

The Pentecostal Experience Bible Study

By Truth Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church

We believe the scriptures are divinely inspired and, "of no private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20-21). Therefore, every effort has been made to present the pure Word of God without adding to or taking away from its teachings (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6).

It is not our intention to diminish any personal relationship you may have with our Lord. Neither do we desire to convince you of our own personal ideas or the creeds of any denomination. We simply desire to share the truth as it is written. Only by claiming the Bible as our sole authority can any of us be confident of our salvation, for it is the Word of God and not the traditions of men that will judge us all in the end.

Let us read 2 Timothy 3:15-16 as we begin our journey into the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:15-16

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The subject of this Bible Study is "The Pentecostal Experience"

The Pentecostal Experience Bible Study

The Pentecostal Experience is a deeper experience with God than many Christians obtain, it is a genuine new birth experience. The terms "new birth" and "born again" are some of the most common phrases throughout the history of Christianity, yet most church members do not know what it really means. There are a lot of believers that have had experiences with God but have not had a "new birth" experience.

Part One

Let's read the scriptures that tell about the new birth.

John 3:1-10

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Jesus made some very strong statements here.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be **born again**, he **cannot see** the kingdom of God.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man **be born of water** and **of the Spirit**, he **cannot enter** into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said, "we cannot see nor enter the kingdom of God unless we are born again."

Who needs to be saved?

Everyone, because we are all sinners.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:10

As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (See Romans 5:19)

Jesus said in **Mark 2:17**

They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Since we are all sinners, what do we need to do to be saved?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 11:6

But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that **cometh to God** must **believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently **seek** him.

As a sinner coming to God, we must believe that he is and seek Him.

How do we seek Him?

Romans 10:10

For with the heart man **believeth** unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation.

We must all come to a realization that we are sinners and accept Jesus as the Savior and **confess** our sins to the Lord.

This is called repentance

Repentance means to ask forgiveness of our sins and forsake them. This was the very first theme that Jesus preached.

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus **began** to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Repentance is a very important part of salvation. It prepares our hearts to be born again.

Jesus spoke strongly about repentance, just as He did about being born again

Luke 13:3

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Listen to Jesus Again.

Luke 24:45-47

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Two Things Would be Preached... **Repentance and remission of sins:**

- How? It would be preached in **HIS NAME**
- Where? It would begin in **JERUSALEM**. (This was fulfilled in **Acts 2:38**)

Repentance means: the "the act of turning about; an about face" (from sin to God).

Hebrews 6:1

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Faith and repentance are the foundation.

Part Two

Let's look closer at what Jesus told Nicodemus about being born again.

Jesus wants everyone to be a born **again** believer, not just a believer.

Jesus told Nicodemus that "except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus wanted to know **how** to be born again.

John 3:4

Nicodemus saith unto him, **How** can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the **second time** into his **mother's womb**, and be born?

Nicodemus thought to be born again was another natural birth, but Jesus explained that it is a spiritual birth.

John 3:5

Except a man be **born of water** and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

- There are two things that the new birth consists of: a birth of the water and a birth of the Spirit.
- To be born again means to be born the second time, of the water and the Spirit.
- The first "natural birth," we are born of water, or amniotic fluid.
- But this passage is referring to a second birth. Notice the words "born again" and "second time."
- The **second birth** of the water is **baptism**.

The Greek word for **baptism** is bapto and baptiso, meaning to cover wholly with a fluid.

So, then, to be born again of the water means to be baptized

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

If baptism is so important to Jesus, then it must be properly administered.

Jesus himself set an example of immersion.

Matthew 3:16

And Jesus, when he was baptized, **went up straightway out of the water:** and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

- All other Biblical accounts are by immersion.
- The method of sprinkling is not found in the Bible.

What does baptism do for us? It **removes, remits, or washes away** our sins.

Ananias told Paul:

Acts 22:16

And now why tamest thou? arise, and be **baptized**, and **wash away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.

Peter told the crowd at Pentecost:

Acts 2:38

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.

Some religious leaders of our day would have us think that baptism is just an outward sign that we have accepted Christ and that it does not remit sins.

Some tell us that the proper formula to pronounce over the baptismal candidate is to use the titles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

- The Catholic encyclopedia states that the original formula that was used by the Apostles was in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Trinity formula was developed later, being introduced at the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.
- This formula is known as the Trinity formula and was developed at the Council of Constantinople in the year 381 A.D.

Jesus commissioned his apostles in Matthew 28:19:

Mat 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Notice the term "name" is singular. It did not say "name(s)"

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles, not names.

Many simply repeat the Lord's command found in Matthew 28:19 instead of obeying it. Baptism using a threefold formula was not practiced by or taught by the disciples of Jesus Christ.

- What is the Name of the Father?

John 5:43

"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

- What is the Name of the Son?

Matthew 1:21

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

John 20:31

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

- What is the Name of the Holy Ghost?

John 14:26

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

The Holy Ghost is not a name... It is a title for the SPIRIT OF GOD.

This brings us to one of the most beautiful revelations of the bible: The Message of who Jesus Really Is!

- The name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is Jesus!
- The disciples never had a single conflict over baptism in the New Testament.
- WHY? Because they understood the singleness or oneness of God.

Observe:

John 10:30

"I and my Father are one."

John 14:8-11

"Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

John 14:25-27

"These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." THE HOLY GHOST IS JESUS IN SPIRIT FORM!

These three titles refer to the different roles of the same **ONE GOD!** He is Father in creation; Son in redemption; Holy Ghost in His body, the church!

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD."

Every account of baptism in the New Testament was administered in the name of Jesus.

Acts 8:16

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were **baptized** in the **name of the Lord Jesus.**)

Acts 10:48

And he commanded them to be baptized in the **name of the Lord.**

Acts 19:5

When they heard this, they were **baptized in** the **name of the Lord Jesus.**

Peter, the first New Testament preacher, used the name of Jesus, not the titles.

Acts 2:38

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.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other **name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be **saved.**

The name of Jesus is what saves us. The water alone has no power. But it is in the name of Jesus. That name is what puts the virtue in the water to wash away sins; by His blood are we saved.

Look at Paul's own baptism:

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Paul thought the name of Jesus was so important that he re-baptized some disciples in the name of Jesus.

Acts 19:1-5 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding **certain disciples**, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were **baptized** in the **name of the Lord Jesus**.

Part Three

Jesus spoke of another birth.

John 3:5

Except a man be born of water and of **the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

To be born again of the spirit means to be **baptized by the Spirit**.

John the Baptist said, **Mark 1:8**

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall **baptize** you with the **Holy Ghost**.

Jesus said, **Acts 1:4-5**

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be **baptized** with the **Holy Ghost** not **many days hence**.

Jesus died on the day of the Passover. He rose again the third day.

Acts 1:3

To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them **forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Not many days later, in a **seven-day** prayer meeting that culminated on the 50th day, God baptized them with the Holy Ghost.

Pentecost means the 50th day. Therefore, **Pentecostals** are referred to as those who have received the **same experience** as they did that day.

What happened?

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were **all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the **Spirit gave them utterance**.

Some religious leaders of our day insist that this does not happen today.

Life magazine, the Millennial Edition 1997, stated that there are over 500 million Pentecostals in the world.

Acts 2:16-17

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit** upon all flesh: That's why the Pentecostal movement is the fastest growing movement on the face of the earth.

If you have never been born again of the Spirit, this experience is for you

Some religious leaders would have you believe that you automatically receive the Holy Ghost at the moment you believe.

There is no scripture that states this. The Apostle Paul even asked some believers in Acts 19:2

Acts 19:2

He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Jesus said, John 7:38-39

He that **believeth** on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the **Spirit**, which they that **believe** on him **should** receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

These verses prove that a person does not automatically receive the Holy Ghost at believing. Receiving the Holy Ghost is a part of the full salvation experience that is built on the foundation of believing, repentance, and water baptism.

Jesus gave Nicodemus a secret about those who are born of the Spirit.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is **every one** that is born of the Spirit.

Jesus said, you can't tell where the Spirit comes from nor where it goes, but you will be able to hear the sound of the Spirit.

There was a distinct sound that happened on the day of Pentecost, and it happens every time someone is born of the Spirit.

Acts 2:4

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

Tongues is the evidence that a person has received God's spirit.

Verse eight said, **so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.**

Isaiah 28:11

For with stammering lips and **another tongue** will he speak to this people.

Why did God choose to use tongues as the evidence of the Holy Ghost?

James 3:6-8

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is **set on fire of hell**. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: **But the tongue can no man tame;** it is an **unruly evil**, full of deadly poison.

- The tongue is the most unruly member. Man cannot tame it himself, only God can.
- The tongue is the last member of our bodies to yield to God.
- That's why God chose to use it as the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Some don't understand these things

- Nicodemus didn't understand either. He asked, "How can these things be?"
- Jesus said to him, "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

- Even though Nicodemus was knowledgeable in the scriptures, he didn't know about being born again of the water and the Spirit.

Jesus wants everyone to be born again of the Spirit.

What does the Holy Ghost do for us?

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy** in the **Holy Ghost**.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive **power**, after that the **Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Romans 8:11

But if the **Spirit** of him that raised up Jesus from the dead **dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**.

The Holy Ghost will lead us into all truth, it gives righteousness, peace, joy, and power to overcome sin; and if the Spirit dwells in us, it will quicken our mortal bodies in the rapture

******* TEST *******

1. According to Romans 3:23, how many of us are sinners? _____
2. What is the first step in coming to God according to Hebrews 11:6? _____
3. Confessing our sins to the Lord is called _____.
4. According to Hebrews 6:1, faith and _____ is the foundation that our relationship with God is built upon.
5. Jesus said, "Except ye _____, ye shall all likewise perish."
6. The new birth is a birth of the _____ and of the _____.
7. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is _____ shall be saved."
8. What is the name that should be pronounced over a baptismal candidate?

9. Ananias told Paul to be baptized and wash away his _____.
10. Being filled with God's Spirit is called the _____ of the Holy Ghost.
11. The day of Pentecost was the ____ day after Passover.
12. Can people still receive the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues?

13. Does a person automatically receive the Holy Ghost at the moment they believe?

14. Paul asked some believers, "Have ye received the _____ since ye believed?"
15. Is the new birth essential for salvation? _____
16. According to Romans 8:11, what will quicken our mortal bodies in the rapture?

17. Jesus told Nicodemus a secret: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the _____ thereof.
18. Isaiah said, "For with stammering lips and _____ will he speak to this people."
19. The tongue is an unruly evil, set on fire of hell and no man can _____ it.
20. After a person receives the Holy Ghost they receive power to be a _____.