

# The Holy Spirit-led Meetings

## (The Purpose of Pentecost)

By Hans R. Waldvogel

### 如何參與聖靈帶領的聚會

**H**ave you ever attended a real Pentecostal meeting? Whether you liked it or not, no doubt you thought it was different from any meeting you had ever seen before. That is exactly what God wanted to do in Pentecost—he wanted to do something different from what man had done, coming himself through the power of the Holy Spirit, manifesting heavenly glory and heavenly victories among his own.

The reaction of people to their first Pentecostal meeting is not unlike the reaction of those who witnessed the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost as waiting disciples “were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Some said, “Oh, these men are drunk.” Others said, “What does this mean? This is a miracle; these are all Galileans, and yet every one of them speaks in a tongue that he has not learned.” To these it was a sign that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

After attending my first Pentecostal meeting, I went home and searched the Scriptures. As a result, I exclaimed, “Oh, what a fool I have been! Here it’s been in the Bible all this time, and I, a Bible student, haven’t seen it.” As I contin-

ued to attend Pentecostal meetings, what I saw and heard explained so many things I hadn't been able to understand before about the gifts of the Holy Ghost as mentioned in the New Testament.

So if the first Pentecostal meeting you attend does not suit you—if you cannot understand it—do not say, “These people are all drunk,” but “What is this?” and search the Scriptures for yourself to see if these things be so.

A real Pentecostal meeting is one where Jesus is allowed to manifest himself and thereby to change us into his image as we behold him. But what you receive will depend upon your attitude; if you come with an open heart, you will experience the life-giving power of God.

The way to come to any meeting is to bring Jesus with you. Everyone who practices the presence of God at home will find it very easy to do so in the meeting; but if you have not been doing so, the very first thing is to find Jesus in your own heart and to recognize him as a fountain of life within you. As you do this, you sink into worship.

Nobody knows what worship is except a person who is filled with the Holy Ghost. It is a sweet fire that burns within your soul which Jesus Christ has kindled. It is the presence of Jesus, permeating your whole being with the fragrance of himself. When you have found him within, then you will find him and see him in the meeting. That is an operation of the Holy Ghost, which one cannot easily explain; you have to experience it yourself.

Sometimes when people come together, it is evident that they have been living carelessly. Perhaps they have been visiting or talking too much. Anyway, they do not see the Lord at once. Then the Holy Spirit endeavors to call their attention to Jesus. A sweet call in tongues and interpretation might be given. Presently there comes a change over

the whole meeting. What has happened? Hearts have responded to the call; they have recognized him and become abandoned to the Holy Ghost: this is absolutely essential to a real Pentecostal meeting.

There is the danger of becoming formal—one, two, three songs, then testimonies, prayer, etc. How much more wonderful when Jesus can bring us to himself and minister his own life to us. That requires that we all function in the Holy Ghost as members of one body. It isn't sufficient for one minister to do it all; everybody ought to take part according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

There are many ways in which we can function. We can pray and bless the meeting; we can lift our hands in worship, or praise the Lord with a loud voice, or testify. The main thing is that we all function in the Holy Ghost—that we are all willing to be used of God as he indicates. But if you come to a meeting with the idea, “I'm not going to do anything. Others can do so much better than I,” you rob yourself and the meeting of the blessing God desires to impart.

In every meeting that is free in the Holy Spirit, things may happen that according to your discernment do not seem just right. Now, maybe your discernment is wrong. I have heard some say they have discernment when they really discern like dried herring. They have their eyes wide open, but there is no life there. You do not discern that way. God does not give you discernment until you quit criticizing—until you are poor in spirit. Many times the very thing that seems wrong to you is in the appointment of God, and it is only because of your critical nature that it seems wrong. Maybe it is all right.

But suppose something really is wrong. It does not become right by your criticism. It comes right by your

believing that Jesus Christ is in charge—that he is on the throne. The meeting comes right into line again if every one keeps his mind on Jesus. That gives Jesus Christ the authority over the meeting.

I often see people frown when someone testifies a little too long. That is a manifestation of the flesh. If you do that you ought to say, “My God, I don’t have that love that

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suffers long, and is kind.” Isn’t that long, dry testimony a blessing? Where would you get patience otherwise? You are

just as much out of the will of God with your impatient attitude as the speaker may be. You ought to stay just as sweet if the testimony is not in the will of God. That is not your responsibility. Your responsibility is to keep in touch with Jesus. Jesus is present just the same, and maybe when that testimony or thing that is out of order is over, God will give you an anointing whereby you will be used to lift the meeting, and it will come back into God because you kept in touch with Jesus.

The Holy Ghost uses imperfect vessels. If he did not, he would not use any of us. And is it not wonderful how the Lord Jesus bears with our imperfections! Even so, we ought to bear with the imperfections of others. We learn by our mistakes, and as we learn our lessons, God prepares his vessels to use according to his will.

Do you come to meeting to hear from God? Sometimes people say about a minister, “He can’t preach”; but some-

times you get the greatest blessing through the humblest vessel.

If churches are temples of the living God, then surely God ought to have charge of his own meetings. The success of a real Pentecostal meeting does not depend on the singing or the preaching, or on any other thing but the manifestation of the presence of Jesus—when he ministers to hearts in any way or by any one he chooses. Then hungry souls are fed with the bread from heaven which only he can give.

The great fight through the years has been over this issue: Shall Jesus have his way and be allowed to manifest himself, or will we have our program and way? Our job is to let him have his way. This the devil has fought, for he fights everything that God does in the world, and he has fought nothing more than the Pentecostal movement because it is an effort of God to manifest the presence of Jesus in the earth—a step in the establishing of his kingdom more greatly upon this earth. The devil found his greatest success when he could insert either fanaticism or ritualism.

Do not fear. The Lord is working. We have a wonderful Savior who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. If you walk with him and fight with him, your reward will be great. God is waging a victorious battle for this one purpose—that Jesus shall reign as King in our hearts, in our meetings, upon this earth. That is why he manifests his presence in our lives and meetings—to subdue all things unto himself.

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Pentecost Sunday  
June 8

