

# Are You Thankful for Pentecost?

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 11-12, 2011.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—The Feast of Pentecost has wonderful history and fantastic memories. Plus, this annual Feast day is rich with tremendous meaning.

Pentecost has many valuable lessons for us to remember. In this article let us consider five lessons.

## **Giving His Ten Commandments**

Are you thankful that God gave His Ten Commandments?

After God brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt—the house of bondage (Exodus 20:1-2)—He proceeded to list some of His expectations for them (verses 3-17).

The apostle Paul, who regularly wrote about the necessity of grace, often also expressed His appreciation for the Ten Commandments (such as in Romans 7:7-14).

Are you thankful for the law that Paul described as holy, just and good? Do you appreciate the spiritual law?

## **Giving His Spirit**

Are you thankful that God gave His Spirit?

On the Day of Pentecost, God poured out His Spirit to the Jewish converts in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4). Since this historical action was done outside the temple worship system, God performed great miracles to show His involvement in the matter.

When God later poured out His Spirit to some gentile converts in Caesarea (Acts 10:44-48), He also performed this historical action outside the temple worship system and again performed great miracles to show His involvement in the matter.

(By mentioning the manner in which God performed these two historical events, I state my belief that God does not perform such miracles every time a person receives the Holy Spirit. My goal is to diminish any unrealistic expect-

tations of a baptism before it occurs and to eliminate any doubt about a baptism after it happens.)

### **Made a better covenant**

Are you thankful that God made a better covenant?

The book of Hebrews mentions that Christ was a mediator of a better covenant because it was based upon better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

The author says that there would not have been a need for a second covenant if the first one was faultless (verse 7).

And what was the fault of the first? The fault was with the people (verse 8).

Therefore, God did not repeat the covenant He made following the Exodus (verse 9), but rather made a covenant based upon His laws being written in the hearts and minds of the people (verse 10).

### **Building a spiritual temple**

Are you thankful that God is building a spiritual temple?

Stephen said that, while Solomon built a house for God (Acts 7:47), the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands (verse 48).

Paul reiterated this concept many times—including in 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16 and Ephesians 2:21-22.

Peter eloquently discussed the matter in 1 Peter 2:5.

Believers are the house of God.

### **Power of God in you**

Are you thankful for the power of God in you?

We thank God that we as people are able to use human qualities—like planning, concentration, determination and discipline—to accomplish successes in this life.

However, there are times when all of those excellent qualities cannot help us to overcome certain situations and challenges in this life.

It is during those times that we gain a greater appreciation for the power of God in us.