**THE ROAD TO PENTECOST**

**Introduction:** Ever been in a position where you believed in God, Jesus and heard of His Holy Spirit, but lacked passion?

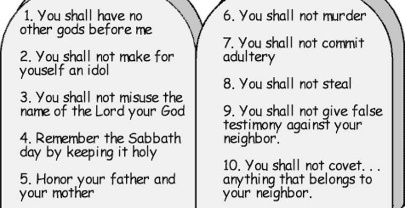
* What about religious ritual? It can bring a measure of peace for some, but never lasts.
* My testimony:
  + Wonderfully saved. Genuine experience
  + Good church that discipled me
  + Great emphasis on Word – knew I shoud be witnessing, but lacked power
  + Did God just give instructions and then leave us alone?

1. **God’s Plan**

Genesis 1:25 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*

* Notice who is involved in creation:
  + Spirit AND Word
* God brings life out of chaos and darkness by Spirit and Word
* Humanity was created with spirit, soul, body
* Sin caused us to die spiritually towards God,
  + our soul and body are also affected
* thus Spirit and Word are involved in our restoration.

1. **The Word**
2. Background

* f Society before fall
  + All was good
* Society AFTER fall
  + Mixture of good and evil
  + Disregard for our fellow humanity
  + Fed by jealousy – violence
  + Women subjugated
  + Slavery (this become evident once cities were established)
  + Abuse – including child sacrifice
  + Occultic practices of varying degrees
* By the time of Moses, this behaviour was common the nations that Israel was to live amongst.
* God gave 10 commandments
  + First 4 deal with worship:
    - God is #1
    - Don’t disrespect Him by what you make or say
    - Give Him time.
  + The following 6 deal with relationships:
* Other laws given to the Israelites were to set boundaries for a good society and thriving nation.
* History tells us that societies have all too often tipped on the “evil” side
  + Law is given to set a standard
    - ILLUSTRATIONS from lockdown
* Good and evil tugs on us all the time
  + Law gives a boundary, but also shows where we fall short.

1. **The Purpose**

* “Someone has to pay!”
  + With the Israelites, it was a lamb
    - They had the Word, but needed a lamb
    - Pointed to one who was called the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36)
* Our God is a God of plan and purpose
  + God introduced special holidays, feasts, and festivals

1. *Passover*

* Preparation of 10 Nisan (Exodus 12:1)
* Lambs killed 14 Nisan (Exodus 12:6)
* Jesus entered Jerusalem on 10 Nisan (Palm Sunday)
* Jesus died 14 Nisan (dates taken from history)

1. *Feast of Weeks*

* Started on second day of Passover
  + (Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:9-22; Deuteronomy 16:10)
* Holiday with offering of first fruits of Barley Harvest
  + Sign of thanksgiving – start of a good harvest
  + First Fruits guaranteed an abundant later harvest
* That day was Resurrection Sunday
  + Jesus is the ‘first fruits of those who have fallen asleep”  
    (1 Corinthians 15:20)

James 1:18 *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created*.

Romans 8:23 “*We ourselves who have the firstfruit of the Spirit*…”

1. *Pentecost*

* Literally: End of SEVEN weeks
* Pentecost (Shavuot) – the time of the giving of the Torah (Law)
* The first Passover and Pentecost transformed a people into a nation
* The events around Passover and Pentecost 2020 years ago changed the world.
* The Word of God feeds us, but the Spirit gives us passion.