



believing in them. We must allow the Word to create within us a spirit of expectancy. If our experiences are below the promises of God we must question the former, not the latter. Our interpretation of God's Word must not be governed by our low condition; but our experiences must be corrected by and levelled up to the Word. The promise of the Spirit remains. Centuries have not worn it out. It meets our need. It is just what we require. It also echoes God's heart. It is not merely to fulfil His Word, and to prove that He is faithful, that He is willing still to give the Holy Spirit, but it is the desire of His heart. He wants to bless men with His Spirit. As a fulfilment of the Word the gift of the Spirit answers doubt. Those who had doubted Christ were convinced at Pentecost. The men who, believing Him to be a fraud, had crucified Him, now accepted Him as Lord. They believed without seeing the empty tomb, or first searching in vain for His body. There was a testimony given direct to their consciences and hearts that was convincing. All kinds of intellectual difficulties vanish before the convincing presence of the Holy Ghost. The presence of the Holy Spirit in transformed lives answers doubt as nothing else can. The greatest argument for the truth of God's Word is a great work of the Spirit. Nothing has such evidential value as this.

## **2. ...Gives the Power of Continuance .**

**In the Old Testament the revivals were of very short duration.** Some of them only lasted a few weeks. Zeal for God on the part of the many seldom lasted more than a year or two. The prophet himself seemed to possess the power to continue; and by extraordinary exertions and zeal he was able to whip the people temporarily to a quickened pace. But when he was out of the way they backslid. When the Lord would raise up a judge the people served the Lord all the days of the judge. But when he died they turned again to idols. And this faithfulness of the people of God, that was dependent upon the faithfulness of the judge, was a characteristic of the times of the prophets as well. But now we enter upon a new era. "Behold the days come, saith God, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant." The feature of non-continuance is eliminated by the gift of the Spirit. It is necessary for men to endure to the end in order to be saved; and **the gift of endurance is supplied by Christ.** Of the men and women who accepted God's offer of His Spirit on the day of Pentecost, we read: "And they continued steadfastly." "Many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles," but the multitudes "continued steadfastly with one accord." When the people were driven from Jerusalem by persecution, "they that were scattered abroad went about preaching the Word." The apostles remained at Jerusalem. The people were not dependent upon them for their zeal; they had the power of continuance within them of God. When the Ethiopian eunuch continued his journey toward the south - after Philip the evangelist, the man who led him into the light, had left him - he went on his way rejoicing. Though without Christian fellowship he was all right, for he had learnt the closer fellowship which in the Spirit is possible with the Father and the Son. When people are urged to declare themselves on the Lord's side they often reply that they would, only they fear they would not be able to hold out. They forget that continuance in the Christian life is not dependent upon natural ability to persevere, but that it is a distinct Christian grace conferred upon the one who truly surrenders to Jesus.

## **3. ...Changes and Saves Mankind .**

A great change was wrought in the Apostles by the gift of the Spirit. They were already comparatively good men. Under the teaching and influence of Christ for three years a great improvement in their characters had taken place. But they were still

weak. Though sincerely desirous of being true to Jesus, Peter had found the laugh and scoff of a servant girl too much for his loyalty. He could not confess his Lord before the soldiers gathered around the fire at night. But now he is ready to face thousands of scoffing, hostile men. He can brave the scholars of the Sanhedrim. He can receive 39 stripes from a cruel tearing scourge, and depart from his beating rejoicing that he was counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name; and saying, to those who command him to preach no more, that he must obey God rather than men.

We have men who tell us that they can live good lives without being Christians. We do not need to deny their statement. But we reply that the best of men are wonderfully improved by the gift of God's Spirit. If without Him some are as good as they claim to be, what possibilities are before them by yielding to the absolute rule of Christ. When the judgment is completed we shall find that what we might have been will be taken into account equally as much as what we are.

But the gift of the Spirit not only changes men; it saves them. Peter said: "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." Science has unfolded to us in these modern times the law of environment. It is a great law. But it is neither new, nor newly discovered. In Peter's day men thought they must be shaped by their surroundings; and they pleaded as earnestly as men do now that the age and companionship were against them being different from what they were. Environment is too strong a law for the majority of men to stand against by themselves; but God knows our frame, He remembers that we are dust. The promise of the Spirit is His recognition of our need. When He comes, it is then true that "greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world." The Spirit of God is stronger than the spirit of the age; and by His power a man can be saved from his generation and be made different from the ordinary run of men.

#### **4. ...Is A Divine Gift.**

Such a tremendous gift may suggest to us the need of a superhuman power to reach after Him or to receive Him. It is well to remember we are talking of a gift, not of a Power or a Person acquired, overtaken, or seized. And this gift is a Divine one. It is Divine power which is put forth in the importation of the Holy Spirit. We have not to fix our faith upon our capacity for receiving, but upon God's power to give. Such a great blessing also suggests to us a measure of worthiness. So we must add to our thought of Divine power that of Divine grace. It might be said that the disciples by their training and power had been made worthy of His coming. But that cannot be said of the multitudes. The crowds consisted of Christ's enemies. They were charged by Peter with the responsibility of crucifying Him. And yet to these Peter said, "The promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are afar off, even to as many as the Lord our God shall call." Again let us emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a gift. He is not a reward. Divine power and Divine grace impart. And the condition of acceptance is a complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

#### **Conclusion:**

We must put this in proper perspective. Those who see Pentecost's main significance as miraculous powers are missing the new thing that was being done, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is like someone who receives a beautifully wrapped birthday gift. After carefully removing the velvet ribbon and the expensive paper, the lovely box is opened to reveal the keys to a fancy new Mercedes automobile! But then this confused person tosses aside the keys with a "That's nice." And then turns and goes back to the wrapping in which they came. "Wow! What a beautiful box! What wonderful ribbon! What gorgeous wrapping! I love it! I'm going to keep this ribbon

and box and paper forever!" We must be careful not to confuse the Pentecostal gift with the wrappings in which it came.

In his sermon, "A Dangerous Pentecost," Halford Luccock tells of Lorenzo de'Medici, the great Florentine patron of the arts who was very proud of the spectacles he staged for the citizenry. Among his productions were several amazingly realistic religious pageants performed in church. But one Pentecost, Lorenzo went too far: he used actual fire to depict the descent of the tongues of flames on the apostles. The fragile stage set caught fire and, before horrified onlookers, the entire church burned to the ground. The moral is clear: pray for Pentecostal power, but don't try to manufacture it.

### **Pray for Pentecostal Power!**

## **The Church's Birthday**

Birthdays are a time of celebration. For most of us birthdays include, cake, ice cream, and a few friends. Sometimes families go out to eat at a special restaurant that the birthday person chooses. There's a website that lists some of the most expensive birthday parties ever. Here are some highlights:

- \* *Justin Bieber had a clown theme birthday party that cost \$20,000*
- \* *Sir Philip Green had a 60th birthday party that lasted 4 days and cost \$6 million. After his birthday, he had a nightclub built for his daughter's 21st birthday.*
- \* *Beyonce threw a party in New Orleans for her mother's 60th birthday which cost over \$100,000 and included all the guests arriving in horse-drawn carriages.*
- \* *Katy Perry threw a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed party.*
- \* *Paris Hilton threw 5 birthday parties for her 21st birthday in 5 different cities: London, New York, Tokyo, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles.*
- \* *Simon Cowell spent \$1.6 Million for his 50th birthday which included a shark tank and all his guests arriving in limos.*

Birthdays can be a grand celebration. Today is not Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, the "Birthday of the Church." That is always 50 days after Passover. However, we are focusing on the revival that took place on that day. The early church was born then and the gift of The Holy Spirit fueled them to go out and conquer the world for Jesus Christ. He energized their Christian lives. It was a significant event that changed everyone.

Later this month will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reformation Day. It is a Protestant religious holiday celebrated on October 31, alongside All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) during the triduum of All Hallow Tide, in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.

Traditionally, October 31, 1517 is widely held to be the day German monk Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Electorate of Saxony within the Holy Roman Empire. Historians and other experts on the subject argue that Luther may have chosen All Hallows' Eve on purpose to get the attention of common people, although this has never been proven. Available data suggests that October 31 was when Luther sent his work to Albert of Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz. This has been verified; nowadays, it is regarded as the start of the Reformation alongside the unconfirmed nailing of the Ninety-five Theses to All Saints' Church's door on the same date.

The holiday is a significant one for both Lutheran and Calvinist churches, although other Protestant communities also tend to commemorate this day. It is lawfully recognized in parts of Germany, Slovenia and Chile. In addition, countries like Switzerland or Austria provide specifics in laws pertaining to Protestant churches, while not officially proclaiming it a nationwide holiday. The reformation was like a re-birth for the church.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

### **Sunday, October 15, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, October 18**

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

### **Thursday, October 19**

**O** Team ..... 6:30 pm

### **Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

*Worship with*

*Christy Hoagland*

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats, Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship .....6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, October 25**

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

### **Thursday, October 26**

**W** Team.....6:30 pm

## **Up-Coming Events.....**

**October 15 — Food Pantry Collection Day—Offering for Longs**

**October 22 —Morning Worship with Christy Hoagland**

**Love Offering—Sing for the King Ministries**

**October 23-25 — Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting**

**October 29 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**October is Pastor Appreciation Month!**

**November 5 — Daylight saving time ends! Set clocks back 1 hour.**

**November 12 — Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer at Grand Oaks**

**Camp from 2-4 pm**

**— Operation Christmas Child Collection Day**

## **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

### **Sunday Night**

We will meet tonight,  
Sunday, October 15. Come!

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will continue our study on **Fearless**. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm

### **Library News**

We will be phasing out the books in the Library (located in the Senior Women's Sunday School room.) If you are interested in any of these books, you may help yourselves to them anytime before October 16.

### **Servants Needed**

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month (or more) out of the year? (Thanks Joe Coats for volunteering!)

### **Food Pantry Collection Day!**

**Today, Sunday, October 15**

You may place your non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway at any time.

Thank You!

Offerings will go to the Longs.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

**Shoe Box Collection Day—**

**Sunday, November 12**

There are a few boxes on the front pew along with some items Don Beavers has graciously donated.

Also, there are printed labels

on top of the piano. The suggested shipping price for this year is \$9.00.

### ***Just a Reminder ...***

The whole month of October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Please let Pastor Allan and Ellen know how much they are appreciated and loved!

### **Grand Oaks Camp Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer**

**November 12, from 2-4 pm**

Please come and share in a time of grateful appreciation for all the faithful years of service Don and Jolette have spent serving the Lord in the capacity of camp manager.

**Please remember to set your clocks back 1 hour,  
Saturday night,  
November 4.**

### ***For the Record-***

#### **Attendance: October 8, 2017**

Sunday School.....	33
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	35
Contacts Made.....	9
Morning Worship.....	47
Children's Worship.....	9
Sunday Night .....	7
Wednesday Night .....	13

#### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,761.54
MMO to date .....	\$ 1,549.00

#### **Offering Received by Mail:**

#### **October Counting Team:**

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

#### **October Van Driver:**

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

#### **October Birthdays:**

03...Don Hart  
08...Brigida Winans  
09...Elvera Crow

10...Fred Kerns  
10...Jaden Schottel  
14...Dillon Burgess  
18...David Schottel  
18...Abby Schroeder  
19...Caitlyn Schottel  
22...Angie Liechti  
28...Ellen Lane  
31...Tim Izer

### **October Anniversaries**

Mike and Martha Green  
October 1, 2005

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Robbie Hutcherson Family  
Emily Jones, Tammy's daughter  
Steve & Teresa Noyes—recovery  
The Waters Family—guidance  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Shawna Hughes—home isolation  
Chad Bradford—heart surgery  
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough  
Larry Danner—cancer  
Gina Harr—strength  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister  
Pat Means—Mary Sharp's Sister  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son  
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim  
Don and Marcia — house sale  
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment  
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Rev. A. B. Brown    Betty Campbell  
George Ferbert  
Ellen Blanton        Lois Ulmer  
Jim Winans        Nellie Reynolds  
Madeline Swink        Ann Riddle  
Kathryn Beavers        Keon McKahan  
Louanne Laurence        Leona Reynolds  
Jozy Winans        Kenny Duty  
Kevin Duty        Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita        Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett        Judy Anderson  
Brenda Burgess        Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts        Tim Izer  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church

David and Deborah Grace  
Terrorism in our world  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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