

# **PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL IN BRAZIL**

## **GOLDEN TEXT**

“On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied”. (Acts 19:5, 6)

## **USEFUL PRACTICE**

God poured out the great Pentecostal revival on Brazil. He can revive his people once more.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Acts 19:1-7**

**1-** While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples

**2** and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

**3** So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied.

**4** Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

**5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues[b] and prophesied.

**7** There were about twelve men in all.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

**I – To show** that the movement in Acts repeated itself in Brazil.

**II – To point out** the birth of the new movement

**III – To explain** the spread of the Pentecostal revival.

## INTRODUCTION

The arrival of the Pentecostal Movement in Brazil changed the spiritual reality of this country in an unquestionable and irreversible way in terms of liturgy, proclamation of the Gospel, manifestation of the power of God with signs, miracles and wonders. Coming from the United States, the missionaries Daniel Berg and Gunnar Vingren landed on Brazil in 1910. Through the action of these servants, God started the greatest spiritual revival on Brazilian soil. The Pentecostal Revival in Brazil is the subject of this lesson.

### I – THE MOVEMENT OF ACTS REPEATS ITSELF IN BRAZIL

**1. Pentecost among the saved.** In Acts 19:2, there is a question from the apostle Paul to the disciples in Ephesus: “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” This question can also be asked like this: Since you believed, have you received the Holy Spirit?; and also: Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?”. The forms for the same question reveal a fact, according to the text of the passage of Acts 19:1-7: the disciples of Ephesus were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, that is, they already had the saving faith; then they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

**2. The fullness of the Holy Spirit.** As we saw in a previous lesson, there are two distinct experiences in the book of Acts of the Apostles: 1) the experience of salvation; 2) the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19, we see these two experiences very clearly: first, the disciples were baptized in water, and then they received the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands. This receiving had physical evidence of speaking in tongues and prophecy (Acts 19:3). The experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is so different from salvation that it can be physically identified through the speaking in tongues as a confirmation of the “gift of God”. This is what happened to the disciples in Ephesus.

**3. Called by God.** Something similar happened here in Brazil through

Daniel Berg and Gunnar Vingren. By God's direction, the two Swedish missionaries arrived in Brazil on November 19, 1910. At the beginning of the 20th century, the existence of historic or traditional churches predominated. Consequently, there were many Christians who had experienced salvation in Christ but had never experienced the Baptism in the Spirit as did the first believers in Acts. God used Daniel Berg and Gunnar Vingren to show these Christians that they could no longer ignore the blessed person of the Holy Spirit. The glorious experiences of Acts of the Apostles would be repeated on Brazilian soil. It was possible to be a Christian with more spiritual fervor.

## **II – THE BIRTH OF A NEW MOVEMENT**

**1. The preaching of the Pentecostal revival.** The preaching of the missionaries drew the attention of the traditional churches, causing discomfort and concern. They were not well accepted by the pastors of the historic churches. Sister *Celina Albuquerque*, a member of a traditional church, accepted the message about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and made the decision to stay at home, praying to God that He would confirm whether that doctrine was correct. Thus, Sister **Celina** received the gift of God and, therefore, is considered the first Brazilian to be baptized in the Holy Spirit in our country.

Other brothers joined her and were also baptized in the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, the leadership of the church, which these brothers were part of, did not agree with that spiritual revival and promoted a meeting to confirm who would consent to the missionaries' message. At that meeting, 9 brothers stood up and were asked to leave the church. Thus begins a history of persecution that would mark the Pentecostal Movement in Brazil.

**2. Growth and seeking.** Persecutions against Pentecostals were heavy, as Jesus said (Matt. 5:10). They took place in the liturgical sphere, among others. For example, in the first baptism service, in *Pará*, some enemies of the Gospel tried to prevent baptism. There is some written record that one of them even drew a dagger to attack Missionary Gunnar Vingren. It was Sister Celina, who prevented the crime by throwing herself in front of the perpetrator. Other records show that, in *Mosqueiro*, in the countryside of the state, a house of prayer was surrounded and stoned. Believers had to leave to protect themselves. Accounts like these abound in the unfolding Pentecostal Movement in Brazil. However, the Lord delivered his people many times (Psalm 34:7).

**3. Divine healings.** If there were persecutions and hardships at the beginning of the Gospel, there were also glorious interventions of God in the lives of his people. In the *O Diário do Pioneiro* ("The Diary of the

Pioneer”, loosely translated), a book which was written by Missionary Gunnar Vingren, you can see the following account: “A sister was healed of an incurable lip disease. A paralyzed man who was about to die and could no longer speak was healed and later began to attend our worship services. A child, who was dying with a fever, was healed. An old man, who had suffered from a hernia for nine years, was healed. Another man, who had been sick with a fever for many months, whose whole body was swollen, was both healed and baptized with the Holy Spirit. He also received the gift of prophecy [...] a man who saw his son die, immediately took him up in his arms and began to call on the name of the Lord. The child came back to life at once. When his wife saw what had happened, she surrendered to the Lord.” These are some of the many powerful signs that marked Pentecostal Revival in Brazil. They were the signs of God confirming the preaching of our pioneers (Mark 16:20).

### **III – THE SPREAD OF THE PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL**

**1. A centrifugal model.** The spiritual revival made our church in Brazil seek a model of centrifugal growth, that is to say, *coming from within*. They started worship services in a house, in a small hall, in a neighborhood, in a city; Pentecostals evangelized on the streets, from house to house, in schools, hospitals. Later, the brothers sought some larger facilities to meet the demands of the work; and the Lord saved, healed, baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Pentecostal Revival was growing in a way never seen before in our country. What Jesus had promised was happening: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

**2. A strong growth.** Pentecostals in Brazil do not grow because they seek people in other churches, but they grow because they evangelize and disciple them through the Gospel of Christ. According to IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) data, in 2010, evangelicals accounted for approximately 42 million people. Out of that number, the overwhelming majority of them are traditional Pentecostals. Certainly, the next survey will confirm the upward trend. All of this was the fruit of the powerful Pentecostal Revival that God sent to our nation.

### **CONCLUSION**

Before the Pentecostal Revival on Brazilian soil, what dominated the religious scene was the doctrinal system of the historic churches that did not admit the baptism in the Holy Spirit, with an evident sign of speaking in

tongues, as well as the exercise of spiritual gifts. These spiritual manifestations, based on the Word of God, are marks of the true Pentecostal Revival in Brazil.