

The Advent of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

PART ONE

Introduction

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them” (Acts 2:1-3).

This is the inauguration of the Church.

Chapter one was transitional and preparational.

“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” (Acts 1:8).

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 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” (John 7:37-39).

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place” (v1).

“for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).

This event is THE *baptism with the Holy Spirit*.

The sending of the Holy Spirit was a sovereign act of God.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman” (Galatians 4:4).

There is nothing random, superfluous, or flexible about God’s timing in His redemptive plan of salvation.

Remember the critical importance of certain *Persons*, particular *Places*, and precise *Times* in the unfolding of God’s plan of redemption.

I. GOD’S HARVEST OF SOULS ANTICIPATED

“Pentecost” a Gk word meaning ‘the fiftieth.’

“You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field” (Exodus 23:16).

“the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest” (Exodus 34:22).

“On the day of the firstfruits, when you offer a grain offering of new grain to the Lord at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation” (Numbers 28:26).

The key Feasts in the OT are pictures of the work of Jesus Christ.

First, *Passover*

“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Second, the *Feast of Firstfruits*

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Third, the *Feast of Harvest*. This is Pentecost, which celebrates the coming of the full wheat harvest. (Leviticus 23:16-18).

“we ourselves, have the firstfruits of the Spirit” (Romans 8:23).

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18).

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

***“And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting”* (v2).**

At Pentecost, the Spirit of the LORD has come down from heaven to *breathe life* into the spiritually dead.

“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (*ruach elohim*; Genesis 1:2).

“ruach as a designation for the wind is necessarily something found in motion with the power to set other things in motion” (Theological Lexicon of the OT).

It is God's power through His Spirit that *breathes* life into His creation and makes things live.

"then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (Genesis 2:7).

"the breath of life" Heb. *neshamah*; 'a puff or blast of wind'; 'divine inspiration'; synonymous with *ruach*.

"GOD the HOLY SPIRIT ... is the *breath* of God which disperses His life-force, His energy and His intentions/mind." (Theological Lexicon of the OT).

"When you hide your face, they [all living things] are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground" (Psalm 104:29-30).

"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life" (Job 33:4).

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Genesis 2:16-17).

Adam and Eve willfully disobeyed God and immediately the life-giving Spirit was withdrawn from them and they died spiritually.

II. GOD'S HARVEST OF SOULS ACCOMPLISHED

Jesus explains to Nicodemus about how God must breathe life into that which is dead:

"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit'" (John 3:5-8).

The Greek word for Spirit is *pneuma*, which has the same meaning as *ruach* or *neshamah*.

The Holy Spirit was *with* the believers before the resurrection, but not yet *in* them.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:16-18).

Previously, the Holy Spirit had only moved upon men from *without*.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

David pleaded with God: *“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me”* (Psalm 51:11).

The Holy Spirit takes the Son’s place in ministry on earth when Jesus ascends in glory to heaven:

“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” (John 16:7).

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:25-26).

“Spirit is breath. Wind is but air in motion. *Breath* is the synonym for life” (Maclaren).

“And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them” (v3).

“And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him” (Matthew 3:16).

Behold, the Lamb of God

John the Baptist “saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ And John bore witness: ‘I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 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.” And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God” (John 1:29, 32-34).

Closing Prayer: Ephesians 3:14-21