

## Pentecost: Power Through His Spirit – Acts 1:8 & Acts 2

**Introduction** – From Passion Week through Resurrection Sunday through Ascension Sunday to Pentecost, we have been celebrating for the last two months the work that God did in redeeming his creation. These are important days, not just for us, not just for the church, but for the world. God promised to save the world and we're seeing that and it is reason for celebration. The world changed on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the church. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, the helper as Jesus put it, came with power. And the world would never be the same.

**Holy Spirit in the OT** – The Holy Spirit was not a new thing in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit was active in Old Testament times as well. First was the Holy Spirit's presence with the Father and the Son in the work of creation. Genesis 1:2 says "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." He was there. Joseph and Samson and David all had strong experiences with God's Spirit. God actively worked through the Spirit all through the OT.

**Holy Spirit in NT** – (Acts 1:7-9) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Power indeed. From 120 disciples in an unbroken line to Trinity Church and now Emmanuel. The church has grown through the power of the Holy Spirit changing one heart at a time.

**Preaching – In the Church** – Preach the Word. When Paul told Timothy what to do with his ministry he said it as simply as you can say it. In 2 Timothy 4:2 He said, "Preach the Word." The word is truth. **In the Home** – Back to Ephesians 2. It's going to be that love. The love you have for God, the love you have for each other, the love you have for your neighbors. You will look different, but that is preaching the gospel. Let everyone you come in contact with see your love, look different in the way you treat one another and the way you treat them. When they ask what's different, give them gospel.

**Work of the Holy Spirit – Regenerate** (Titus 3:3-7) Brought back to life. This is Ezekiel; the dry bones being brought back to life. This is resurrection. We were dead and now we are alive in Christ. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. Now we have been born again. **Seal** (Eph. 1:13) You were sealed by the Holy Spirit. Protected. There is nothing that can permanently separate you from God. Because of the work of Christ you can be sealed. **Sanctify** (2 Thess. 2:13) The elect are saved through sanctification and, according to Paul, the elect cannot continue to live in a godless fashion after they are converted. (2 Cor. 3:18) "...being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" by the operation of the Holy Spirit. So that we will be an acceptable sacrifice (Rom. 15:16).

**How does it look?** – (Eph. 5:18-21) Joy in Christ is the mark of being filled with the Spirit. Joy that expresses itself in song. And gratitude; perpetual gratitude, gratitude for everything. And humble loving submission to each other's needs. "Be filled with the Spirit." (Rom. 8:5) Set your mind on the things of the Spirit. When you do that there is fruit. (Gal. 5:22-24) Your flesh has been crucified with Christ and you have the Spirit and as the Spirit works, the fruit appears. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

**Why is it so hard?** – (Gal. 5:17, Rom. 7:18) There was no opposition before you had the Spirit. You did what your heart desired. Life becomes complicated once we are renewed by the Holy Spirit; now we have two principles at war within ourselves: the old desires and the new desires. Proverbs 23:7 says "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." What do we dwell on with most satisfaction? What truths, what comforts, do we most enjoy and are most agreeable to us? We need to examine what is most important to us.

**Pitfalls – Forget** (Gal. 3:1-3) The Holy Spirit changed our heart so that we could turn to Christ and be reconciled to God. But how soon after do we start to think we can do things on our own? How soon do we forget? **Resist** (1 Thess. 5:19) This is resisting through sin, rebellion, hardness of heart and spiritual blindness. This is quenching the influence the Holy Spirit has in your life. **Grieve** (Eph. 4:30) God is grieved at hard hearts. Are we hard hearted at times? When we want our way or when we stubbornly try to do things without God our hearts are focused on ourselves making it hard towards God. And it grieves God.

**The Helper** – (John 14: 16-17, 26) The Holy Spirit is described as a helper. What a comfort! The Holy Spirit dwells in us to help us. Help is to give assistance or support, to make more bearable. That is what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do. How? By helping us remember and understand what Jesus has taught us (1 Cor. 2:12).

**Just Ask** – (Luke 11:13) "...how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" If we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit we must pray for it. Pray for power. That is what Paul does in Ephesians when he asks his Father in heaven that the believers "might be filled with all the fullness of God." Pray and then hold on. It's serious power.