

**Dear Partners,****May 2018**

***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 and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4***

This month we celebrate and remember the day of Pentecost that took place over 2000 years ago when the believers followed the instructions of Jesus to remain in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,5). What power was Jesus referring to? The power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost, meaning “fifty” in the Greek language, took place 50 days after the Passover. On that day all who were gathered together in one accord were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, thus fulfilling Jesus’ promise. Notice here that the believers of that time did not leave until they were filled with that supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. Until that time, there are no recorded sermons, miracles or conversions to Christ by any of His disciples or followers. This is very important to note because if the disciples that walked and talked with Jesus daily could not go out and preach, teach or lay hands on people until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, how much more do we need the power of the Holy Spirit in the age we live in?

The day of Pentecost marks the beginning of the church age. This was the official signal of the beginning of the church of Christ. On that very same day Peter preached the first sermon of the church age and 3000 people accepted and welcomed the message of salvation (Acts 2:41). We are told in 1 Corinthians 12 that the Holy Spirit gives us special abilities or gifts. There are several spiritual gifts listed throughout the New Testament but this month we will focus on one in particular from 1 Corinthians 12- the gift of discernment. While **ALL of the spiritual gifts and special abilities given to us by the Holy Spirit are important and for the edification of the church**, we want to focus our attention on the gift of discernment because we live in a time when we need to obtain this gift more than ever. All around our world today there is truth and there are lies. There is Biblical teaching and false teaching, messages from the Spirit of God and messages from another spirit (1 Cor. 12:10).

So how are we to know which is from God and which isn’t? Through the gift of discerning spirits. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of discernment to enable Christians to clearly distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world and the flesh. The church today needs this gift more than ever to be warned and warn other believers in times of danger and keep them from being led astray by any false teaching. There are 3 main reasons why we need the gift of discernment:

1. To lift the veil that covers the unseen spiritual world
2. To enable us to see how God sees
3. To protect us from deception

Discernment is like the other physical senses; we may even say it is a sixth sense to believers. To some it is given in unusual measure as a special spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:10), but some measure of it is essential for ALL believers and must be nourished continually. How can a gift of the Spirit be nourished? Hebrews 5:13, 14 gives us a clear answer to this very important question:

***For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced and unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant [not able to talk yet]! But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law.***

This tells us that as believers we are to feed on the solid food of the WORD so that our **senses** (remember that discernment is like a sixth sense) are trained to distinguish between what is good and what is evil. The ESV translation says, ***But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*** The only way the gift or gifts of the Spirit can be strengthened is by the feeding on solid food, (or the constant practice of) - the Word of God. By constantly feeding on the Word through reading, listening to and speaking It, we (and our spiritual gifts) can grow into that full maturity ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Eph 4:14b ESV).

We believe all children of God must in some way or another strive to receive and strengthen this gift if we are to be effective Christians. Christians who are ineffective are always following after “new teachings” and some “new age” teachings that are contrary to the Word of God. This is the very reason we need to attain and develop the gift of discernment so that we may be able to recognize what is good and what is evil. We can then conclude that it is vital for every Jesus professing Christian to possess spiritual discernment in some measure and develop it continually by feeding on the precious Word of God.

As we celebrate the day of Pentecost this month, we are also celebrating a historic month for Israel! This month marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary since Israel was reborn as a country again! In addition, the United States has recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and therefore moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This is a very exciting time not only for Israel but also for the body of Christ because we are rejoicing together with them and praying for Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6-7 tell us this,

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!***

***May they be secure who love you!***

***Peace be within your walls***

***and security within your towers!***

In the near future we will share with you an important upcoming trip that God is preparing to send us on. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit during this mission. As things begin to unfold, we will uncover more of what God has in store for JMM. In the meantime, please continue to be obedient to how the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for and give into JMM so that this uncompromised Gospel can go around the world! We continue to receive phone calls from all over the world from people who need prayer, deliverance and healing. We have been able to answer these phone calls and pray for people because of YOU and because of your giving! You are a BIG part of the harvest of souls that are being touched by John Militaru Ministries. Many exciting things are taking place in this Ministry every single day for the glory of God!

In Christ,

*John & Alexandra*

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