



Pentecostal Distinctives, part 1 of 2—

Teaching Pentecostal Distinctives to Children

The glory and wonder of Pentecost is that God the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within individual believers. His indwelling brings power, purpose, comfort, and guidance to the life of the believer. God's design is for every believer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. He wants to give this magnificent gift to every believer—including children.

As children's ministry workers, it is your privilege to teach children about the Holy Spirit, to help them want to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and to pray for and with them as they seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit. So how can you do that? This article will cover some principles for leading your children to become true Pentecostals, people who are personally Spirit-filled.



much as adults. He is the One who gives them power to witness and power to conquer sin. He is also the One who gives them love, joy, and peace—qualities needed in a world that is uncertain and stressful. Children are not immune to stress. They need the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Truths About the Holy Spirit

Below are seven truths about the Holy Spirit that you should teach to the children.

1 **The Holy Spirit is God, just as Jesus and God the Father are God.**

He is not an "it" nor a mere presence. He is a Person and He is God.

2 **The Holy Spirit wants to live in each Christian so He can help that person live a life that pleases God and is full of joy.**

The Holy Spirit brings power to conquer sin and to witness. He also brings love, joy, and peace—qualities that make life better for the Christian.

3 **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for every Christian of any age.**

But it is only for Christians. Help your students understand that they first must have accepted Jesus as Savior. Then they can begin seek-

Three Key Principles

1 **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for children too.**

According to Acts 2:38, the promise of the infilling of the Holy Spirit is "for you **and your children** and for all who are far off..." The infilling of the Holy Spirit is for all Christians. Age is not a criteria. Salvation is the only prerequisite. Therefore a child who has received Christ as Savior can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. If younger children do not seem ready for the baptism, we can still instruct and prepare their hearts to desire and receive at a later date.

2 **Never assume a child is too young to receive or understand the Pentecostal experience.**

Children learn and mature at different rates. If a child seems to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and desires to receive the baptism, encourage him. God sees a child's heart; He knows when the time is right.

3 **Children need the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the same reasons adults do.**

Children who have accepted Jesus as Savior need the Holy Spirit's help in their lives just as

