

EFFECTS OF THE PENTECOST EXPERIENCE ON THE EARLY CHURCH
AND ITS RELEVANCE TO CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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ABSTRACT

This work is a study of the effects of the Pentecost experience on the early Church and its relevance to contemporary Christian ministry. It examined how the Pentecost experience had affected the early church. The researcher employed the historical and thematic methods as an approach for the research. The historical method is employed with the aim of getting historical facts from the historical narratives and accounts of the Bible in connection with the Pentecost event while the employment of the thematic method is used for discussion of relevant biblical themes in relation to the event of the Pentecost. Through the findings in this work in relation to the Pentecost experience by the apostles, it was discovered that: the Pentecost experience happened as a result of Christ's promise and the disciples' obedience, the apostles received divine empowerment to carry out the Great Commission with proven signs and wonders following them. The early disciples were able to establish a community of faith guided by love and unity which affected their world positively. The early Church grew and became spiritually dynamic due to constant study of the Word of God in the Temple. The disciples were given to incessant and meaningful prayer and fellowship meetings, and the Holy Spirit was the source of all the mighty things that happened in early Church. The researcher, based on these findings thus recommended to the contemporary Christian ministers to be more obedient to the commandments given by Christ through His Word. They should crave and pray for more of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. The Christians today should also allow love and unity dominate their hearts always irrespective of their differences. They should be more pro-active and committed to the Great Commission, and should endeavour to be more dedicated to the regular study of the Word of God for prosper guidance.

CONCLUSION

Based on this study, and from varying scholarly and authorial standpoints, the Holy Spirit baptism which the early Church had remains what is mostly needful in the Church of Christ after the early apostles because without the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers in Christ Jesus, the existence of the Church on the earth would be of no value. In fact, the Church would be engulfed by the total darkness and decadent state of the world it should be light and life unto. It would be of no relevance to the redemptive work the Lord Jesus Christ commanded her to continue after His ascension. The Church today should therefore not think that material increase, ultra-modern structures and buildings, electronic gadgets, wealth and prosperity mean unction and anointing. This kind of thought would not make the Church to have a repeat or replay of the supernatural experience and results the early church had. The only thing which is eternally significant is for the Church to be endowed with power from on high.

In addition, the relevance of the Pentecost experience on the early Church was very evidential as it affected their ministerial (mission and evangelism), social and economic lives that translated into affecting the world of their days for God, in Christ Jesus. The Church today also needs to go in this dimension.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering all that has been done in carrying out this research, and the result it produced based on all what has been discussed so far, the researcher strongly recommends that:

1. the contemporary Christian ministry in all her endeavour should crave and pray for

more of the Holy Spirit's indwelling power.

2. the contemporary Christian ministry should constantly study the Word of God and be obedient to it in a practical way.
3. Christians today should endeavour to live together in true and practical love among themselves.
4. the Christian ministry should get engaged in Spirit-driven and proactive mission work.
5. the Church today should be more prayerful and fervently at it without ceasing.