

THE
ESSENCE
OF
Pentecost



PASTOR KEITH JOEL WALKER

Pentecost is often misunderstood and misrepresented as merely a denomination or a religious organization. However, it is essential to recognize that Pentecost is not a system of religious tradition or a set of man-made doctrines. Instead, it embodies a profound experience of full biblical salvation, marked by the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, evidenced by speaking in tongues. This experience is a promise of power and authority in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as outlined in Scripture (Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4; Luke 10:19; Luke 24:47-49).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a transformative experience that empowers believers for service in the Kingdom of God. It is a gift from Jesus, who baptizes us with His Spirit, filling us with the power necessary to carry out His work. We must remember that Pentecost is not confined to a single denomination or religious group. Throughout history, various sects and schisms have attempted to institutionalize Pentecost, but it remains a divine experience intended for every believer.

The Scriptures affirm this promise. In Matthew 3:11, we see the declaration that Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire. This baptism equips us to operate in the nine gifts of the Spirit, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12. The excellency of this experience is not of ourselves but of Him who works in us (2

Corinthians 4:7). Ephesians 1:13-14 emphasizes that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the guarantee of our inheritance.

Pentecost represents the first fruits of the promise of the Father, who endows us with power (Acts 1:8). Mark 16:17 assures us that believers will cast out devils in Jesus' name and speak with new tongues, affirming the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. John 14:16-20 speaks of the mantle of the Lord Jesus Christ, emphasizing that this promise is not limited to any one religious tradition but is meant for all who believe.

The experience of Pentecost is available to everyone who repents and confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As stated in Acts 2:39, the invitation is extended to “whosoever will.” John 6:37-39 reassures us that anyone who comes to Jesus will not be cast out. Acts 10:43-48 further illustrates that the gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out on all who believe.

It is crucial to understand that the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues, as demonstrated in Acts 19:1-6. This ongoing evidence is not just a one-time event but a continual experience of living in the Spirit, as indicated in Ephesians 5:18, where we are encouraged to be filled with the Spirit, singing and making melody in our hearts.

In conclusion, the Pentecostal experience is not a religious system but a biblical promise available to all believers. We must avoid the temptation to confine Pentecost to man-made doctrines or organizational boundaries. Instead, let us embrace the fullness of the Spirit and the power to preach the Gospel to the least, the last, and the lost.

Written by Pastor Keith Joel Walker