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## Ask, Seek, Knock – And The Door Will Be Opened

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I do not know what would have happened to me spiritually if I had not learned there is personal



empowerment available for God's children.

When I found out, all I had to do was "ask, seek, and knock" on God's door.

At age 9, I had opened my heart to

Jesus, was indwelt with the Holy Spirit and given eternal life. I was then baptized in water. I had actually been baptized as an infant earlier, so God had had His eye on me from infancy.

So why wasn't this enough for me to live a strong, committed life? The world around me seemed a lot more exciting than going to church, reading a few ancient scriptures, and mumbling a quick prayer when in trouble. In fact, I can identify with the waffling disciple Peter.

In my last column, I began with Jesus' second commandment, "You shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to Me..." – (Acts 1:8 KJV, mod.).

These were Jesus' last recorded words from earth, for you and me. The word for power in Greek is "dunamis" or, specifically, "Inherent power; power to reproduce itself, like a dynamo" – (Dake's Bible).

"When did this spiritual power show up?" one may ask.

The answer is, "On the Day of Pentecost."

That happened exactly 10 days after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, two millennia ago in Jerusalem.

The 12 Apostles, Mary the Mother of Jesus, and His siblings were there. A total of about 120 disciples were present in the "Upper Room."

"When the Day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting.

"And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it 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 KJV, mod.).

A "great change" took place in the 120 disciples as they were filled with God's power.

Peter is a primary example: Scene No. 1. On the evening before Jesus' crucifixion, Peter was challenged three times to know if he had a connection with the one who was soon to be nailed to a tree. Peter three times, with profane expletives, denied ever knowing Jesus. – (Matthew 26:69-75)

Scene No. 2. After the crucifixion, Peter goes back to fishing. The disciples were coming to shore without catching any fish until a Man on the shore tells them to throw the net on the other side. They catch 153 fish. On the shore the resurrected Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him and if so to feed His sheep. – (John 21)

Scene No. 3. Jesus appears to Peter and the other Apostles and breathes resurrection life into them. They have new birth – (John 20:22). Yet Jesus instructs them to "Wait for the power in Jerusalem" – (Luke 24:49).

Scene. No. 4. Peter receives his personal Pentecost. The fire of God lights upon his head and he is anointed with the Holy Spirit. Immediately he is no longer afraid of being known as one of Jesus' disciples. He cannot wait to be a "witness!"

A crowd having gathered, Peter stands up to preach from the prophet Joel's Book about signs and wonders; Peter tells of Jesus' miraculous healing power, then about His crucifixion and resurrection. – (Acts 2:14-39 NKJV)

Three thousand souls come into the Kingdom that day. – (Acts 2:41)

These examples of Peter's journey were "eye-openers" for me. They convinced me that God not only wants me to have a great spiritual new birth, but that the empowering experience of Pentecost is also available for me today.

I'll tell you more about how to "ask, seek and knock" next time.

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