

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Let's Celebrate"

June 8, 2025

INTRO.: How many here have had family events to celebrate recently? As a family we have had many events to celebrate and thank God for in the past few months. In the beginning of March Jasen graduated from Advanced Infantry Training, and at the end of March Jack and Karis were married. This past weekend we were out in northwestern PA at Kyle and Karen's to celebrate the arrival of our newest grandson, the birthday of our two-year-old granddaughter, and the birthday of my precious wife, Brenda. Just two days ago Brenda and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. I am so thankful to God for her. She is a wonderful gift from God to me and our entire family. Her love for Jesus, myself, and our family shines brightly. She is the calm in the middle of the chaos, which you can imagine with six sons. So, we have had many reasons to celebrate. Last Sunday we recognized, celebrated and challenged our high school and college graduates. Thank you to Pastor Luke for his excellent challenge. How many here have been to or are going to a graduation party? There are many reasons for the believer to celebrate. The Word of God tells us about God's mercies.

Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV) — 22 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. **23** They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

I also realize that many of you have been going through some heartache. Some have recently had loved ones go home to be with the Lord. For the believer, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Yes, we grieve, but we don't grieve like those who have no hope. Greatly missed, but all better. Whatever you're going through, as a follower of Christ, there is still reason to celebrate. Pull out your bulletin, what do you see on the front? This morning, on a day which some call Pentecost Sunday (50 days after celebrating the resurrection of Christ), we are going to look at the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit. There is much confusion and bad teaching when it comes to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Because of this many avoid talking or teaching about the Holy Spirit. He is a member of the Trinity: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. As a member of the trinity, He possesses the attributes of deity. This morning, we want to talk about the background of Pentecost, the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers, those who know Christ as Savior and Lord, and His ministry to unbelievers. We could spend weeks on this, so this morning will be an overview. As you're thinking about that I want us to turn to responsive reading #644 in the hymnals and stand as we read. I will read the light print and we will all read the dark print in unison.

THE BACKGROUND

I believe that it is important to give some historical background. The prefix, "pente" in the Greek means fifty. It is used three times in the New Testament.

Acts 2:1–4 (page 1692 in pew Bible) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 20:16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

1 Corinthians 16:8–9 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, **9** because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

In the Old Testament this is referred to as the Feast of Weeks and came 50 days after the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is part of the Passover Celebration. The Passover was the first of the yearly festivals of the Jewish people. It referred to the sacrifice of the lamb in Egypt when the Israelites were slaves. The blood from the lamb was put on the doorposts so the angel of death (the last of the ten plagues directed at the Egyptians by God because Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go) would pass over the house, sparing the first born (Exodus 12; Leviticus 23; Numbers 28-29). Unleavened bread was to be used in this festival as this showed the Israelites left Egypt in haste leaving no time for them to put leaven in the bread.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of these festivals. He had a Passover meal with His disciples before He was taken away to be crucified. Included in the meal was the bread representing His body, and the wine representing His blood, which He would offer as payment for our sins. We celebrated His sacrifice this morning with the observance of communion.

Pentecost, as recorded in the book of Acts, is seven weeks and one day following the Feast of Unleavened Bread, with the events that followed in Acts 2 being the fulfillment of the Feast of Weeks. In Acts 2:1-4 we have the church being born with the mention of one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit, the filling of the believers. There is much more that could be said about this, but we want to spend the bulk of our time on the following points.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

First of all: To Believers

Please understand we could take weeks going over all of these ministries I'm going to mention. I hope this causes us to thank God for the Holy Spirit.

***Regeneration**

What does the Bible tell us about our current state apart from Jesus Christ? We are completely spiritually dead, separated from God because of our sin, and no hope of becoming spiritually alive on our own efforts or goodness.

Ephesians 2:1-2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Who is it that makes spiritually dead people alive?

Titus 3:3-7 (page 1859 in the pew Bible) At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth (regeneration) and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Spiritually dead people need to be made alive; they need a new birth, they need to be born again.

***Baptism**

We are not talking about water baptism but what happens at the moment of salvation. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in each of the gospels.

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Mark 1:8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

John 1:33-34 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit we are placed in Christ and united to all other believers

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

"The baptism with the Holy Spirit is one of the most vital and important of Scriptural doctrines. Its vast significance can readily be appreciated when it is realized that it is that divine operation of God's Spirit which places the believer 'in Christ,' in His mystical Body, the Church, and which makes him one with all other believers in Christ, one in life, the very life of the Son of God Himself, one in Him, a common Head, one in sharing His common salvation, hope, and destiny." (Merrill Unger)

***Sealing**

Ephesians 1:13–14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

v. 13: "*seal*:" "This refers to an official mark of identification placed on a letter, contract, or other important document. The seal was usually made from hot wax, which was placed on the document and then impressed with a signet ring. The document was thereby officially identified with and under the authority of the person to whom the signet belonged.... The seal of God's Spirit in the believer signifies four primary things: security, authenticity, ownership, and authority." John MacArthur

v. 14 "*who is*:" present tense

The Holy Spirit is the deposit (pledge, down payment) guaranteeing our inheritance.

***Indwelling**

Once again, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer. This is different from being "filled" with the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15–17 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

How does the Apostle Paul challenge people to live godly lives, to avoid sexual immorality?

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

The tabernacle and temple represented the presence of God. After Christ ascended into heaven the Holy Spirit took up residence in every believer. We NEVER go anywhere without God. That should be an encouragement to us when facing difficulties, challenges, attacks from the enemy, and persecution.

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

It is also a reminder that wherever we go, whatever we do, say, or think God is with us and this should be an encouragement to live God-honoring God-pleasing lives; being salt and light for Him to others.

***Filling**

This relates to our daily walk with God. It is very different from the ministry of the Holy Spirit in indwelling believers. Indwelling happens once, at the moment of salvation, while being filled with the Holy Spirit is affected by our obedience to God with our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. This refers to allowing the Holy Spirit to have control of every aspect of our lives.

Ephesians 5:15–20 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. **18** Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. **19** Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, **20** always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"be filled": present tense command

The fruit of the Spirit is visible evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

***Interceding**

Did you ever struggle with how to pray about something or someone?

Romans 8:26–27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

***Teaching**

As Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure listen to what He promises the disciples.

John 14:25–26 “All this I have spoken while still with you. **26** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 16:12–15 I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

2 Timothy 3:14–17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer includes: Regeneration, baptism, sealing, indwelling, filling, interceding, and teaching. This should be a wow for the believer. Awesome God!! Praise God!!

What about the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

To Unbelievers

As I said earlier, apart from the work of regeneration we are all spiritually dead and unable to make ourselves spiritually alive. Look at what the Bible says about those who don't know Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in response to what the enemy is doing in the lives of unbelievers?

John 16:7–11 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10** in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

You and I can't convert anybody. It is the work of God as we faithfully share the Word of God and live His Word before a world in desperate need of the gospel.

SO WHAT??

*Am I blind to my need of the gospel?

*If I have come to faith in Christ, do I thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

*As I pray for those who have yet to come to faith in Christ do I ask the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin and God's judgment?

*Take some time this week to review the Scripture on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit

*As I read and study the Word of God pray that the Holy Spirit would teach me.