

CONNECT 101

Family and Membership



CONNECTING



GROWING



SERVING



GOING



PENTECOSTALS

Our Staff

Pastor

Jay Jones

Secretary Treasurer

Angela Jones

Youth and Students

Nathan and Marisa Burgett

Kids & Nursery Ministry

Shanna Burgett

Ladies Ministry

Becky Burgett

Worship Team

Clark Morgan

Transportation

Art and Lacey Villegas

Discipleship Course

Mary Walker

Our Services

Worship

Sundays at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

Education

Kidz Jam

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Growth Groups & Fuel

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm


Fuel (students)


Fridays at 7:00 pm

Prayer

Sundays at 9:00 am and 11:00 am

How To Contact Us

 (616) 530-3007

 E-mail (general)

churchoffice@myPentecost.com

E-mail (staff)

[first name]@myPentecost.com

 www.myPentecost.com

 www.facebook.com/pentecostalsofkentwood

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about The Pentecostals! This class, **CONNECT 101**, is the first of our basic classes, and is designed to let you know what our church is all about and how you can participate.

The goal of this class

That I will commit myself to _____ and His _____.

About Us

The Pentecostals has ministered to families in the greater Grand Rapids area since 2003. From its humble beginnings in the symposium room of a 28th Street hotel to its present building and property, the congregation has matured into a thriving, community-minded group of believers.

Led by a progressive, multi-talented leadership team, The Pentecostals is a progressive, visionary congregation with a devotion to honest spirituality, a love for family, a heart for community and a passion for life. It's a place that has grown big enough to engage your family in a variety of ministries, yet retaining a heart that is not too big to embrace your family when times are tough.

The Pentecostals is a place to **Connect** to God, family and friends, **Grow** in your relationship with the Lord, **Serve** in meaningful ways, and **Go** forth to fulfill your mission. The best is yet to come!

Ephesians 2:19 (LB) *Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.*

Key truths

- The church is a _____.
- God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.
- A Christian without a church family is an _____.

What makes The Pentecostals a Family?

Three things unite us:

- **Our Statements** (why we exist as a church)
- **Our Salvation** (what God has done for us)
- **Our Structure** (how we fulfill our purpose)

Our Statements

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting, Growing, Serving and Going in Jesus Christ.

Our Dream

- **We dare to dream** of a place where lost people can find God, hurting people can find healing, and all people can find love.
- **We dare to dream** of welcoming thousands into membership in our church family, developing each individual to spiritual maturity, and equipping them for significant ministry in the body of Christ.
- **We dare to dream** of a church that is passionate for evangelism, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the thousands of residents of our city, supporting dozens of missionaries on every continent, and sending out hundreds of our members on short-term mission projects around the world.
- **We dare to dream** of a church that reaches into society with the love of Christ to help the downtrodden, struggling and outcast, champion social good, and be a voice for the voiceless.
- **We dare to dream** of an army of ministers, committed to using their God-given gifts, talents, energies and resources to achieve excellence and spiritual impact in every ministry of the church.
- **We dare to dream** of a congregation mature enough to embrace Apostolic truth and Biblical holiness, yet compassionate enough to include people at any stage in their walk with God.

- **We dare to dream** of a church family who love, learn, live, laugh and labor together, where everyone is included, anyone can be involved, and no one feels insignificant.
- **We dare to dream** of a people who will pray in harmony, give with generosity, work in unity and worship with expectancy until God hears from Heaven and heals our land with a visitation of His glory in our city.
- **We dare to dream** of a main church campus including a Worship Center where people can experience God's presence, an Education Center where people can study God's Word, a Prayer Center where people can hear God's voice, and a Family Center where people can fellowship with God's children, all set in a peaceful, inspiring landscape.
- **We dare to dream** of a church that plants new churches and trains, equips and sends ministry to lead them.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We exist so that people far from Christ may become passionate worshipers who are born again, alive in the Church and active in ministry.

Worshippers of Christ will be:

- **Connecting** to God and people
- **Growing** in discipleship and commitment
- **Serving** inside and outside the church and
- **Going** forth to fulfill their Mission



It may help to visualize these purposes as a connected, moving wheel. Each of the sections (classes) fulfills one of the four purposes of the church. Our goal is to get as many members through the process as possible, and not have any members stop in their progress!

A great _____ to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a great _____!

The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT) Jesus replied, You must **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: **Love your neighbor** as yourself. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Teach these new disciples** to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

*Many people say that they believe the Bible, but beliefs aren't worth much unless they're translated into **ACTIONS**. We believe in a lifestyle that puts into practice the following **APOSTOLIC** biblical practices:*

A _____ of submission

The Bible teaches that every believer needs to be a faithful and committed member of a local church family, and strongly emphasizes that we must be submitted to God, to the spiritual leadership He has placed in His body, and to one another. By placing ourselves in submission to pastoral leadership, we receive the spiritual protection and accountability we need.

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT) Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

P_____ of every believer

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of their vocation. We emphasize the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service in the local church. It is the privilege of every believer to have direct, personal access to God through the Bible and prayer.

1 Peter 2:9 (CEV) *But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done.*

O_____ spiritual life

We understand that the only way possible to live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. That is why we practice the daily spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, and cultivate a dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to overcome sinful thoughts and actions and do what is right.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT) *So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.*

S_____ of the Bible

Since the Word of God is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization to get God's principles into our hearts. The Bible is the basis for everything we believe.

2 Timothy 3:16 (LB) *The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.*

T_____ to support God's work

The Bible teaches us to practice tithing for the support of the church, its leadership and ministries. We realize that giving ten percent of our income is God's Biblical standard – it is our “radical minimum!” Tithing is not the same as giving an offering. The ten percent tithe belongs to God already, and anything we give above that is an offering.

Leviticus 27:30 (NCV) *One-tenth of all crops belongs to the Lord, including the crops from fields and the fruit from trees. That one-tenth is holy to the Lord.*

O_____ expression

Real Christianity affects every area of our lives, major and minor. When the Bible's principles of godly conduct, speech and appearance are reflected in a believer's life, they indicate that a real internal change has truly taken place. In addition to glorifying God, our personal outward expression of holiness has the effect of protecting us from sin and testifying to others.

Matthew 5:16 (KJV) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

L_____ of evangelism

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the good news of the Gospel with those God brings us into contact with. Witnessing is not only the words we say, but also the life we live in front of others. We should use every opportunity to influence others toward Christ and His church.

1 Peter 3:15 (CEV) *Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.*

I_____ of every believer

We understand that every believer grows at a different rate, and is at a different stage of development and commitment in their life with Christ. We therefore accept each person in their diversity, while encouraging all to grow to maturity in Christ.

Romans 15:1-2 (CEV) *If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord's followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. We should think of their good and try to help them by doing what pleases them.*

C _____ becoming a Christian

God requires us to avoid things that defile our minds or bodies, since sinful thoughts and actions separate us from Him. Our old nature is not eradicated but merely subdued within us, so our flesh still has the ability to commit sinful acts. We alone make the choice to yield to God's Spirit and conduct ourselves in ways that keep us close to God and away from sin.

2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1 (NLT) *Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete purity because we fear God.*

OUR FAITH STATEMENT

What we believe is the foundation for all we do cooperatively as a church and individually in our personal lives. Beliefs lead to Values, and values are demonstrated through action. We want to help strengthen your belief in Christ so that your values are in line with what the Word of God teaches.

About the Bible

We believe that the Bible is the literal, infallible Word of God. All of life's questions can be answered by reading and applying what's inside, including how we should live, and how to find salvation. (1)

About God

There is one God, who has revealed Himself as our Father, in His Son Jesus Christ, and as the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God revealed in flesh. He is both God and man. (2)

About Sin and Salvation

We believe that everyone has sinned and needs salvation. The Bible is clear that salvation comes by the grace of God through man's faith, and is only possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The Bible standard of full salvation is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As a person receives the Holy Spirit, God causes them to speak in an unlearned language as a sign to them and others that they have received it. (3)

About the Gospel

"The gospel" is the good news that Jesus **died for our sins**, was **buried**, and **rose again**. We obey the gospel by **repentance** (death to sin), **water baptism** in the name of Jesus Christ (burial), and receiving the gift of the **Holy Spirit** (resurrection). (4)

About Christian Living

As Christians, we are given two basic mandates from God. First, to love God with everything we've got, and to love other people. Second, we are to make new disciples for Christ through preaching the gospel to the world. In fulfilling these mandates, we should live a life that is holy... both inwardly and outwardly. We should worship God joyfully and wholeheartedly. In addition, God provides spiritual gifts that He intends to be working in the church today, including healing, miracles and supernatural faith. (5)

About the Future

Jesus Christ is coming again to fulfill the promise of taking His spirit-filled church to Heaven. In the end will be the final judgment, and all the righteous saints who are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise will inherit eternal life. The reward of the un-righteous will be an eternal Hell. (6)

Notes: (1) 2 Timothy 3:16. (2) Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16. (3) Romans 3:23-25; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:20,21; Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5; (4) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 2:4, 37-39; Romans 6:3-4. (5) Mark 12:28-31; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. (6) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:11-15

In essential beliefs — we have UNITY.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT) We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.

In non-essential beliefs — we have LIBERTY.

Romans 14:1-22 (NIV) Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters ... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls ... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God ... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

In all our beliefs — we show CHARITY.

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NCV) ... I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing.

Our Salvation

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing **“WHY?”** They exist with no idea of why they live, or God’s purpose for them. The most basic question a person can ask is, **“What is the meaning of my life?”** Everyone wants to be happy, and people try to achieve happiness in many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring **possessions**.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing **pleasure**.
- Some look for happiness by gaining **prestige**.
- Some look for happiness by seeking **power**.

But real happiness only comes from finding my _____.! If that is true, then what is my purpose for being alive?

I was created by God to have a personal _____ with Him.

John 10:10 (TEV) *The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness.*

If this is the kind of lifestyle that God intends for us to live, why are most people still searching for real happiness?

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



Romans 6:23a (KJV) *For the wages of sin is death;*

1. Man has a desire to be his own boss and to ignore God's principles for living. The Bible calls this attitude _____.

Isaiah 53:6 (NLT) *All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on **him** the guilt and sins of us all.*

1 John 1:8 (NLT) *If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.*

2. Sin _____ our relationship with the Lord and causes us to **fear** Him and live our lives outside His will.

Isaiah 59:2 (CEV) *Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That's why he doesn't answer your prayers or let you see his face.*

Romans 3:23 (LB) *Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal;*

3. When our relationship with God is not right, it causes _____ in every other area of our lives.

Proverbs 16:25 (NIV) *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

4. Even when we realize that our deepest need is God, we often try _____ of getting to know Him.

- "I come from a Christian family"
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn salvation."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."
- "My religion teaches it a different way."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe – just be sincere."
- "I'm as good as the next guy."

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?



Romans 6:23 (KJV) *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

John 14:6 (NIV) *Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship with Him. He took the initiative to take care of our sins! Now He is waiting for each of us to individually receive what He has done. We do this by believing in Him (faith), and obeying His plan for our salvation.

What is that plan?

FAITH

1. The Bible teaches it is essential to _____ in God.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) *So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*

2. Real faith causes you to _____ on what you believe.

James 2:14 (NLT) *Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone.*

James 2:17 (NIV) *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

3. So **what** do we need to believe? Believe the _____!

1 Corinthians 15:2-4 (LB) *And it is this Good News that saves you if you still firmly believe it, unless of course you never really believed it in the first place. I passed on to you right from the first what had been told to me, that Christ died for our sins just as the Scriptures said he would, and that he was buried, and that three days afterwards he arose from the grave just as the prophets foretold.*

The Gospel is the _____, _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ. Our obedience must reflect all three! Just as Jesus experienced “Death, Burial and Resurrection”, we must also experience the same. Acts 2:38 tells us to “Repent (**death**), be Baptized (**burial**) and Receive the Holy Spirit (**resurrection**)”.



REPENTANCE

REPENTANCE is actually the first step **with action involved** that we take toward salvation. Faith precedes repentance; it is the inward work that makes us want to repent. Repentance is a personal but often public step bringing about positive results in our lives. Because we have a sinful nature, and have committed sinful acts, it is **essential** that we repent.

1. Repentance is not the same as _____, which is doing acts required by a priest to receive “absolution” for sin. This is not Biblical, but merely religious tradition.

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT) *We are all infected and impure with sin. When we proudly display our righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall. And our sins, like the wind, sweep us away.*

2. Repentance is not merely “_____” for your sins, although that is part of it. In fact, it is this “godly sorrow” that causes us to repent in the first place!

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV) *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

3. Repentance is Biblically defined as a “turning around” or an “about face.” It is an inward change of _____ leading to an outward change of _____.

Matthew 3:8 (NLT) *Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God.*

4. Repentance is essential for salvation. God wants to save, but wants us to _____ to His love by turning from sin.

Romans 2:4 (NLT) *Don't you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Or don't you care? Can't you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin?*

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) *People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.*

1 John 1:9 (KJV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

5. When I repent, I am applying the _____ of Christ to my life, making it effective in me!

***Galatians 5:24 (NLT)** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

***Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)** Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.*

BAPTISM IN WATER

WATER BAPTISM is another step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. **Repentance must always precede baptism**, for they work together to accomplish the forgiveness of sins. In the same way, **repentance without baptism is incomplete**. God's Word teaches that water baptism is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation, and gives us very **specific** requirements as to the **MODE** (what is DONE) and the **FORMULA** (what is SAID) of baptism.

1. Who should be baptized?

- Anyone who has believed the Gospel and _____.

***Acts 2:38, 41 (KJV)** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized ...*

***Acts 8:12 (CEV)** But when they believed what Philip was saying about God's kingdom and about the name of Jesus Christ, they were all baptized.*

- Anyone who is old enough to _____ repentance.

At The Pentecostals we wait until our children are old enough to understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice the baptism of infants, but this custom did not begin until about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism that is taught in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe and repent.

- Anyone who may have been baptized previously in a _____ way than the baptism taught in the Bible.

Acts 19:3-5 (LB) *"Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?" he asked. And they replied, "What John the Baptist taught." Then Paul pointed out to them that John's baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin to God and that those receiving his baptism must then go on to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

2. Why should I be baptized?

- To follow the _____ set by Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:13-15 (TEV) *At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.*

- Because the Lord _____ us to do it.

Mark 16:15-16 (KJV) *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that **believeth not** shall be damned.*

- Because the original church _____ it.

Acts 10:48 (KJV) *And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord ...*

Acts 22:16 (NLT) *And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord.*

3. How should I be baptized?

- By being _____ in water ...
 - The Lord Jesus was baptized by immersion.

Matthew 3:16 (NLT) After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water ...

- Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

Acts 8:38-39 (CEV) He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. After they had come out of the water ...

- The word baptism actually means “immersion.”

The Greek word “baptizo” literally means “to immerse or submerge under water.”

- It is the best portrayal of a burial and resurrection.

Romans 6:4 (NLT) For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

- In the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ ...

- Every baptism in the Bible was in Jesus’ name.

- ***THE DAY OF PENTECOST:*** Acts 2:38
- ***THE SAMARITANS:*** Acts 8:15-16
- ***THE HOUSEHOLD OF CORNELIUS:*** Acts 10:48
- ***THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN:*** Acts 19:5
- ***THE APOSTLE PAUL:*** Acts 22:16

- The epistles teach baptism in the name of Jesus.

- **Galatians 3:27 (KJV)** *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- **Colossians 2:12 (KJV)** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
- Jesus is the only name with power to save us.
 - **Acts 4:12 (KJV)** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
 - **Matthew 28:18-19 (KJV)** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

4. What happens at baptism?

- I take on the only _____ name, Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:27 (PHI) All of you who were baptized 'into' Christ have put on the family likeness of Christ.

- My sins are washed away or _____.

Luke 24:47 (KJV) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- I am "buried" to portray the death of my _____.

Colossians 2:12 (CEV) And when you were baptized, it was the same as being buried with Christ. Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death.

- I am "born of the water" to portray my _____.

John 3:3, 5 (NLT) Jesus replied, I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God ... The truth is, no one

can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

- My conscience is _____ from past guilt.

1 Peter 3:21 (AMP) *And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

- I _____ commit myself to Christ and His church.

Acts 2:41-42 (NLT) *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church – about three thousand in all. They joined in with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ...*

- I apply Christ's _____ to my life, making it effective.

Romans 6:4 (JER) *In other words, when we were baptized we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.*

BAPTISM IN SPIRIT

Receiving **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** is another step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. God's Word teaches that this "Spirit baptism" is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation, and promises the Holy Spirit to every believer! The Holy Spirit is the indwelling Spirit of God, which gives us the power to live a Christian life. Some people ask, "Do I have to have the Holy Spirit to be saved?" We always answer, "You get to have the Holy Spirit!" It is the highest privilege.

1. Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is _____.

- It was prophesied by Isaiah.

- Isaiah 28:9-12 – with stammering lips and another tongue
- 1 Corinthians 14:21 – Paul says Isaiah spoke of the Holy Spirit
- It was prophesied by Joel.
 - Joel 2:28-29 – God’s Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh
 - Acts 2:16-18 – Peter says Joel spoke of the Holy Spirit
- It was prophesied by John the Baptist.
 - Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:18, Luke 3:16, John 1:33 – John said that the Messiah (Jesus) would baptize us with the Holy Spirit
- It was prophesied by Jesus Christ.
 - John 7:37-39, John 4:10-14 – rivers of living water
 - John 3:1-8 – born again “of the spirit”
 - John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13 – the comforter will come

2. What is the Holy Spirit? It is simply the Spirit of _____.

- It is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9-11, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-18)
- It is a baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:5)
- It is a birth (John 3:5-8)
- It is a seal (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22)
- It is the earnest of our inheritance (2 Cor. 1:22, 5:5, Eph. 1:13-14)
- It is a rest (Isaiah 28:12, Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 4:1-11)
- It is the spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:4-7, Eph. 1:5)
- It is living water (1 Corinthians 10:1-4, John 4:10-14, 7:37-39)
- It is power from on high (Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:8, 1 Pet. 1:12, Gal. 5:16)
- It is the comforter (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13)

3. The Holy Spirit gives me _____ to live for God.

- It brings me rest, peace and joy (Isaiah 28:11-12, Romans 14:17)
- It helps me pray (Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20)
- It gives me power to witness to others (Acts 1:8, 4:31)
- It teaches and guides me (John 14:26, 16:13)
- It gives me power over Satan (Lu. 10:19-20, Is. 59:19, 1 Jo. 4:1-4)
- It opens the door to other Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12 & 14)

- It enables me to go to Heaven when Jesus returns for his church (Romans 8:11)

4. The initial evidence of the Holy Spirit is _____.

- When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- Isaiah prophesied of God speaking to His people through stammering lips and another tongue (Isaiah 28:9-12).
- Simon the Sorcerer observed "evidence" when the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).
- Cornelius' household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-48).
- Believers who had only experienced the baptism of John the Baptist were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).
- Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), and spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 14:18).

5. Why did God choose speaking in tongues as a sign?

- God is sovereign and can do what He wants (Isaiah 40:13-14)
- The Bible teaches "from the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34)
- The tongue is our chief means of expression (Proverbs 18:20-21)
- The tongue is the most difficult for us to control (James 3:2-8)
- Speaking in tongues is a universal & uniform sign (Acts 11:15-17)
- God can use things that are unusual to do His will (1 Cor. 1:25-29)
- Speaking in tongues reverses the confusion of the Tower of Babel
- God has often used outward signs to accompany His covenants
- Speaking in tongues gives certainty since it is a definite experience

6. Who can have the Holy Spirit? The Bible says "_____!"

- God's promise of the Holy Spirit is to be poured out on all flesh (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-17).
- John the Baptist didn't exclude anyone in his preaching about the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

- Peter declared that the Holy Spirit was for the Jews and those “afar off” (Acts 2:39).
- God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (Luke 11:13).
- God’s Word declares that He will give the Holy Spirit to those that obey Him (Acts 5:32).

7. I want to receive the Holy Spirit. What do I need to do?

- Believe the Gospel & repent of your sins (Luke 24:47, Acts 20:21)
- Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38)
- Be comfortable as you are praying to receive God’s gift (Acts 2:2)
- You don’t have to beg for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13, Acts 5:32)
- Offer worship to God (Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 116:17)
- Let the Spirit of God flow through you (John 4:14, 7:37-38)
- Forget human reasoning and lose yourself in God (Isaiah 55:9)
- Surrender your tongue (Mt. 18:2-4, Isa. 28:11, Ac. 2:4, Psa. 81:10)
- You will express yourself emotionally and uniquely (Acts 13:52)
- You’ll be in control, but “drink deep!” (1 Cor. 14:32, Jo. 4:14, 7:38)
- You will receive the Holy Spirit! (Mk. 16:17, Acts 11:17, Acts 19:2)

8. When I receive the Holy Spirit, the _____ of Jesus Christ is applied to my life, making it effective in me!

- When Jesus was crucified and buried, these were ACTS OF MEN. But when He resurrected, it was an ACT OF GOD!
- When we repent and get baptized, these are ACTS OF MEN (i.e. we choose to do them in obedience to God’s Word).
- But when God fills us with the Holy Spirit, it is not an ACT OF MEN. It is a miraculous ACT OF GOD!

Our Structure

In order to enable and fulfill our Statements and Salvation, we have established a working structure.

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 (NIV) *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace ... everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

The **NATURE** of the church must determine its **STRUCTURE**.

1. The church is a _____.
 - The top priority in a fellowship is unity (Ephesians 4:3)
 - Any attitude that causes disunity is sin (1 Corinthians 1:10)
2. The church is a _____.
 - Families run on the basis of relationships, not rules (1 Peter 3:8)
 - The stronger the relationship, the fewer the rules (1 Tim. 5:1-2)
3. The church is a _____.
 - The church is an organism, not an organization (Ephesians 1:23)
 - We function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not titles (1 Cor. 12:6-7)
4. The church is a _____.
 - The church is to be cared for and led by shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-2)
 - The pastors administrate, the people do the ministry (Eph. 4:11-12)

YOUR COMMITMENT

COMMITMENT is the difference between a church *attender* and a church *member*. Make it your purpose to move from the *edge* to the *center* of the church.

- Community
- Crowd
- Congregation
- Committed
- Core



*Connecting, Growing,
Serving and Going in
Jesus Christ*





The Pentecostals