor Kauffman used a metaphor from Charles Spurgeon that encouraged us to view ourselves as swords whose power derives itself from the direction or wielding of the Spirit. In other words – the power behind what we do ought to be the work of the Spirit.
 - a. How can we tell we are being led or directed by the Spirit? How do we know we are relying on the power of the Spirit rather than on our own strength?
 - b. What does it mean to live by or walk with the Spirit? What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit (cf. Ac. 4:8; 13:9; Gal. 5:16ff; Eph. 5:18-20)?
4. Kimber noted several evidences or ways we can know the Spirit is among us:
 - a. The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-26) – Why is it “fruit” and not “fruits”? How does the life led by the Spirit contrast the life led by the flesh? How do we crucify the sinful nature (v. 24) so that we can live in the Spirit?
 - b. Unity in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-4) – What does unity look like? What character qualities does the Spirit produce that promotes an attitude of unity among the body of Christ? Should we expect the Spirit to give us unity with *all* believers? If you are harboring bitterness or holding a grudge towards another person is it possible for you to walk with the Spirit?
 - c. Freedom (2 Cor 3:6-18) – *Based on the context*, what kind of “freedom” does Paul say the Spirit brings? How does the Spirit bring confidence (or freedom) as we minister for God, stand before Him, and try to obey Him?
 - d. Peace (Jn. 14:26-27; Rom 8:6; Rom 15:13) – What kind of peace does the Spirit bring? With whom do will we have peace if we are walking in the Spirit?

¹ Perhaps another test, as Kimber suggested later, is that Spirit-filled teaching will be marked by apologetics (Ac. 2:14-15), use the Scriptures (Ac 2:17ff), focus on Jesus Christ (Ac. 2:22-24, 31-34, 36-38), be Trinitarian in doctrinal scope (Ac 2:31-33, 38-39), be taught with a deep sense of conviction and urgency (Ac. 2:40), and will call for change/repentance (Ac. 2:38-41).