

Acts # 15 “The Chosen” Acts 1:21-26; Acts 2:29-35; 1st Cor 15:1-8

Death has brought life; the death of Jesus Christ has been followed by His resurrection and that is the story of a new baby Church which will emerge shortly from the womb with the life of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit and the nourishment of biblical truth awaiting it.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead has established belief in the immortality of the soul as a fact.

The walls of Jesus’ tomb witness of and testify to an absolute confident hope we now have to be able to laugh at death and therefore truly embrace life like never before.

Jesus Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session change everything!

We are risen with Christ in the mind and purpose of God but we must open our hearts to the doctrine of resurrection, so the Holy Spirit can conform us to the ideal resurrection-life on earth.

Jesus was obviously conscious of the fact that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him so that He was anointed to preach the Good News.

It was in the power of the Holy Spirit that He offered Himself on the cross and through the Spirit of holiness, He was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead and it was also through the Holy Spirit that He issued commands during the 40 days of His resurrection ministry. *Until the time of His ascension, Jesus Christ related to followers who did not possess the indwelling Holy Spirit.*

The apostles had to come to realize that because they were identified with Jesus Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they not only died with Him but also rose with Him from His grave and further, ascended with Him into the heavenlies!

The first sign of the new era beginning at Pentecost was a spirit of gentle love and a lack of jealous rivalry which plagued the apostles in the past.

Incredibly, one often overlooked purpose of the gift of Pentecost was to equip the Church for the work of evangelizing the world.

Jesus did not begin His public ministry until He was filled with the Holy Spirit without measure and He forbid His disciples to begin their work in the Church until they’d received their Pentecostal gift.

The work of the Spirit within us always precedes His anointing upon us but sadly, some believers experience only His work in them without experiencing His power working through them.

Luke is showing us how the apostles are trying to use their God-given authority to organize their ranks as the Lord gives them freedom to do so before the day of Pentecost in this pre-natal stage of the church’s growth.

And God is going to continue to give them freedom in choosing how to organize themselves and the Church.

All of this is accomplished under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit but God’s design is the passing of the torch to the future pastors, elders and deacons within the local churches.