

The Comforter Has Come.

Gospel: John 14:8-17 (25-27): **8** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. **12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. **15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. **25** "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. **26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Introduction

Today marks a very special day in the life of the believer and for the Church at large. We celebrate the birth of the Church today, and we have every cause to be joyful because today is: (Response from the congregation) **PENTECOST.**

Pentecost is one of the three major Jewish festival/feasts. (**Passover, Weeks, and Tents - Three Pilgrimage Festivals**) The Jews called **PENTECOST** the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek meaning fifty. Pentecost occurs in the Jewish month of Sivan (May/June), 50 days after Passover, and celebrates the end of the grain harvest. The Pentecost that followed Jesus' death and resurrection was the occasion on which the **Holy Spirit** was given to believers in Jerusalem.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity and He is many things to us. The Greek word used by Jesus to describe the Holy Spirit's ministry is *PARAKLETOS*. The title originally was used to describe a person who was called in to **HELP** someone. The Holy Spirit is our **Helper, Comforter, Encourager, Counselor, and Advocate** - constant companion in a world where loneliness can afflict even connected people.

1. The Holy Spirit is our strength and comfort.
2. We were to turn to him when we are in trouble and when we are weak, being assured that he intercedes with and for us.
3. The Holy Spirit is our advocate.
4. He comes alongside to strengthen and fight on our behalf.
5. He leads us and teaches us as we grow in Christ.
6. Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person with attributes of personality.
7. He corrects, helps and intercedes.
8. He inspired the prophets to speak.
9. The Holy Spirit inspires men to write the Word of God, so next time when you read your Bible, remember you are reading the words breathed by the Holy Spirit.
10. The Holy Spirit is also divine. Characteristics that only used of God are attributed to the Holy Spirit.
11. He is present everywhere, knows all things, is all powerful, and is eternal – without beginning or end.
12. He is described as working in creation and doing miracles.

Jesus commanded that believers should be baptized in the name of Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In his final hours of His earthly ministry, Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit, whom He would send from the Father to be our Helper.

John 14:15-17 - ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

A Two-Fold Relationship

Jesus promised two things concerning what His followers' relationship with the Holy Spirit would be.

1. His Permanence – the Spirit would be with them forever and abide (remain) with them.
2. His presence – the Holy Spirit will be in them.

What is the work of The Holy Spirit in the believer's life?

- In the believer's personal life
 - He empowers the believer for life and service
 - He testifies of our relationship with God - Rom 8:16
 - He Teaches us - John 14:26
 - He guides us Rom. 8:14
 - He helps us lead a life pleasing to God – Gal. 5:16
 - He helps us in prayer – Rom. 8:26
 - He gives life to our mortal bodies – Rom. 8:11
 - In the believer for service
 - The Holy Spirit gives power and boldness to witness – Acts 1:8
 - He gives us gift of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:4
 - He testifies that Jesus is alive – Acts 5: 30-32
 - He brings us fresh understanding (illumination) of the Word of God – 1 Cor. 2:9-10
 - He fills our spirit with true worship of God – Eph. 5:18-19
 - He glorifies Jesus through us – John 16:13-15
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How Do We Receive The Holy Spirit?

It is recorded that before Jesus ascended, he has given His disciples his word of promise.

Let me refresh your memory on the events leading to the day of Pentecost. ***(short narration of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection) 2 disciples to Emmaus – return to Jerusalem.***

The Holy Spirit Promised

⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2: Coming of the Holy Spirit

1. When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Crowd's Response

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful

works of God.”¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

Peter’s Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants. I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. ²¹ And it shall come to pass; That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’

The Comforter Has Come

1. When the Comforter comes, we will be empowered and be bold witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ – in our family, workplace, in our neighborhood, in our county state, nation and around the world. – We will have more people fill our pews - 3000 people responded to Peter’s message
 2. When the Comforter comes, we will be filled with the gift of speaking in tongues
 3. When the Comforter comes, we will CONFESS and TURN FROM our sins without a second thought.
 4. When the Comforter comes, we will become PARTICIPATING MEMBERS of a local congregation. Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day (Acts 2:41).
3. When the Comforter comes, our lives are focused on KNOWING Jesus and HELPING others.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need (Acts 2:42, 44-45).

4. When the Comforter comes, those who know us will see GOD AT WORK signs. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles (Acts 2:43).

5. When the Comforter comes, we will see miraculous ANSWERS to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles (Acts 2:43).

6. When the Comforter comes, our attitude of GENEROSITY will run counterculture. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need (Acts 2:45).

7. When the Comforter comes, our desire for WORSHIP and FELLOWSHIP will drive us to meet with other Christians. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God... (Acts 2:46-47).

8. When the Comforter comes, everyone will KNOW IT'S AWESOME. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:43 & 47).

Conclusion:

When the Holy Spirit (Comforter) comes into your life, you will overflow with joy and peace like you have never knew is possible.

The Bottom line: When the Holy Spirit comes, He changes EVERYTHING!

Responding to God:

Today I want to encourage you to ask God for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit. Please feel free to come to the altar rail and pray as we sing.