

# *The Advent of the Holy Spirit*

Acts 2:1-13

PART THREE

## **Introduction**

### **'Burying the Lead'**

"The essential fact of Pentecost is neither the sound and fire, nor the speaking with other tongues, but the communication of the Holy Spirit" (Maclaren).

"But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way." (1 Corinthians 12:31).

"But you are eagerly desiring the greater gifts." (NIV).

"Because you are zealous of the best gifts, I will show you a more excellent way." (The Syriac NT).

### **The preeminence and permanence of love** (1 Corinthians 13:1, 8)

[*The shall cease*] "to make cease. They shall make themselves cease or automatically cease of themselves" (Robertson's Word Pictures)

"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. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2-4).

### **God, who is Spirit, presents Himself in the OT by His *Word* and by *Fire*: Deuteronomy 4-5**

Deuteronomy 4:10-12

"Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire" (Deuteronomy 4:15).

"For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deuteronomy 4:24).

Deuteronomy 4:32-33

Deuteronomy 4:35-36

"The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, while I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 5:4-5).

"And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me" (Deuteronomy 5:23).

Deuteronomy 5:24-26

"spoke," "words," "voice," "speaking" 16x and "fire" 12x in only 14 verses!

### **God presents and reveals Himself in His *Word* and with *Fire*.**

- 1) To signify His holy presence.
- 2) To communicate pure truth with His people.
- 3) To bring judgment.
- 4) To purify and make holy.

### **God presents and reveals Himself incarnate in the living Word *Jesus Christ*.**

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Luke 3:16).

“They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?’” (Luke 24:32).

“burn” Gk *kaiomene*; ‘fire’ or ‘light.’

“My heart became hot within me. As I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue” (Psalm 39:3).

This is the point. The Holy Spirit of God creates a fire within the believer that illuminates His Word, brings conviction and judgment, and purification and cleansing.

### **When Jesus ascended, He sent His Spirit to...**

- 1) To bring *conviction* (of sin)

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8).

- 2) To bring *cleansing* (from sin)

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules” (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

“such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Internal heart cleansing comes “by the washing of water with the Word” (Ephesians 5:26);

“and the blood of Jesus his Son [who] cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7-8).

- 3) To allow *communication* (of truth)

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever

he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:12-14).

4) To make *confession* (of Christ)

"every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

The prophet Jeremiah understood that the Spirit is given as a fire either leading to confession or judgment:

"If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9).

"Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63).

"Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: 'For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name'" (Romans 15:7-9; NKJV; citing 2 Sam. 22:50; Ps. 18:49).