



“He will take of
what is Mine and
declare it to you.”

– John 16:14

Understanding the Feast of Pentecost

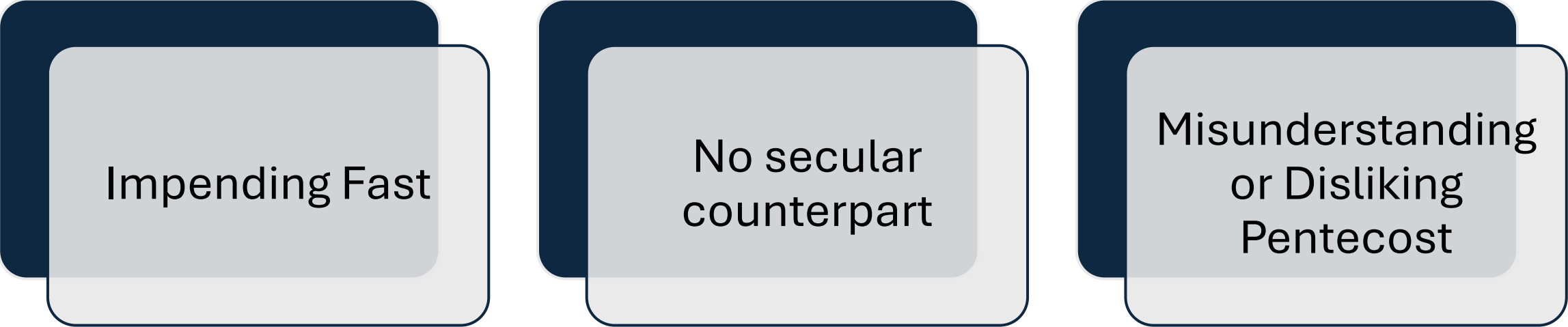
Feast of Pentecost



Introduction

- Pentecost is the last major feast in the church calendar
- Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? **But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.**" (Matt. 9:14-15)

Why Pentecost is Underappreciated



Impending Fast

No secular
counterpart

Misunderstanding
or Disliking
Pentecost



Understanding Pentecost

Preparatory, Manifestation, and Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Preparatory Phase: Old Testament

- Creation
- "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2)
- Bezalel
- "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship." (Exodus 31:3)



Preparatory Phase: Old Testament

- Samson
- "And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him." (Judges 14:6)
- David
- "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward." (1 Samuel 16:13)
- *"In the Old Testament, the Spirit was not in them as indwelling but as a visitor according to the need of the dispensation." (St. Athanasius)*



Manifestation Phase: The Incarnation

- The Annunciation
- "And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)
- Theophany
- "And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'" (Luke 3:22)



Manifestation Phase: The Incarnation

- The Ministry of the Lord
- "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."
(Luke 4:18-19)

Outpouring Phase

- Prophecy
- “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...” (Joel 2:28)
- Pentecost
- “When the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:1-4)



Outpouring Phase

- **The Church**
- Guide to the Church
- "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)
- Indwelling the believer
- "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Giving Gifts
- "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)





The Church Becomes the Body of Christ

- Pentecost is the day the church transformed into **the body of Christ**.
- *“And we ask You, O Lord our God – we Your sinful and unworthy servants worship You by the pleasure of Your goodness – that Your Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts set forth, and purify them, change them, and manifest them as a sanctification of Your saints.”* (Epiclesis, Liturgy of St. Basil)
- We become the presence of the Lord (His body) on earth.

Disliking Pentecost?

Why do some dislike Pentecost?

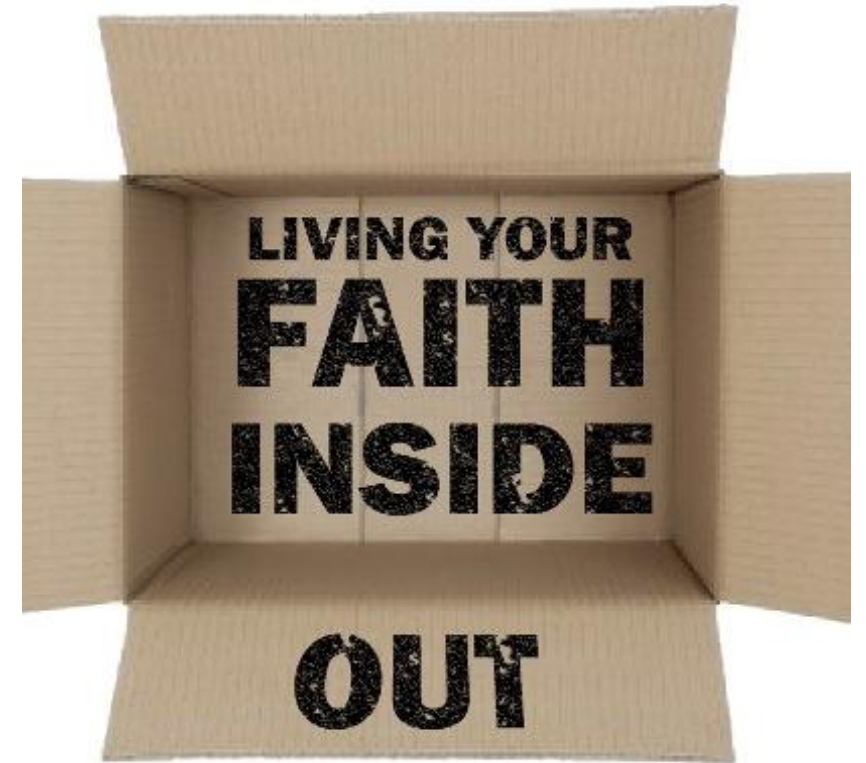


The Holy Spirit as the "Life-giver"

- True life only comes from Christ, who declared Himself "the way, the truth, and the life."
- "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you." (John 6:53)

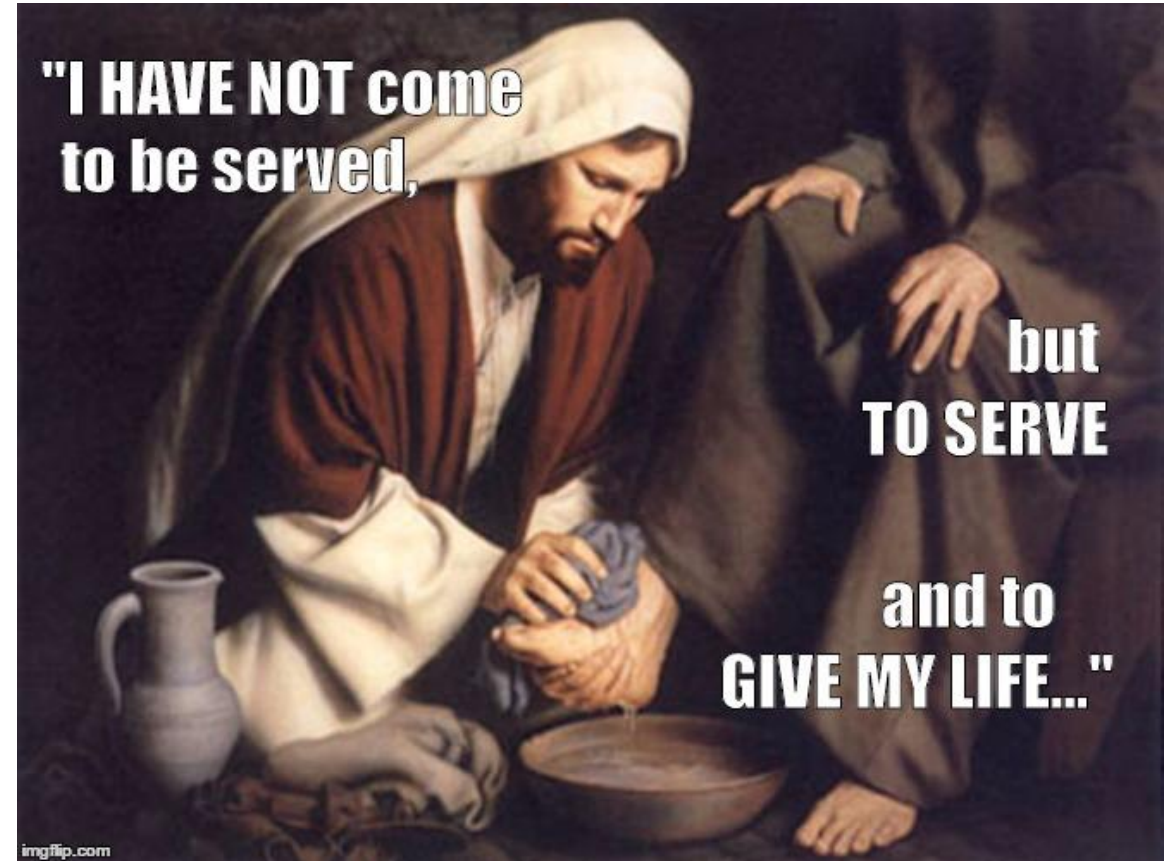
Shift from "Outside In" to "Inside Out"

- Before Pentecost
- After Pentecost
- Thus the Lord said, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” (Jn. 16:7)



A Deeper Reason for Resisting Pentecost

- The Nature of Christ's Life
- The life of Christ is a life of giving, not of receiving.
- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)



The Holy Spirit was given to Empower Giving

- Bezalel (Exodus 31:1-6)
- Saul (1 Samuel 10)
- The Lord Jesus (Day of Epiphany/Theophany)
- Apostles and Disciples (Day of Pentecost)



Desiring the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **self-control.**” (Galatians 5:22-23)
- The Holy Spirit’s work is to make us sacrificial instruments.

Our Transformation

- "As He is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17)
- "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:21)

