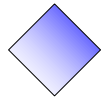


The Voice of Truth



August 18, 2013

Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part V

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We have been looking at the views on church authority. This week let us take a look at the Pentecostal faith.

The Pentecostal faith traces its beginning to New Year's Eve, 1899. In Topeka, Kansas, a handful of people called a fast that lasted 21 days. During this time they prayed earnestly for a great pouring-out of the Holy Spirit, which they say came at midnight on New Year's Eve, 1899. They believe in Holy Spirit Baptism, meaning they can speak in tongues and do miraculous things. Let us examine God's Word whether these things is so!

Holy Spirit Baptism was a promise and never a command. There are only two recorded cases in the New Testament: **Acts 2**, the Apostles; and **Acts 10**, the Gentiles. It was to fill a definite need. It was to endow the Apostles with power to accurately recall and teach the truth, **John 14:26**; to be guided into all truth, **John 16:13**; and to confirm their mission and their message with miracles, **Mark 16:20**; **Hebrews 2:3-4**. When Cornelius and his house received it, it was to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were part of this salvation plan, **Acts 11:18**; **15:7-8**. Peter said, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning" (**Acts 11:15**). Peter said, "on us at the beginning", he had to go all the way back to the time the Apostles received the Holy Spirit Baptism, because it never happened before to anyone. It never occurs again for anyone, and it is never hinted anywhere that it is for all Christians.

Holy Spirit Baptism was always accompanied with miraculous power. The Apostles on the day of Pentecost spoke in different languages which all could understand, **Acts 2:4-11**. They also did other miraculous things, **Acts 2:43**; **5:12**. Why did the Apostles do miracles? They did so to confirm that the word they spoke was really from God. Notice Jesus said, "And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt

them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (**Mark 16:17-18**). But why? The reason is given in **verse 20**: "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen" (**Mark 16:20**). They did signs to confirm the word. The Scripture says the word WAS CONFIRMED. Notice: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, WAS CONFIRMED unto us by them that heard; God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will" (**Hebrews 2:3-4**). The word was confirmed. There is no need for more. The signs were written for the same reason they were wrought. Now it is all in the New Testament. Once miracles confirmed the word, their purpose ceased and they passed away (**1 Corinthians 13:8-10**). Notice also God made animals and mankind miraculously. Then they were to spread by natural means, giving birth to offspring. Then God made the church miraculously. Now it is to spread naturally, through the preaching of the word. If men today received the same baptism, they would have the same powers mentioned in **Mark 16:17-20**. If not, why not?

It was only after the Apostles laid hands on those who believed, repented, confessed Christ, and was baptized into His death, that they were able to do miracles. Those who were chosen to serve tables, **Acts 6:6**, the Apostles laid hands on the seven; Philip was one of these men. In **Acts 8** Philip performed miracles in Samaria (**Acts 8:5-8**). After many of the Samaritans believed and were baptized, (**Acts 8:12-13**), the Apostles sent Peter and John to lay hands on them to give them the Holy Spirit, (**Acts 8:14-18**). Philip can do spiritual gifts and miracles, and he converts many Samaritans. But he could not, not being an Apostle, pass these spiritual gifts on to others. If Philip could have given them the Holy Spirit, why were Peter and John sent to do so? If they (Samaritans) could have prayed

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earnestly for a great out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, why were Peter and John sent to do so? Luke says, "Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 8:18-19**). Simon the Sorcerer had been converted but he wants to buy the ability the Apostles had to lay hands on saints and give them this measure of the Spirit. He is rebuked for such a notion. But we learn one thing. Spiritual gifts came through the laying on of the hands of an Apostle. Later in **Acts 19**, Paul, an Apostle, lays hands on some saints in Ephesus whom he had to rebaptize. When he laid hands on them, ". . . the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And they were in all about twelve men" (**Acts 19:6-7**). "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, by signs and wonders and mighty works" (**2 Corinthians 12:12**). We have learned from God's Word that these spiritual gifts

came through the laying on of the hands of an Apostle.

To be an apostle one had to see the resurrected Christ and be a witness of the resurrection **Acts 1:21-22**. No one can do that so there are no apostles in our day. Thus there is no laying on of the hands of an Apostle in order to impart spiritual gifts in our day. Since there are no Apostles living on earth and none of whom they have laid their hands, there is not a human on earth that can do such signs and wonders today! These signs were to the unbeliever, **John 20:30-31**. Yet, now we have the Bible as evidence to the unbeliever. The Bible we have to edify us today; we don't need miraculous spiritual gifts and they have passed away anyway. Let no one think that God has abandoned us because miracles have ceased. No. He still works by answering our prayers. He does so fully and truly, but not miraculously.

(Part 6 of this article will be printed in next week's bulletin) ♦

"Think Like God Thinks"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In **Romans 12:1-2**, the apostle Paul wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." In this article, I want us to study the phrase "the renewing of your mind." The word "renewing" means, "renewal, renovation, complete change for the better" (**Thayer's**, p. 38). Please notice the contrast made between God and the world in this text. It is obvious that to be like God is better than being like the world. If we are not going to conform to this world in its thoughts, actions, etc., we need to think like God thinks!

How Can I Think Like God Thinks?

Let's answer this question by asking: How can anyone think like another? Thinking as someone else demands first that that person's thoughts be revealed! Thus, if we are to think like God thinks, we must know what He is thinking. How can this happen? Is this even possible? Paul writes to the Corinthians about this very subject and says, "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the

Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:8-13). Therefore, **Romans 12:1-2** was not telling us to do something that we cannot do. God has revealed His mind to men through His Spirit.

Where Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Now that we know the Holy Spirit has revealed God's thoughts to men, where are they revealed? Is God's will revealed in such a way that is "better felt than told?" Does the Spirit speak personally to every person on earth so God's will is known? Has He hidden it in some obscure place that will take men a lifetime to find? The answer to these questions is "no," but unfortunately, it may take some a lifetime to find the Bible. See, the Bible reveals the thoughts of God to man. Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (**I Pet. 4:11**). The word "oracles" means, "the utterances." Therefore, every time we read and speak from God's word, we are reading and speaking the revealed thoughts of God to men. Isn't that amazing!! God loved us enough to give us His

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thoughts, and when we study and read His word (**II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:4**), we can think like God thinks! What other book, man, or group of men could give you that?

Why Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Have you ever wondered why God would spend so much time and expend such effort in giving us a book by which to live? Why were His thoughts revealed? Was there a reason we need to know who God is? Let us let the Bible answer the question "why." In **John 20:29-31**, we read, *"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* God's thoughts were written so we might believe. Why believe? It is because through faith we obey God's word and can be saved (**Rom. 10:13-17; Heb. 11:6, 5:8-9**; etc.). God's thoughts revealed man's sin, his need for a Savior, and the way to be saved (**Rom. 3:23; Rev. 3:20; Mk. 16:16**).

How Were His Thoughts Revealed?

We have discussed the "where", and "why". Now, how did the Holy Spirit reveal God's thoughts? The method used for revelation is revealed for us in the Bible as well. *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds"* (**Heb. 1:1-2**). Peter says something similar to that

in **II Peter 1:20-21**. *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* These passages reveal that God spoke to the fathers for a time. These men were "moved" (inspired) by the Holy Ghost to say the things they did (**I Cor. 2**). Jesus was also sent to reveal God's thoughts to man (**Jn. 12:49-50**). After God's thoughts were revealed to man, they were written down for future generations to receive the spiritual benefit (**Ex. 34:27; Jn. 20:30-31; Eph. 3:3-5**; etc.). Thus today we have the written word so that we might think like God thinks (**Rom. 12:1-2**).

What Does This Mean For Those In Religious Error?

When one decides that he is going to think like God thinks, he will stand opposed to religious error. Therefore, Satan has lost a soldier. When we think like God thinks, we will no longer be "tolerant" of those that are impenitent in sin. We would rather teach the truth and have folks not like us, than to have a friend that goes to Hell because of our inaction (**II Tim. 2:2**). Thinking like God thinks will make us realize that we need to be doing all that God has said. We cannot "pick and choose" our obedience and hope to go to Heaven (**Ecc. 12:13-14; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:14**).

Conclusion

Have you renewed your mind? Have you decided you want to think like God thinks? Your only other option is to think like the world. Which will it be? (**Matt. 6:24, 16:26**).

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Points To Ponder...

Never be ashamed to admit you were wrong.
It is just another way of saying you're wiser today
than you were yesterday.

Every saint this side of heaven should be
concerned with every sinner this side of Hell.

You must expect to be bored if you are not
interested in anything but yourself.

He that lives only for this life
Shall live only in this life ♦

**Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.
A faith that will not take us to worship will not
Take us to heaven! ♦**

By What Authority?

By Jonathan L. Perz

“By what authority are you doing these things?” While this question was originally asked of Jesus by the chief priests and scribes, the question, as well as the answer, has as much relevance today as it did then.

Whoever said you cannot answer a question with a question is sadly mistaken, for this is exactly what Jesus did. In reply to their question, Jesus asked the question, “The baptism of John—was it from heaven or men?” (Luke 20:1-8). By answering the Lord’s question, the chief priests and scribes would have the answer to their question. They were caught in their own snare.

They knew the correct answer to the Lord’s question, but their reasoning made them realize that if they answered accurately by saying “of God,” they would be exposing their error. If they answered “of men,” they would face the wrath of the people who were persuaded that John the Baptist was a prophet. Finding neither choice acceptable, they chose not to answer. Hence Jesus did not directly answer their question.

Did Jesus ever reject their question as an unimportant

one? It was indeed important and he answered it on several other occasions (John 7:17; John 12:49; John 14:10), even those among them knew the answer (John 3:1-2; John 9:33). Nevertheless, many today reject it as an unimportant question.

Take any “religious” practice today, whether engaged in by a church or an individual professing Christianity, and test it with the question, “By what authority?” You will have folks in the same dilemma in which Jesus put the chief priests and scribes. To answer accurately and truthfully, they may have to either openly expose their rejection of God’s teaching in light of their practice or they will have to incur the wrath of the people. Therefore, unless one has God’s authority for what he says and does (Colossians 3:17), it is easier for him not to answer or to belittle those who challenge his practices.

By what authority do you do what you do for Christ? If it is not authorized in God’s word, you are not acting by the faith that saves (Romans 10:17). Therefore, take care how you answer, for it will most definitely have eternal implications. *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

FIVE FIRSTS TO SUCCESS




1. Give God the **FIRST HOUR** of the day.
2. Give God the **FIRST DAY** of the week.
3. Give God the **FIRST PORTION** of your pay.
4. Give God the **FIRST CONSIDERATION** in every decision.
5. Give God the **FIRST PLACE** in your heart. And it really works, too. ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p>Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</p>  	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> 	<p>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p><small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small></p>