

Acts # 17 “Happy Birthday Church” Acts 2:1-4

‘Acts’ covers the pre-canon transitional period of the Church Age.

And one of the unusual characteristics noted in ‘Acts’ is the existence of temporary spiritual gifts. *On the day of Pentecost, we have certain experiences which were different from anything in previous dispensations.*

A dispensation is a period of time in human history expressed in terms of God’s revelation

Recovery from post-salvation sin is only the beginning for us to continue to grow up spiritually and enjoy God more.

God has provided every Church Age believer with advantages and privileges that stagger the imagination.

*Learning to use God’s grace provisions should be our top priority in life because that’s what glorifies Him.*

Our Christian life cannot grow to maturity without the wisdom of biblical truth as our guide.

God has freely given us riches beyond our wildest dreams and only His Word reveals the treasures of His plan to us.

First of all, positional truth through the baptism by the Holy Spirit did not exist in the past and also, no believer on the Old Testament was ever indwelt by Jesus Christ.

Then there’s the universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit which did not exist in the OT but from the day of Pentecost, every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

*In the Church Age, every believer is his own priest and we also have something else they didn’t have: a completed canon of Scripture, so that God reveals Himself to us by His Word only in this dispensation.*

-

The baptism by the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with any outward charismatic manifestation, so it’s not necessarily associated with tongues, fire or wind.

These were incidental to the essential which was the making of a new body, the birthday of the church.

*It is ignorant and arrogant to want these incidentals occurring every time the Holy Spirit acts today.*

They are only related to the beginning of the body of Christ just like other temporary spiritual gifts to establish the Church and then are discontinued.

With the true baptism by the Holy Spirit, nothing was felt inside; there was no sign of it, no outward evidence other than the fact that they all became one.

And from their initiation on, they lived the life of Jesus Christ being dedicated to Him and to one another.

The Holy Spirit was supplying different languages to believers for the purpose of declaring the Gospel in a language, foreign to the communicator.

*This is fulfillment of Isaiah 28:11-12 ‘Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom He said, This is the resting place, let the weary rest and this is the place of repose but they would not listen.’ and 1st Corinthians 14:21-22 ‘In the Law it is written: With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people but even then they will not listen to Me, says the Lord.*

*Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however is not for unbelievers but for believers.’*