

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, INC.
“Calling The Church to Awaken to God’s purposes in this hour”
1232-A 49TH PLACE SOUTH BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35222
PHONE: (910) 322-9085 FAX: (205) 655-2468 E-MAIL: ASUAREZ00@AOL.COM
WWW.ABNERSUAREZ.COM

From the desk of Abner Suarez

This past spring, we celebrated one hundred years of the modern day Pentecostal movement. I believe it is appropriate to honor the past and celebrate those who paid the price to leave us a legacy that we live in the fruit of today. The Pentecostal/Charismatic movement is the fastest growing segment of Christianity and has taken the lead in world evangelization. Yet there is much work to be done if we are going to continue to move with the wind of the Holy Spirit to see the kingdom of God change cities, regions, and nations. I believe some keys to where the Holy Spirit wants to take His Church in these coming days is found in Acts chapter two verse thirty eight and thirty nine.

Acts 2:38-39: “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

A People of God whose foundation is built on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has just been poured out: “...a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind, there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues” (Acts 2:2-4). Peter quickly seizes the moment and preaches the first sermon of the newly birthed New Testament Church. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit, regardless of how unappealing it might have been to the people of Jerusalem, was what gave Peter the opportunity to preach and give an opportunity to bring people into the Kingdom. The eyes of God are looking to build a Church much like the New Testament Church whose foundation is built upon the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit recently spoke to me quite clearly... “Revival is not a Church program but rather a way of life.” All too often, the Holy Spirit is only given opportunity to work within the framework of our established “programs” (Please understand me correctly, I am not against Church programs but rather an overemphasis on programs that do not give way to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit). The result then, is

that the Holy Spirit is an element of our programs but not the most treasured possession. In these coming days I believe there will be revival and reformation movements that are built exclusively upon the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit demands a change in paradigm

After hearing Peter's message the crowd asked him and the other Apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's response was straight forward "repent." Repent (*metanoesate*) is defined as "change your outlook or" "have a change of heart" (Bible Knowledge Commentary 1983). When the Holy Spirit is poured out as it was on the Day of Pentecost, there is an adjustment that must be made. The most obvious adjustment is making Jesus Christ Savior if we have never done so or making a recommitment to him. While I never want to minimize salvation and recommitment, it was never God's intention to make this the high point of our Christian experience; rather it was just the beginning. While we have done a fine job of getting people forgiven of their sins, we have not taught them to change their outlook on life. The reason God wants to change our outlook is because He wants to shape the world in which we live to shape the culture of the kingdom. We in the Church of the United States have failed to transform society through kingdom principles. I believe if we are going to be true to the precedent set forth in scripture then we should measure fruit in the kingdom, not according to number of decision cards, but rather transformation of society. If we are going to be shapers of culture that God has called us to be, we must recognize this change in outlook that the Holy Spirit demands from us.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit reveals the keys

Peter declared, "...change your outlook and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." As we are open to true repentance, the Holy Spirit becomes our helper in helping us to grasp God's outlook on reality. As leaders in the body of Christ, and of paramount importance in the coming months and years, we must equip believers to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must create environments where people learn to hear and follow the voice of God; where people are taught how to pray for the sick and operate in the supernatural in their place of influence. As believers we have a responsibility to pursue deeper intimacy with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, and to live a life not just based on nice Christian principles but on the Holy Spirit's wisdom and revelation. God's gift to us as believers is the Holy Spirit, our gift to the world is to bring the Holy Spirit to the world. Let us never neglect the precious gift of Heaven.

The Gift Given For ALL

Peter then declares in verse thirty-nine: “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off.” I believe part of our change in outlook in the Body of Christ must be the absolute value of each member in the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is given to each person without bias, and therefore we must encourage all pursue a habitation of his presence on their life. The purpose of the five-fold ministries in the body of Christ is not to create a separate class of people (clergy and lay person) but rather to equip people to walk in a share of the anointing of those offices. Regardless of your background, God wants to fill with his Spirit and power. God is very much in favor of equal opportunity... “For it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12:32). In the coming years we will see in greater measure, young and old alike prophesying, casting out demons, and healing the sick - regardless of calling. This is our inheritance, but we must not be complacent. Rather, we must be active in pursuing this grace that God would make available to us in this hour.

(All Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version of the bible unless otherwise noted)