

The Church and Pentecost (Part 2)
John 14:15-24; Rom. 8:9-11
April 1, 2007

I. The Gift of the Spirit

A. The Promise of the Father (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8)

John 7:37-38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

B. One part of Christ's redemptive work

John 1:33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."

C. An indicative: part of your position in Christ (Acts 2:38-39)

I Cor. 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

II. The Implications of Pentecost

A. The Father will send another Helper (John 14:15-24)

1. **The context:** Jesus going away (13:36-38)
2. **The disciples:** Afraid, don't leave us
3. **Christ's answer:** something better
 - a. *John 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*
 - b. Another Helper – the same kind of Helper, like me
v. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
 - c. Spirit of Truth – "you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you"

B. This day fulfilled at Pentecost (vv. 19-21)

1. **In that day** – Pentecost (v. 20)
2. **Our fellowship with the Triune God** (v. 20b)
 - a. I am in my Father – unity of the Godhead
 - b. And you in me and I in you – our union with Christ
 - c. All accomplished by the coming of another Helper, the Spirit of Truth
3. **The great comfort of this fellowship and communion with the Triune God**
v. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.
 - a. Christ, by the Spirit, discloses himself
 - b. Do you want to know Christ better? Take comfort in the work of the Spirit

C. Ultimately, why is this better than walking and talking with God?

1. **Triune God dwelling in and with His people**

v. 23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him

2. **No fear because greater intimacy with your God**

3. **God makes his dwelling place with man** – you are the Father’s many roomed house being prepared by Christ

III. The Work of the Indwelling Spirit in the Believer

A. The Life-Giving Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11)

1. **Sets apart the people of God:** “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” (v. 9)

2. **Brings life to our dead, sinful bodies** (v. 10)

3. **By the indwelling Spirit, we receive the resurrection of the dead that comes through Christ** (v. 11)

B. Set us apart unto holiness (II Cor. 6:14-7:1)

1. **Paul calls believers to be separate** from the world

2. **Why separate?** We are the temple of the living God.

“There are, according to the Apostle, two kinds of men in the world, believers and unbelievers: and these two kinds of men stand in contradiction to each other. . . The ultimate source of the fundamental difference between them he finds in the indwelling in Christians of the Holy Spirit. . . The influx of the Holy Spirit into the heart constitutes, then, a new humanity.”¹

3. Because of the promises of the indwelling God, **we are called to holiness**

C. Strengthened unto holiness by the Spirit (Eph. 3:14-19)

1. **What is the strengthening of the Holy Spirit?** the abiding of Christ in your hearts by faith (v. 17a)

“The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the means of the indwelling of Christ, and the two are one and the same great fact.”²

2. The indwelling Christ, by the indwelling Spirit, is **the source of all spiritual strength for the believer**

“We are strengthened in the inner man with might by the Holy Spirit, because, by the operation of the Spirit in our hearts, Christ abides there . . . And here we learn then the source of the Christian’s strength. Christ is the ultimate source. His indwelling is the ground of all our strength. But it is only by the Spirit . . . that Christ dwells in the heart. It is the Spirit that strengthens us, and He so strengthens us that He gives us ‘might’ in our inner man. The way He does this is by forming Christ within us.”³

→This is yours in Christ. You have been baptized and filled with the Spirit, and you can know the Triune God better because he dwells in and with you.

¹ Benjamin B. Warfield, *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Amityville: Calvary Press, 1997), 73.

² *Ibid*, 79.

³ *Ibid*.