

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

### LESSON 8

The birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ made salvation possible for every person. Yet, the unfortunate reality is that not everyone will be saved. The redemption and salvation of the cross must be individually received and applied to our lives.

#### I. THE GREAT COMMISSION: (Read Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16-17; Luke 24:46-49)

- a. Three accounts of the Great Commission. They must be viewed together to provide the full picture. They should be viewed as an overlay of each other.
- b. Elements of the Great Commission:
  - i. Preaching the Gospel
  - ii. Teaching
  - iii. Faith
  - iv. Repentance
  - v. Water Baptism
  - vi. Holy Spirit Infilling
  - vii. Supernatural Signs
- c. The Great Commission matches the message of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:11)

#### II. JESUS LAST WORDS AND ASCENSION: (READ ACTS 1:3-9)

- a. Jesus reminds the disciples of the promise of the Father (i.e. the Holy Ghost)
- b. Admonishes them to do nothing, until they receive it.

#### III. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH:

- a. The Day of Pentecost

##### Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

**1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

**2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

**4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The church did not exist until the Day of Pentecost. It was prophesied about, but did not come into being until men and women were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was the Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavout), which commemorated the giving of the Law and the Old Testament at Mt. Siani.

- i. 120 disciples were gathered in the Upper Room, including Mary the mother of Jesus, His brothers, and the twelve apostles.

- ii. When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with tongues.
- iii. This event fulfilled OT prophecies. (Read Isaiah 28:11-12, Jeremiah 31:31-33, Ezekiel 36:26-27, and Joel 2:28-29)
- iv. This event fulfilled the promise of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. (See John 7:37-39)
- v. Many Jews from other countries had gathered in Jerusalem for this Feast of Weeks. Some mocked them and others were amazed about this supernatural experience and asked Peter two important questions:
  - 1. What meaneth this? (Acts 2:12)  
Peter answered this first question with the Gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Read Acts 2:22-24)
  - 2. What must we do? (Acts 2:37)  
Peter answered the second question with the Plan of Salvation. (Read Acts 2:38-39)

#### IV. PETER FULFILLS THE GREAT COMMISSION BY PREACHING THE PLAN OF SALVATION:

- a. This was the first opportunity that any disciple of Christ had to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus. How did they do it?
- b. Those listening to Peter heard the Gospel and they believed it. Yet, there was still something for them to do:
  - i. Repentance: Dying to sin and self. Confessing, grieving, and turning from sin.
  - ii. Baptism: Burial of the old life with Christ. (See Romans 6:3-4)
    - 1. Baptism is to be administered in Jesus' name.
      - a. This is not a contradiction of the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:19, but the fulfillment of it.
      - b. There is only one name that saves us. (Acts 4:12)
    - 2. Baptism is for the remission of sins.
    - 3. Peter elevates baptism to an essential part of the plan of salvation. (See also Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:20-21)
- c. Peter then shared with them God's promise to fill them with the Holy Ghost just as He had filled the 120. The promise was to them, to their children, and to all that were afar off. (v.39)

#### V. HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM:

- a. It is essential (1 Corinthians 12:13; John 3:5)
- b. It is supernatural (John 3:8)
- c. It is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. (Read Acts 10:44-46)
- d. Why tongues? Because the tongue is the most unruly part of our body. (Read James 3:2-8)