1. Pentecost is a once and for all event, yet we all as individual believers participate in it. How do we participate in it? **Abraham Kuyper** **likens it to a new water works being opened for one generation and subsequent generations drawing water from the same system.** That is how we experience the Holy Spirit after Pentecost.
2. **John 16:8-11**: Conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment came when the Spirit fell, just as Jesus said it would happen. **The Holy Spirit brings us to faith by bringing us to faith through regeneration.** **John 3** gives insight through Jesus’s words to Nicodemus. **We must understand what it means to be born again...*to be born from above*.**
3. **The word ‘*regeneration’* only occurs twice in the NT.** In **Matthew 19** it is used for the final regeneration of *all things*....the final restoration of the entire cosmos. It also is used in **Titus 2** in reference to *the washing of regeneration*. But the language of ***birth*** and ‘***new birth***’ is used by Jesus to explain what regeneration is.
4. **We notice 4 things in John 3 that helps us understand regeneration and the new birth**.
   1. **It is a *heavenly* birth**. The new birth is something that comes downward from above. To be ‘*born again’* means a birth that comes from above, a heavenly birth. This comes solely by the Spirit (**John 3:5,6**). Jesus uses the ***wind*** to illustrate this process by the Spirit. **You can’t see it, yet you experience it, and see its effects**. There are no resources on earth that can make someone ready for the kingdom of God. **Only the Spirit from above has the resources, and only he can accomplish the new birth.**
   2. **It is a *sovereign* birth.** We see how the new birth takes place. The wind blows where it wills, and the Spirit, like the wind, is not under our control. **The new birth is accomplished sovereignly by God Himself.** We contribute nothing. God begets us by his own will! We contribute nothing more to the new birth than we did to our earthly birth. **Just as we were conceived by the will of our earthly parents for our earthly birth, we are conceived for our heavenly birth by the will of the Father and activity of the Spirit.**
   3. **It is an *evident* birth:** Our very affections are transformed through regeneration. We know we are born again because the effects upon us are evident.
      1. **Verse 3**: **we receive *illumination***—we experience and see the kingdom of God and the king. Our minds are opened to see the truth we couldn’t see or understand before. Luke 24: the Emmaeus disciples shows clearly how this happens.
      2. **Verse5**: **our enslaved wills are *freed*.** We are enabled by the Holy Spirit to break free from our slavery to sin and the devil, and to enter the kingdom of God. Our enslaved wills are set free by the Holy Spirit to move toward God. We suddenly desire what we resisted before. This was prophesied in Ezekiel 36: **we are born of *water* and the *Spirit***. We are cleansed, and our desires are *transformed by the Spirit* to desire heavenly things instead of earthly things.
   4. **The new birth brings us to *faith***. The first sign that we’ve been born again is that we begin to look upward to Jesus and believe in him. ***Our belief doesn’t cause us to be born again. Being born again causes us to believe!***