

on being

# PENTECOSTAL

DAVID K. BERNARD  
ROBIN JOHNSTON



# On Being Pentecostal

David K. Bernard

Robin Johnston

Cover Design by Abraham LaVoi

Interior Page Design by Laura Jurek

Copyright © 2011 David K. Bernard, Robin Johnston

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Word Aflame Press. Brief quotations may be used in literary reviews.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in United States of America



**WORD AFLAME PRESS**  
8555 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042  
[www.pentecostalpublishing.com](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.com)

## Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bernard, David K., 1956-

On being Pentecostal / by David K. Bernard and Robin M. Johnston.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-1-56722-951-6

1. Pentecostalism. I. Johnston, Robin M., 1957- II. Title.

BR1644.B47 2011

230'.046--dc23

2011034345

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
<b>Part I – Our Beliefs</b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
Chapter 1 – Our Very Present Help: God with Us . . . . .	<b>13</b>
Chapter 2 – The Revelation of God: The Bible . . . . .	<b>23</b>
Chapter 3 – The Mighty God in Christ . . . . .	<b>35</b>
Chapter 4 – A Brand-New Life . . . . .	<b>47</b>
<b>Part II – Our Practices</b> . . . . .	<b>59</b>
Chapter 5 – The Beauty of Holiness . . . . .	<b>61</b>
Chapter 6 – Then Sings My Soul: The Practice of Worship . . . . .	<b>73</b>
Chapter 7 – Gifts of the Spirit . . . . .	<b>85</b>
Chapter 8 – To the End of the Earth—The Pentecostal Mission . . . . .	<b>97</b>
<b>Part III – Our Stories</b> . . . . .	<b>103</b>
Chapter 9 – This Is Our Story: A Brief History of Pentecostalism . . . . .	<b>105</b>
Chapter 10 – As Many as the Lord Our God Shall Call . . . . .	<b>117</b>



# Introduction

---

**F**or some people “Pentecostal” is a new word. A century ago it was rarely part of the average North American’s vocabulary. However, its use has risen steadily, most often in reference to the fastest-growing segment of the Christian faith. Although it has become much more common in recent years, it is not a new word. Its roots go back to an ancient Jewish feast that celebrated the first fruits of the harvest. The Hebrews of antiquity were primarily an agrarian society and a successful harvest was critical to their wellbeing. They celebrated God’s blessing and provision for them with a feast, which fell on the fiftieth day after another important feast day, the Passover, hence its moniker. But for Christians, Pentecost takes on a different meaning. It marks the birthday of the church.

The Bible records the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the earliest believers on the Day of Pentecost. Per the instructions given to them by Jesus just before His ascension, the disciples—or followers of Jesus—gathered in Jerusalem to await the outpouring of the Spirit. Early on the morning of the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit fell upon 120 believers. The excitement of this experience spread throughout the crowds gathered from around the Mediterranean in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. (See Acts 2.) They were particularly intrigued by the ecstatic behavior and multiple languages spoken by those newly filled with the Spirit. When a curious crowd had assembled around the meeting place of the believers, Peter addressed the gathering to explain the experiences and actions of what would become known as the church.

These events took place shortly after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not only were the disciples attempting to understand the significance of the crucifixion and resurrection, but the broader Jewish population was also struggling to understand them. Peter associated the experiences of Pentecost with a prophecy given hundreds of years prior by the Hebrew prophet Joel. Peter reminded the crowd “this was that spoken by Joel.” This was the prophesied outpouring of the Spirit and it was for everybody. A significant portion of the crowd responded to Peter’s preaching and the church began to rapidly expand.

The Book of Acts records the experiences and teachings of this new movement. Because many of the key players of the Acts church were eyewitnesses to the life and teachings of Jesus, it follows that they would have the clearest insight into the way in which to worship Jesus. As a result the

church in Acts should function as a model to follow when attempting to build a church. However, over the centuries the institutional church lost sight of the Acts pattern. Just over a hundred years ago, a rising interest in the restoration of the Acts or apostolic church birthed the modern Pentecostal movement.

This short volume will serve as an introduction to Pentecostalism. It is divided into three parts. Part I covers four key doctrines of the movement. Part II introduces four distinctive practices. And in Part III, the authors attempt to share a brief history of the Pentecostal movement and to tell a number of stories of individual Pentecostals. Take a few moments of your time to learn what it means to be Pentecostal.

**The Restoration of Israel**

1 This says the Lord:  
"In a time of favor I have answered you,  
in a day of salvation I have helped you."

I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land.

2 To apportion the desolate heritages,  
saying to the prisoners, "Come out,"  
to those who are in darkness, "Appear."  
They shall feed along the ways,  
on all bare heights shall be their

pasture;  
10 they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall  
strike them,  
for he who has pity on them will lead  
them,  
and by springs of water will guide  
them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a  
road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.

Behold, these shall come from the east,  
and behold, these from the north and  
from the west,  
and these from the land of Syene.

12 O heavens, and exult,  
O earth,  
forth, O mountains, into  
exulting!

13 For joy, O heavens, and exult,  
O earth,  
forth, O mountains, into  
exulting!

14 Kings shall be carried on  
their shoulders,  
and their queens your nursing mothers.

22 Kings shall be carried on  
their shoulders,  
and their queens your nursing mothers.

15 Lift up your eyes around and see,  
As I live, declares the Lord,  
you shall put them all on as an  
ornament,  
you shall bind them on as a bride.

16 "Surely your waste and your desolate  
places  
and your devastated land—  
surely now you will be too narrow for  
your inhabitants,  
and those who swallowed you up will  
be far away.

20 The children of your bereavement  
will yet say in your ears:  
"The place is too narrow for me;  
make room for me to dwell in."

21 Then you will say in my heart:  
"Who has borne me in their  
I was bereaved and barren,  
exiled and put away,  
but who has brought up these?  
Behold, I was left alone,  
from where have these come?"

22 Thus says the Lord God:  
"Behold, I will lift up my hand to the  
nations,  
and raise my signal to the peoples;  
and they shall bring your sons in their  
bosom,  
and your daughters shall be carried on  
their shoulders,  
and their queens your nursing mothers.

17 "I will make your oppressors eat their  
own flesh,  
and they shall be drunk with their  
own blood as with wine.  
Then all flesh shall know  
that I am the Lord your Savior,  
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One  
of Jacob."

**50 Herod's Sin and the Servant's Obedience**

This says the Lord:  
"Where is your mother's certificate  
of divorce,  
with which I sent her away?  
Or which of my creditors is it  
to whom I have sold you?  
Behold, for your iniquities you were  
sold,  
and for your transgressions your  
mother was sent away.

Why when I came, was there no man  
to answer?  
Why when I called, was there no man  
to answer?  
Is my hand shortened, so that I cannot  
redeem?  
Or have I no power to deliver?  
Behold, by my power I dry up the sea,  
I make the fish stink, for lack of water,  
and die the fish that are in the sea,  
and I clothe the mountains with  
blackness,  
and their covering is  
darkness.

21 The Lord has said,  
that I may know how to  
word  
him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are

22 Listen to me, you  
righteousness,  
you who seek the Lord,  
look to the rock from  
whence  
and to the quarry from  
where dug.  
and to Sarah your father  
for he was but one when I  
that I might bless him and  
him.  
For the Lord comforts Zion;  
he comforts all her waste

50 Herod's Sin and the Servant's Obedience; Text of a righteous man





# Part I

## Our Beliefs



# Our Very Present Help: God with Us

---

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever”*  
(Hebrews 13:9).

**E**ighteenth-century Christian philosopher William Paley was a leading proponent of natural theology. He is best known for his watchmaker analogy in which he compared a watch found on the side of the road to the physical world. Paley insisted that no one would doubt the watch had a maker. He then argued that the world is much more complex and therefore must have a designer. Paley understood that designer to be God. He went on to suggest that the way we gain insight into this God is by studying the world He designed. This is sometimes called natural theology.