

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#66

IS PENTECOST ALIVE BEFORE GOD TODAY

By Sam Fife



According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:10

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Number 14:20-24 and the Lord said, “I have pardoned according to thy word: But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely thy shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it.”

Numbers 14:28-32 Say unto them, “As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land that ye have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in the wilderness.”

This was the hour in which Israel died before God. Every man that was above twenty years old, at this point died before God. Even though they continued forty years after this, eating, sleeping breathing, walking, still before God they were dead. Even though for the next forty years, God, in the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, still led them, spoke to them, and manifested Himself to them, he was not taking them anywhere. He was only leading them round and round in the wilderness, waiting for their death sentence that he had pronounced to be carried out on in each of their lives. They saw miracles, their shoes and clothing were miraculously preserved. They drank water from the Spiritual Rock which Paul says in the New Testament was Christ. (Num. 20:1-13)

They experienced healings when they were bitten by fiery serpents, and looked for healing to the brazen serpent which was a type of Christ. Yet all these things did not change the fact one whit, that they were all dead men before God, and all for one reason; because they had come to a certain point in their journey with God toward the rest that he had promised them and they lost their faith, and said to God, "We will go this far and no farther."

They were only at the borders of the land God had given them. They had not yet gone into the land, they had not driven out the enemy that was in possession of it, they were far from God's rest that He had promised them. Yet when they saw the giants, they cried out in unbelief, "we will go no farther." At this moment God pronounced their death sentence, and announced that he would sit back and wait for a new generation of their children which would come forth from them, and take them into the land.

Old Testament Israel was a type of New Testament Spiritual Israel, which Spiritual Israel we are. Their journey toward their physical promised land was only a type of our journey toward our Spiritual Promised Land. Their Promised Land of Canaan was not a type of some physical land Christians go to when they die, but a type of a Spiritual land a generation of Christians, who will have the faith to go all the way with God, are going to come to right here on this earth. That land is revealed to us in Ephesians 4:8 -15. Here the Bible says when Jesus ascended, he set ministry gifts in his Church, some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and Teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, (a many-membered perfect man) unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. This is our Promised Land. When Jesus was here in the flesh he set it before us in the promises he gave. He said, "They that believe on me, the works that I do shall they do also, and even greater works

than those shall they do.” When we have come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, and are doing the works he did and even greater works, we will be in our Promised Land.

The Canaanite giants, who were resisting Israel's entrance into their Promised Land, were types of Lucifer and his giant demon spirits, who are resisting our growing up into Jesus in all things, (Eph. 4:15) and coming to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Nineteen hundred years ago the first generation of Spiritual Israel started out from the Egypt of this world to follow Jesus, their heavenly Moses, toward their Spiritual Promised Land. He was leading them this time, not as a visible pillar of Cloud and pillar of fire, but as the invisible, indwelling, living Spirit of God. He led them out through the Red Sea (The blood of Jesus). He led them into a wilderness of much testing and persecution, which came to them from every side, both from their brethren the Jews, whom the giant spirits of Lucifer's kingdom were ruling, and from the world, (The Roman Empire) whom the giant spirits were also ruling. He led them through their great Apostle Paul, even to the very gates of Rome, even into Caesar's Palace itself.

Had they gone on to follow the Spirit of Christ in Paul, they would ultimately, through the very test of the battle, have grown unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, conquered the giant spirits that were ruling through Rome and possessed their land. But the giants rose up and that generation backed down. They lost their faith, and went back into a wilderness wandering that lasted for thirteen hundred years of the dark ages. Then the voice of God sounded out again, "You have compassed the mountain long enough. Turn ye toward the land." Martin Luther heard it, and another generation moved out behind him. They too came to the borders of the land, and when the giant spirits of resistance rose up, they floundered also, and like the Church of Sardis, God said to them, "I know thy works, that thou

hast a name (Lutheranism) that thou livest and art dead." Then John Wesley heard the call and another generation moved out. But again they floundered at the borders of the land and went no further than the restoration of the doctrine of justification by faith, a born-again experience, and a cloudy brand of sanctification. When the giants rose up against them, they were left with their name (Methodism) which they are seeking to glorify today.

Then sixty-five years ago, Israel heard once again the voice of God saying, "Ye have compassed this mountain long enough. Get ye up and possess the land." A new generation moved out. They had no leader but their heavenly Joshua the Spirit of Jesus in each one of them. They began to move across the land, preaching a whole Gospel, conquering the demons who had the sick bound, casting out devils in the oppressed and possessed. Once again Israel was on the move toward the Promised Land. But, as always, the giants in the land rose up to meet them, in persecution from their brethren and from the world as in the days of the first generation, in false manifestations in their spiritual meetings, and most of all in the presentation of the idea that the move of God would be more acceptable to the world and the present Church system if it were clothed in the old mode of big beautiful Church buildings, plush covered pews, and robed choirs.

When Pentecostalism came to the very borders of the land and saw that possessing the land meant more than winning souls, building churches, and praying prayers for the sick. It meant laying one's very life on the line in prayer, fasting, and so **dying to self**, that they might have the power to overcome the giant spirits that have bound the recognized Church with the accursed lie that nobody can overcome sin completely, nobody can go on to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Then they too cried, "We cannot go in. We are as grasshoppers in our own eyes in the sight of those giants." They too rejected the few Joshuas and Calebs among them who looked not at them but at their God and

said, "If the Lord our God be with us we are well able to go up and possess the land." They said, "Let us make new leaders, leaders who will not preach that one can go on to perfection, who will accept the doctrine 'nobody can be perfect', leaders who will not insist on going on to perfect holiness, leaders who will substitute building great buildings, church programs, robed choirs, and visitation programs for casting out devils, speaking in tongues, going on to full authority over every deadly thing, even unto serpents and poisons, and the laying hands on the sick and they shall recover."

At this point once again the voice of the Lord rolled forth saying, "Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their father, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it." They are left with big buildings, robed choirs, church members that go on with their same sicknesses year after year, ministers that stand behind their pulpits preaching, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever," but with their glasses still on their eyes, their hospitalization insurance policies carefully tucked away, and half of their membership not even baptized in the Spirit. Once in a while they win a few souls, for Israel could still bear children for God while they were wandering in the wilderness, though God had already pronounced the death sentence on them.

Is modern day Pentecost alive before God? It is clear for all who have spiritual eyes to see that the answer is no.

However let us be clear that when we say Pentecost we do not mean the new generation that is coming forth from among the Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians and Lutherans and all others who have received the Baptism of the Spirit, in the mighty outpouring of the Spirit that is sweeping the land. Those who are in the forefront have looked over into the land. They have seen the giants, but they have also seen the grapes of Eshcol. They refuse to heed the evil report of faithless spies that saw the goodness of the land in the past but would not go in. They have heard the voice of the Lord saying, "And he gave some Apostles,

some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. They have taken their place beside Joshua and Caleb saying, "If the Lord our God be with us, we are well able to go up and possess the land." They are being prepared to march out as Joel's Army. They shall run like mighty men. They shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march everyone on his way and they shall not break their ranks.

We mean no word of criticism for those who have named themselves Pentecost. With the love of God and compassion of Christ we yearn that they might yet rise up, those who can, and live before the Lord. We do not write these words to attempt to persuade anyone to leave their Church and come to ours. For no longer do those who have eyes to see what God is doing and where God is going in this hour cry as in days of yore, "Come ye out from among them." More rather, would we stay in their midst as long as we could, and lift as many as we can up into the move of God, that as many as can might go on, with those who will not be stopped across Jordan and into the land, even into Jerusalem, the new Jerusalem, to the City foursquare, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. So that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him. Rise up, O Joshua. Come forth, O Caleb. Let us pass over this Jordan, every place that the sole of our foot shall tread upon, the Lord hath given unto us. Amen.