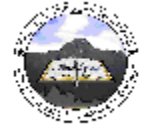




# On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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## Editors Note#

This issue of “On The Frontier” contains a compilation of articles written for our local newspaper “The Frontiersman.” By doing this we wish to give you, the reader, an idea of how news-media may be utilized to further the Gospel. Hopefully this will inspire you to pursue your local resources for the same purpose.

## What Is A Christian?

The term “Christian” is bandied about commonly yet rarely understood. Some think participation in a given denomination makes one a Christian. While it is true that a number of sects, sub-sects and denominations are known as Christian, this in and of itself is not the biblical criteria for being a Christian.

In any field there can be found sources, some more authoritative than others. Just how authoritative a given source is depends largely on the source’s relationship to the information. With Christianity all information must be gleaned from the Bible. It’s from the Bible that we learn about Jesus Christ. We accept the need for a rule book in sports and the like. Why should we think differently about Christianity?

Muslims refer to the Quran, Hindus the Bhagavad Gita, Taoists the I Ching and Christians the Bible. Even those of the Jewish faith consult the

Bible in their research of the Torah (the Five Books of Moses). Thus, THE authority for information regarding Christians and Christianity is the Bible. Therefore, if we want to know what it is that makes one a Christian we must go to the correct source, namely the Bible.

Some will say there are different views regarding the Scripture. I direct you to the Bible itself for proper perspective.

### II Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

The first thing we are to know is that Bible prophecy is not open to our private interpretation. It’s important to understand here that prophecy is not always a foretelling of future events. At times prophecy is not a foretelling at all but simply a telling forth. So, if we are not to privately interpret the Bible it must interpret itself and it does. The Word of God says what it means and means what it says. It is intended to be taken literally 85% of the time or more. Whenever it’s not literally true to fact it’s either a legitimate figure of speech or a cultural colloquialism. The reason is to amplify the Truth, thus making it more vivid for us. A figure of speech (the Bible has over 217 different types of figures with as many as 40 variations within each) is never intended to water down or diminish

the truth. That being said, most passages are to be taken literally. How then did we get this Word of God? By revelation from God (Galatians 1:11,12; Ephesians 3:3-5). In a manner of speaking men took “dictation” from and for God.

What does the Bible say about being a Christian? Actually the English word Christian is translated from the Greek word *christianos* and this word occurs only three times in the entire Bible, the first occurrence being the most significant to our understanding.

From the WEY version:

Acts 11:26b . . . And it was in Antioch that the disciples first received the name of ‘Christians.’

Why did they name them thus? It was a derogatory classification based upon the things they heard the disciples say. In effect they were saying, “They say they have Christ in them, those Christians!”

Colossians 1:27b. . . Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The disciples knew they had Christ in them (spiritually) because Jesus told them and they spoke openly about it.

### John 14:20

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

A Christian is one in whom Christ is! A person simply sitting in a Church cannot rightly be called a Christian anymore than the wheelbarrow in my

garage can be called a Harley Davidson. I can call it a Harley but that will not make it one. To become a Christian one must do the following:

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Becoming a Christian is simple!

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

There are manifold followers in the many "Christian" religions of the world, among them surely there are those in whom Christ is. However, being a member of a group is not what makes one a Christian. No religious affiliation can put Christ in you. Only God can and this He does by faith when we receive His Son as our Lord and Savior! Incidentally, being a Christian doesn't guarantee Christian behavior.

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## Truth vs Tradition

Tradition in and of itself is neither good nor bad. Tradition becomes problematic when set at odds with God's Word. This is important to understand and timely, as Christians world wide will soon celebrate what's commonly called Easter. Most think the word Easter is found throughout the entire Bible. It is not! It has only one occurrence in the Scripture and that depends upon the version you consult.

Acts 12:4

And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

The above is from the Authorized King James Version and contains the only occurrence of the English word "Easter" in the entire Bible. A consideration of the Koine Greek (the text from which the New Testament was translated) reveals the word *pascha* which should have been translated "passover." This is why the American Standard Version of 1901 renders it thus:

Acts 12:4

And when he had taken him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to guard him; intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people."

If you doubt the veracity of this simple research you can verify that *pasha* is found 29 times in the New Testament and translated 28 times correctly as Passover. Another point is that this word *pasha* is Aramaic in origin. This is not unusual as there are other Hebrew and Aramaic words found untranslated in the New Testament because they have no corresponding Greek or English word. Not to worry though, as we clearly understand Jesus Christ to be the Lamb of God who has become our Passover and was sacrificed for us.

I Corinthians 5:7

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Haven't you ever wondered why the Hebrew observance of Passover always

seems to coincide with Easter? Now you know why. As the Judeans set about to sacrifice the Passover lamb that year, the true Lamb of God was being sacrificed on Calvary's tree! Sad that they should value tradition above Christ's sacrifice.

The first Passover was when God delivered Israel from the slavery of Egypt. Pharaoh refused to let Israel go and all Egypt suffered ten plagues. The last of which was the death of all the first born in the land. Israel kept the instructions God gave them by way of Moses and the angel of death "passed over" them. God told them to keep the Passover supper as a memorial and over time He made a few changes. But after a bit Israel made changes of her own and this memorial became nothing more than a tradition of men. This is testified to by their keeping their tradition and rejecting the True Passover Lamb. Remarkably this they did on the very day and hour that Christ was sacrificed. Because of Christ's sacrifice, sin and its consequences have passed over the Christian!

Here's what Jesus thought about the traditions of men:

Mark 7:6b-9 . . . Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, *as* the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God,

that ye may keep your own tradition.

That which most call Easter weekend, I call Resurrection weekend. Easter is derived from Ishtar. She was a false goddess worshiped by pagans in spring. Spring was significant to them because of the life they saw "springing" forth. Since they worshiped the creation more than the Creator, fertility was central to their worship. This accounts, in part, for the bizarre relationship between bunny and egg. Both being symbols of prolific reproduction. How did this happen? Early Christians compromised Truth for tradition in an attempt to gain followers. Do I advocate change in terminology, or rejection of chocolate? Nah! That would be religion (Romans 14; Colossians 2:16-ff) and I'm for Truth! I like chocolate but I love Truth! Isn't it nice to know the Truth?

In case you were wondering why "Easter" is never on the same day, it's because the Julian (Roman) calendar bases the date on the cycles of the moon. Imagine that! Just a little food for thought, that's all.

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## Christianity vs Religion

According to the World Christian Database there are over 9,000 denominations and 19 major religions. In the past, Roman Catholic apologists asserted that there may be as many as 30,000 Protestant Denominations. While most agree that this figure seems bloated, similar numbers are said to be found in the World Christian Encyclopedia. David A. Barrett in Oxford University Press cites a figure of 20,780 denominations. However, he contends only 8,196 of these are Protestant and

223 are Roman Catholic. In reality no one knows how many denominations and religions there are. Perhaps the best answer is "As many as the sky is wide." One thing's for sure, there's no shortage of religion!

Setting aside the numerous religions of the world (Bahais, Buddhists, Chinese Universists, Confucianists, Ethnoreligionists, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Neoreligionists, Shintoists, Sikhs, Spiritists, Taoists and Zoroastrians) it's abundantly evident that discord exists amongst Christians. Why? Because of internal disputes over doctrine and practice. This lack of concordance has produced a plethora of sects and denominations. How remarkable when you consider the following:

I Timothy 2:5

For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

If you're a Christian, you've accepted Christ as your mediator.

I Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Some mitigate this truth with the notion of there being "many roads that lead to Rome". But, we aren't talking about Rome!

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

No man means no man! Jesus Christ is not one of many ways, Jesus Christ is **THE** way. It's interesting to learn that in Greek the definite article **THE** is used here 3 times to indicate

exclusivity. In other words, there is no other way, truth or life. There's only one way to the Father, namely Jesus Christ! Disagreements over this truth will of course produce different religions. Nevertheless, that's the biblical record. Obviously, Christians ought to take the Bible at its word.

You might be interested to learn that not all "Christian" religions view the Bible as their primary source for faith and practice. Personally the Bible is my **ONLY** rule for faith and practice. Regarding truth, I'm not interested in a man's opinion unless that man is accurately quoting scripture. That means in context, for many pick and choose what scriptures appeal to them. Or worse yet, arrest the verse/verses from their context so as to support a belief or viewpoint. This can be seen in the titling of various denominations.

The Bible clearly says that we're not to privately interpret it (II Peter 1:20,21). This is a clear indication that the Bible means what it says and says what it means. Men may have varying opinions but men come and go, the Word of God lives and abides forever (I Peter 1:23-25). God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). Unlike men, if He says something, He means it!

There's only One God, One Savior and one God breathed Word. But there are thousands of religions. How then can you know which is right? Certainly they can't all be right! Here's something to consider that will help you in your search for truth. All religions are "man-made." Christianity is "God-made." It's what God did in His Son when He raised him from the dead. It's what He does in you when you accept Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9).

Christianity is not a religion at all. It's the relationship of a loving Father with His children. Christianity is not one of the so-called great religions of the world. It is a family affair! It's the ONLY belief system of antiquity where the central figure is yet alive!

Ephesians 1:2-3

Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

You can ask 10 equally intelligent people the same question and get 10 different answers. They can't all be right. Simplify life, ask questions only of the One who knows. A source outside the "seeker" is required for learning. Yet, multiple reference centers lead to confusion. Choose one center for truth. Choose the Bible! Not what men say about it, but what does it say about itself.

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## Perfect Understanding From Above

Far too many ministers speak of the Bible as though it were a story book. The Bible is not just "another" book. It's the inspired Word and Will of Almighty God! It's not a history book, but when history's the topic it's unerring. This cannot be said for history recorded by men. History is seen through the eyes of the historian and consequently the events are colored by the belief system of the reporter. This is NOT the case with the Bible. The Bible was "penned" by man but the words in it are not the words of man. There are some forty

writers in the sixty six books of the Cannon and yet there's not one contradiction among them. This despite the fact that the educations and backgrounds are as varied and unique as the men themselves. For example, an honest and detailed look at the Scripture reveals the structure of one Author.

Some examples of structure are: COGNATE or GRADATIONAL, where the same thought is expressed in different or progressive terms. ANTITHETIC or OPPOSITE, where the terms or subjects are set in contrast. SYNTHETIC, or CONSTRUCTIVE, where the terms or subjects correspond in a similar form of construction, either as equivalent or opposite. INTROVERTED, where, whatever be the number of lines, the first line is parallel with the last; the second with the next to the last; the third with the next but one to the last; and so throughout, until we come to the two corresponding lines in the middle.

Here follows an example of introverted structure:

Isaiah 6:10

Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Biblical structure is also present in the form of ALTERNATION where two or more subjects are repeated alternately. A simple example of this would be: A B A B. An extended form of the same would be A B C A B C.

Simple Alternation as in:

Psalm 19:1-14

A. 1-4-. The Heavens.

B. 4, 6. In them . . . The Sun.

A. 7-10. The Scriptures

B. 11-14. In them . . . Thy Servant.

INTROVERSION - where the subjects are repeated, not in alternation, but in introversion; i.e. from opposite ends as: A B C C B A.

Biblical structure is found, be the "writer" a herdsman or a physician. That being said, structure is only one of numerous ways where the Scripture evidences one and only ONE Author.

The vocabularies used are different because God talks to men in a way that they can understand. Simply put, the "writers" took dictation, they wrote what He wanted written.

Galatians 1:11-12

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Prayer is when you talk to God, revelation is when He or His Son talk to you! Thus the Bible is not just another book! As for the writers being "historians" as some suggest:

Luke 1:1-4

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first [Greek - *anōthen* = from above], to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Luke did not have “perfect understanding” because he was an eyewitness, he had it because he received it from God. This is why we can have certainty in biblical instruction. Incidentally, the Greek word *anōthen* is the very same as used in the phrase “born again [*anōthen*].” Those born of God are born from above!

We would be remiss to trust the perception of men, especially with something as important as eternal life! But trust in God and His Word is well placed because His Word is beyond reproach.

II Timothy 3:16a All scripture is given by inspiration of God [*theopneustos* = God breathed], .

The God breathed Word is unerring and absolutely reliable. When God’s Word declares “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.” that settles it! All that remains is for us to believe it!

**HE IS RISEN,  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

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## Why There Are Four Gospels

Man’s basic spiritual problem is doubting the accuracy and integrity of God’s Word. This is the height of irony as man’s urgent need is to know God. In order to have any knowledge of God you must have God’s Word. Only God can explain Himself and this He does in His Word. Logic demands that you be greater than that which you explain, e.g. Bill Gates can explain Windows, but Windows cannot explain Bill. Man being the product of God makes him incapable of explaining God. Those who endeavor to explain God based on experience, religion, opinion, nature, feelings, theology or mental acumen are fooling themselves by way of their own presumptions. Thankfully, God has made Himself known in writing! How remarkable that God who is infinite chose the finite written word for communication.

**John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word (*logos*) was with God, and the Word (*logos*) was God.

This does not mean the Bible was floating around in heaven with God. However, that which is written in the Bible was in His foreknowledge. There are a number of Greek words translated into English as “word.” God chose the word *logos* because it means communication.

**John 1:14**

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ, the Word in the flesh! God’s ultimate communication to mankind.

**John 1:18**

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

Jesus Christ has made known God! If you want to know God you must know His Son and if you want to know His Son you must know His Word! That is, the spoken Word makes known the written Word which makes known Jesus Christ who makes known God! There is no other way to know God. The notion that God can be known by observing the creation is as farcical as thinking you can know an artist by his artistry. I can appreciate a painting but I cannot hope to know from it the painter’s likes and dislikes much less anything intimate.

Hence, there is a very good reason why there are four Gospel records. Please note: no harmony of the Gospels is worth consideration. So called harmonies are simply egotistical assumptions that these wonderful records lack God given consonance. Understanding that the Scripture is from God’s mind (not man’s), the Bible student can discover the Divine perspective of each Gospel.

Matthew presents Christ as the Son of David, the King of the Jews. The record opens with Christ’s royal genealogy and early in the second chapter we have the Magi inquiring “Where is He that is born King of the Jews?” There are also 10 unique parables relating to a king and “son of David” is used repeatedly.

Mark depicts Christ as Jehovah’s servant. No pedigree is found as servants don’t gain their position that

way. Mark begins with Jesus' ministry rather than his birth.

Luke depicts Christ as a man and the genealogy given (through Joseph) goes back to Adam.

John depicts Christ as the Son of God concentrating accordingly in the very first chapter.

The Messianic prophesies of the Old Testament spoke explicitly of these four aspects found in the "Branch" of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:5a Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King . . .

This fits Matthew!

Zechariah 3:8b. . . I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Ostensibly demonstrated in Mark!

Zechariah 6:12b. . . Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; . . .

Unquestionably realized in Luke!

Isaiah 4:2a In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious . . .

Our Saviour and Lord is emphatically portrayed as the Son of God in John.

God promised a coming Branch who would have 4 major characteristics:

- 1.) King (Matthew)
- 2.) Servant (Mark)
- 3.) Man (Luke)
- 4.) Son of God (John).

All of these characteristics are seen in all 4 Gospels but each puts special focus on one.

Those who assert the Gospels to be contradictory do not understand their narrative nature. Scripture buildup seems foreign to them. Nor can they be students of the Bible (more probably students of men). Generally it isn't the student who sets forth error, more often it's the "teacher" lacking meekness who does so. That person is not qualified to teach!

God obviously thought 4 Gospel records good for a perfect and comprehensive human understanding of His Son's ministry.

Study the Bible, not what men say about it!

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## Learn To Live In A Day-tight Compartment

Modern life abounds with technology designed to simplify, enhance and prolong existence. The desire to ameliorate life has been a driving quest yielding significant progress. We have improved nutrition, hygiene, communication and transportation exponentially. Convenience has become a way of life due to the multitude of work saving technology surrounding us. Yet, the simple principle of living in a day-tight compartment evades most of us. What is a day-tight compartment? It's living in the now of today and not letting anything from yesterday or tomorrow in. Today is THE only day that really matters, yesterday is forever gone and tomorrow may never be yours. If you allow painful memories from yesterday or the gut wrenching concerns of tomorrow to muddy your thinking you

will lose the efficacy of today! Both are heavy loads which can erode the only time you really have, namely NOW! Therefore it behooves you to seal yourself in a day-tight compartment upon rising so that you may live solely in the day set before you.

Learning to live in a day-tight compartment will produce life changing results and help you to live a simpler and more rewarding life. Simplicity is a great key to happiness and fulfillment. The complexity of living in a multi-tasking age is producing unhappy, confused and ineffectual people. To avoid an excess of overwhelming complications, learn to live in a day-tight compartment. Jesus Christ said it best!

Matthew 6:34

Take therefore no [anxious] thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

A wonderful way of dealing with anxiety is prayer!

Philippians 4:6-7

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Notice also that the promise of dealing with anxiety this way is the peace of God! Our thoughts and actions are also vital in this regard.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are

just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Anxiety belies our trust in God, whereas peace validates it. When we bring our concerns to Him, keep our minds on godly, positive issues and DO the Word of God we are blessed.

From the ASV:

I Peter 5:7  
casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you.

Yesterday has vanished along with all its care. Tomorrow's apprehensions will have their own time. You have all you can handle today. Living in a day-tight compartment simplifies life. Along the lines of simplicity is learning to mind one's business!

From WEY version:

I Thessalonians 4:11  
and to vie with one another in eagerness for peace, every one minding his own business and working with his hands, as we ordered you to do:

It's important to remember not to speak evil of others or gossip. It has been said that gossip is iniquity by proxy. Each of us has more than enough to deal with daily. Why add anything to it?

We understand the principle of a water tight compartment, the same may be applied to the day. Draw an imaginary circle around your 24 hour

period and live in it. Don't spill over into yesterday or tomorrow and vice-versa. If that becomes too difficult, circle an hour. Still challenged? Circle 5, 10 or 15 minute periods. What ever it takes to live in the moment without the influence of yesterday and tomorrow.

I know that it's great to get things done but sometimes it's just as great to leave things undone. The trick is to learn how to separate the essentials from the non-essentials. Wisdom begs we eliminate the non-essentials. Live in the now and you will get everything done that you want to. You will be happier for it.

Only one future event deserves our expectations and that is Jesus Christ's Return!

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Learn to live in a day-tight compartment, you will never regret it.

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## Happy 2000 and Something Birthday !

Pentecost is an often celebrated, little understood milestone in His-story! Notwithstanding, it is the birthday of the Christian Church. "Pentecost" is from a Greek word meaning "the fiftieth day." Originally recognized as the second of three Hebrew feasts observed annually. It occurred the

seventh week after Passover as acknowledgment of the consummated harvest.

Leviticus 23:15-16

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

Pentecost is known also as the Feast of Weeks. All three feasts are mentioned below:

Deuteronomy 16:16

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

The first feast listed is that of unleavened bread or Passover. All were to be observed in Jerusalem, the place God chose.

Christian commemoration of this date has much different connotations. Not only as the birth of the Church but also the outpouring of God's gift of holy spirit. Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses in a manner coinciding with and superceding ALL previous sacrifices and ceremonies. The Day of Pentecost was the victorious culmination of Christ's accomplishments in restoring man's relationship to God. Thus, the outpouring of holy spirit was 50 days after our Lord's resurrection and at a time when Jerusalem's population would be at maximum.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they [the 12] 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 [the Temple] where they [the 12] were sitting.

And there appeared unto them [the 12] cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them [the 12].

And they [the 12] were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them [the 12] utterance.

God's gift of holy spirit forever testified to by speaking in tongues! What a magnificent record!

The cue for them to begin was the cloven tongues like as of fire. The phrase "rushing mighty wind" is rendered by Young's Literal of 1898 as "a bearing violent breath." In other words, the Apostles began breathing deeply and the acoustics were such (think concert hall like Lincoln Center) that the sound filled the entire Temple. They did just as Jesus had taught them.

John 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

The first word "them" is not in the MSS (texts) and the word "on" should have been rendered "in." Jesus taught them the how of receiving holy spirit, that is – breath in! He also told them where to wait for the promise.

Acts 1:4

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.

The equivalent of:

Acts 1:5

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

God's gift of holy spirit poured out on Pentecost was His promise and the very element lost by the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:7

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

This was not physical as the religionists would have you believe. One does not suddenly become aware of physical nudity, such a notion is absurd. They became aware of being spiritually "naked." God said that the very day they disobeyed they would die. Clearly their physical lives continued. What died was their spiritual connection with God. You cannot be anymore naked than that!

Our Lord's parting reminder on the day of the Ascension:

From the DBY version:

Luke 24:49

And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but do ye remain in the city till ye be clothed with power from on high.

No longer naked, now fully clothed!

You need not wait like the Apostles. Simply thank God for the gift of His Son and His spirit. Believe, breath in and receive!

Happy Birthday Church!

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