

people, who had been given special gifts through the apostles were able to do miracles (Acts 8:18; 1 Corinthians 12).

✿ They teach that all who have faith should experience the miraculous: the ability to do miracles, to speak in “tongues”, to be healed by miracles, to be “blessed” with the material things they desire, through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. **They overlook the fact that physical and material wealth were never promised to Christians, nor is material wealth of any concern to the Holy Spirit. Nor was miraculous healing promised to Christians!**

✿ **Miracles were used in the first century to make believers** (Mark 16:20), not to **heal believers!** Timothy had stomach problems (1 Timothy 5:23), Paul had a thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7), Trophimus was left in Miletus sick (2 Timothy 4:20), Epaphroditus was sick nigh unto death (Philippians 2:25-27) — yet the power of the Holy Spirit was not used to heal believers in any of these cases! **The Pentecostals make many doctrines and claims, but most of them contradict the Scriptures!**

We must realize that if the Pentecostal people were actually functioning and teaching by

the power of the Holy Spirit, there would be no contradictions on these many points with what is already recorded and confirmed in the Scriptures. The Lord’s church is not “Pentecostal”; His people do not wear the name “Pentecostal”; we do not teach and practice doctrines that are contrary to the New Testament. We understand that every Christian has been made alive to God through the Holy Spirit, Who came to dwell in us from the time of our baptism into the death, body, and church of Christ (Romans 6:3-6; 8:11). At the same time, we realize that His miraculous work ended with the confirmation of the completed New Testament.

*“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following” (Mark 16:20).*

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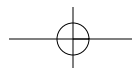
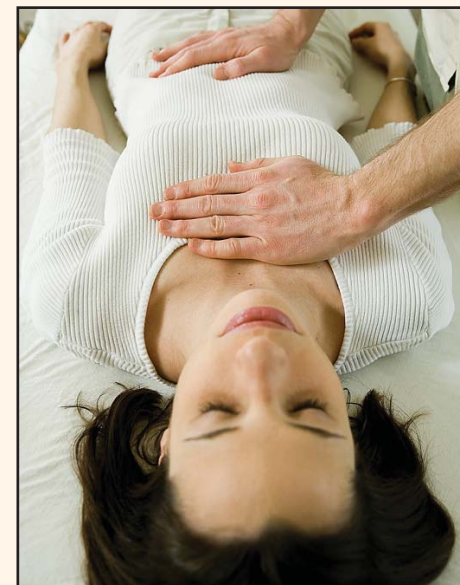
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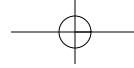
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## Who Is a “Pentecostal”?

J.C. Choate





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We are living in a strange world. Many believers in Christ call themselves “Pentecostals”, but **nowhere in the Bible can you read of a “Pentecostal”!** *If you look up the word in a complete concordance, you will not find it listed even once!*

In error, these people have taken the name of the Jewish feast day — Pentecost — on which the Lord’s church was established, and they have called themselves and their church after that holiday. God never intended such a thing.

Yes, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles on the day of Pentecost, as Christ had promised, and the church was begun on that day, but the people were not “Pentecostals” and the church was not the “Pentecostal Church”. Rather, the disciples were called “Christians” (Acts 11:26), and the church also wore the name of Christ, “...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12; Romans 16:16). Those who would call themselves “Pentecostal” have not paid close attention to the Scriptural use of these names.

Neither have they paid close attention to other truths regarding the events of that day. They noted the words “Holy Spirit”, “tongues”, “miracles”, and they have built their own doctrines with the use of these words:

- ✿ Through the years they have divided into numerous groups, calling themselves by many different names, yet all claim to be led by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. **They have overlooked the fact that God is not the author of confusion and division** (1 Corinthians 1:10; 14:33; Romans 16:17), **and that, as one of the Persons of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit cannot be a party to religious division or the wearing of unscriptural names.**
- ✿ They see that the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit, and so they teach that all believers receive the same baptism. They teach people to *pray* for this baptism. **They overlook the fact that all the penitent believers on the day of Pentecost were told to be baptized in water** (Acts 2:38; 8:36), **and that not a single soul in the Scriptures was ever taught to pray for “Holy Spirit baptism”.** **Even the designation is not written in that way in the Scriptures!**

✿ They teach that people should speak “in tongues” today; that it is a heavenly language which only God, or some “inspired interpreter” understands. **They overlook the fact that Acts 2:8 says concerning the “tongues” spoken by the apostles, “...are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?”**

✿ They teach that people today can perform miracles, like the apostles did, because they have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, as the apostles were. **They overlook the fact that, though the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost to all those who were baptized in water for the forgiveness of their sins** (Acts 2:38; 5:32), **Acts 5:12 says that it was “through the hands of THE APOSTLES [that] many signs and wonders were done among the people”!**

It was not until certain brethren (already “filled with the Holy Spirit” [Acts 6:3] but not able to perform miracles) were chosen for the special gifts conferred through prayer and the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 6:6) that these additional men were able to perform miracles (v.8). Throughout the New Testament, **only those few chosen**

