

"The Day of Pentecost"

The Church is born...

The promised Holy Spirit Indwells

Sermon 4

Various Scripture

05-31-2020

Welcome... We have been having a reverse type of Pentecost...

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Rather than waiting together in the upper room for the Holy Spirit to come, we have been waiting separately in our homes with the Holy Spirit having already come to gather together... to be reunited together... as one in Union with Christ under the power and guidance of God the Holy Spirit...

What God the Father and God the Son had begun. . Now God the Holy Spirit would complete

And it is good to see my brothers and sisters in Christ as well as being with each of you at home...

We are blessed to have the ability to live stream our services and be in home with you...

I was thinking how wonderful it has been to stay united through technology as it gives us a sense of presence with one another regardless of where we might be.

God has been doing this forever as He is omnipresent, meaning no restrictions or limitations regarding time and space... King David expressed amazement of God saying ...

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O LORD, you have searched me and known me! (2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

(3) You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

(4) Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. (5) You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Look what David had to say after he pondered God's omnipresence meaning his being present everywhere... (Internet example)

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(6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

I love the question David proposes and then answers...

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(7) Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

Answer... No where

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(8) If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

(9) If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, (10) even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

(11) If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," (12) even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. (Psalms 139:1-12 ESV)

So it is good to be with all of you as God is with all of us...

Today is Pentecost Sunday...In many Christian churches, this Sunday is celebrated to recognize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit... realizing that God's very life, breath and power lives in you and me as believers.

God now dwells in a new temple, not build by human hands, but by God... a spiritual temple to bring honor and praise Him... So now as Ephesians tells us....

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...Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for

us. (19) So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

(20) Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.(Ephesians 2:18-20 NLT)

I just love how the Apostle Peter pens this subject under inspiration of God the Holy Spirit

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You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

(5) And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. You are His holy priesthood. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you *(now can)* offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.(1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT)

What sacrifices can you offer to please God you may ask?

And might I add a really great Question!!!

The apostle Pau under inspiration of God the Holy Spirit makes an appeal to the Romans and now us...

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I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, ***to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*** (Romans 12:1 ESV)

How do I do that?By not being

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....conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will (*desire*) of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

As previously stated, this is Pentecost Sunday

The Greek word for Pentecost literally means "the fiftieth," that is, the fiftieth day after the Passover, or, in this case, after the perfect sacrifice was provided by God for the remission of our sins.

The perfect sacrifice being God the Son, our Savior... the Lamb of God ...Jesus Christ ...God in the flesh.

We read in the book of Acts... which I like to refer to as the acts of the Holy Spirit

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Acts 1:1-5 ESV

In the first book, *(Gospel of Luke)* O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

(3) He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them for ***forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.***

(4) And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to ***wait for the promise*** of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; John

baptized with water, but ***you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.***

So Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection "forty days", and now it had only been about ten days since He had ascended or returned to heaven...

Jesus was back at His rightful place with the Father.. What a day of rejoicing that was.. Can you imagine the joy and celebration?

Pentecost tends to remind me of the Last Supper; in both instances the disciples are together in a house for what proves to be an important event.

At the Last Supper, the disciples witness the end of the Messiah's earthly ministry as He asks them to remember Him after His death until He returns.

At Pentecost, the disciples witness the birth of the New Testament church in the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers.

Thus the scene of the disciples in a room at Pentecost links the beginning of the Holy Spirit's work in the church with the conclusion of Christ's earthly ministry in the upper room before the crucifixion.

It was on that day, the day of Pentecost, God sent the promised Holy Spirit..."the Holy Spirit descended to indwell the believers"

To indwell means to be permanently present in (someone's soul or mind); possess spiritually.

be inherent in, be intrinsic to, be present in, inhere in, exist in, rest in, lie in, dwell in, abide in, consist in...

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the action by which God takes up permanent residence in the body of a believer in Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come and go from the OT saints, empowering them for service but not necessarily remaining with them (see Judges 15:14; 1 Chronicles 12:18; Psalm 51:11; Ezekiel 11:5).

In the OT book of Judges 15:14-17 we see the Holy Spirit falling upon Sampson...

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As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But ***the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson***, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists.

(15) Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.

(16) Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, I've piled them in heaps! With the jawbone of a donkey, I've killed a thousand men!"

(17) When he finished his boasting, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was named Ramath-lehi (*meaning jawbone hill*)

Now here in the New Covenant of grace and truth Jesus revealed to His disciples and now us the new role the Spirit of Truth would play in their and our lives:

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"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him.

But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you (John 14: 15-17).

Years later after establishing the church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul had to rebuke the believers writing to them saying...

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"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

These verses are telling us that we how believe in Jesus Christ have the third Person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit, living in each one of us.

When one accepts Christ as their personal Savior, God the Holy Spirit gives that person the life of God, eternal life, which is really His very nature and the Holy Spirit comes to live within him or her spiritually.

Allow me to put scripture to this statement...

In verse 3 of Chapter 3 we see that once we, before being saved, were foolish and disobedient.

We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures.

Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. This was our natural state of condition being of the devil... But hang on... Verse 4 begins with...

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(4) But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, (5) He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life ***through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.*** (7) Because of His grace He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life (Titus 4:4-7).

The fact that the believer's body is likened to a temple where the Holy Spirit lives helps us understand what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is all about.

The word temple is used to describe the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctum in the Old Testament tabernacle structure.

There, God's presence would appear in a cloud and meet the high priest, who came once a year into the Holy of Holies.

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest brought the blood of a slain animal and sprinkled it on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

On this special day, God granted forgiveness to the priest and His people.

Today, there is no Jewish temple in Jerusalem, and the animal sacrifices have ceased.

You and I, and all believers in Christ have become the inner sanctum of God the Holy Spirit, as the believer has been sanctified and forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ because...

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In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (Eph 1:7).

And now we, in Christ, are the habitation, the dwelling place, of the Holy Spirit of God through Christ.

In fact, let's just place the whole Trinity of God in the new temple not designed by human hands but by God...

Scripture declares that you and I are indwelt spiritually by Christ... In addressing the Colossians Paul reminded them that God had given him the responsibility of serving the Lord's church by proclaiming God's entire message to the Colossians...

This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people....

What was the message God wanted you to reveal Paul?

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...God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too.

What is the secret?

And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory (Colossians 1:27).

***Not only does the Holy Spirit and Jesus live in us,
also does God the Father...***

***The apostle John, the one Jesus loved, tells us
under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit***

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...we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1st John 4:14-16).

We got it all church.. the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit... all three in me!

***We are now the temple of God, the living stones..
indwelled by the Holy Spirit, promised on the day of Pentecost some 2000 years ago...***

And, as believers having been indwelt by God the Holy Spirit we absolutely need to be aware of His ministries in our life...

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Through the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit,

- ✓ We are saved,
- ✓ We are filled,
- ✓ We are sealed,
- ✓ We are sanctified.

The Holy Spirit reveals God's thoughts, teaches, and guides us into all truth, including knowledge of what is to come.

Perhaps one of the most important ministries is the Spirit's ministry in illumination—

He enlightens our minds to enable us to know, to see, to grasp, and to apply the will, desires, and purposes of God.

In the Gospel of John Chapters 14-16 we find Jesus disclosing to his apostles his going back to where he had come from being heaven

Our Lord Jesus made it clear to the apostles that this would be one of the central ministries of the Spirit in their lives: Jesus told them...

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I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you (John 14:25-26).

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When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever He receives from me.

(John 16:13-14)

The Spirit taught the apostles "all things" and led them into "all truth".

Now, however, He continues this work in us through the Scriptures He enabled the apostles to write for us.

This was such a blessing for us as this gave us our bible, the word of God..

The Holy Spirit would remind Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John of what Jesus had said leading them to write the gospels.

He would remind Paul, James, Peter, and John lead them into the truth writing the Letters or Epistles to the churches ... and

Our Holy Spirit took John up in a vision and had him write the things he saw so we would know the things to come, placing this in the book of Revelation.

When you accepted Christ as your Savior this same Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart as it did with those gathered on the day of Pentecost bringing with Him an entirely new life, a new love, a new relationship, to serve our Lord...

Let me close with a few verses of psalms 119 showing us the pathway to spiritual liberty and stability..

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Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.

In Doing so.....

They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.

Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands.

As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me! (Psalms 119:1-8).

God the Holy Spirit is your guide, inspiration and power to do the above.. Ask Him to lead you in the way of righteousness..