

Rick Hedrick (26 June 2008)

"Please consider, criticize, correct, or concur"

<http://www.fivedoves.com/letters/june2008/rickh626-2.htm>

Hi Rick and Doves,

You ask the question - "Also in the Old Testament, where the activities of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) are established...please show me where anything in these activities symbolizes the descent of the Holy Spirit to indwell the Church."

To answer that question you should examine Jeremiah's "New Covenant" (below) which was fulfilled by Jesus and His Holy Spirit. (Read Hebrews 8:6-13). The two aspects of the New Covenant were **salvation** and **sanctification**. Salvation was to forgive their sins, and Sanctification was to write the law in their hearts/minds.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD. But this shall be **the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel;*

After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD, but they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah announced that the old covenant of the law which was given at Pentecost was broken and redundant, and the writer to the Hebrews agrees - "In that he said, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." **Hebrews 8:13**

Hebrews chapters 8 - 10, compares the old covenant against the new one.

To replace that old covenant, Jesus instituted the new Covenant in his blood so that their iniquity and sin would be forgiven and remembered no more, i.e. their Salvation. To fulfil the other part of the new Covenant in his blood Jesus' death (as the testator) made his last will and testament become operative - **Jesus released His Holy Spirit** (the Spirit of Christ) on the day of Pentecost to fulfil the writing of the law in their hearts, i.e. their Sanctification. Jesus had to die to release His Spirit "globally" that he might indwell each of us, teaching us of his **character and mind** within us.

2 Cor. 3:2-3 *"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written*

not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

1 Cor. 2:16 *“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**”*

Phil. 2:4-8 *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in all lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...made himself of no reputation...took upon himself the form of a servant...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death...**”*

This is the New Testament fulfilment of the giving of the LAW on the day of Pentecost, through the agency of the Holy Spirit. What level we have reached on the continuum to Sanctification, depends on our “new birth” and how closely we are “walking in the Spirit” in obedience to the will of God in our lives.

However, in one aspect of your arguments, you are right in that the Holy Spirit which was given and released into the “Church” on Pentecost has been given only as “*an earnest of our inheritance*” and there is still more to come. Compare **(2 Cor.1:22 and 5:5)**

Eph. 1:13-14 *“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**”*

At present we are in an intermediary state where the “flesh wars with the spirit” and vice versa. On that great day when we are “changed” and our mortal bodies put on immortality, (1 Cor. 15:42-54) and death is no more, the change will be complete, “*and as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*” **1 Cor. 15:49.**

This “changing” should be taking place in our daily lives now as we live them for God through the Holy Spirit’s ministry in us, bringing us to Sanctification and holiness. That is why it says in

1 Cor. 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

1 John 3:2-3 *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”*

To conclude –

In the Old Testament on the day of Pentecost the Book of the Law was written on Stone Tablets and the people of Israel were expected to keep the law through their own personal persistence.

In the New Testament on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit of Christ wrote the law on the fleshy hearts of mankind as part of God’s Salvation and he continues to do his work through his presence within our hearts and minds.

Previously the People of Israel had been commanded to keep the law by outward observance of its rules and regulations, but in all points they failed. It was necessary for God to do something extraordinary, and it transpired as planned and promised, that after Jesus’ death, the Holy Spirit was

released in power into the lives of his followers. The “spiritual” law now resides within those who have put their faith in his redemptive work; and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the nature of Christ is reproduced in the lives of his obedient and faithful disciples.

God Bless as you search for the truth.

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