

The Church and Pentecost (Part 1)
Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:4-11; 2:1-41
March 25, 2007

I. The Gift of the Spirit

A. The Promise of the Father (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8)

1. A Trinitarian event

John 14:26 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 16:7 Nevertheless, 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.

2. Part and parcel of salvation (Luke 24:44-49)

B. One part of Christ's redemptive work

1. The Testimony of John the Baptist

John 1:33 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."

Matt. 3:11 I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

2. Baptism of the Spirit one of Christ's great redemptive works (see Matt. 3:12; compare with Matt. 13:36-43)

3. The presence of the Second Adam with his people

Rom. 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

I Cor. 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

4. Having been fitted and prepared by the Spirit for His work, the Second Adam fits and prepares His people by giving the Spirit to them, and by the Spirit dwelling with them

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

"The work of the Spirit is not some addendum to the work of Christ. It is not some more or less independent sphere of activity that goes beyond or supplements what Christ has done. The Spirit's work is not a 'bonus' added to the basic salvation secured by Christ. Rather the coming of the Spirit brings to light not only that Christ has lived and has done certain things but that he, as the source of eschatological life, now lives and is at work in the church. By and in the Spirit Christ reveals himself as present."¹

¹ Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., *Perspectives on Pentecost* (Philippisburg: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1979), 19-20.

1. **An indicative: part of your position in Christ (Acts. 2:38-39)**
I Cor. 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

II. The Day of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-22)

A. Feast of the Harvest, Day of First Fruits

1. **Day of gratitude for blessings of harvest (Dt. 16:16; Jer. 5:24)**
2. **Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost fulfilled; first fruits of the worldwide harvest**

B. Three signs of Pentecost

1. **rushing wind (v. 2) – the Spirit’s creative breath (Gen. 1:1; 2:7)**
 See the breath of the Spirit giving spiritual life (Ezek. 37:9-10, 14)
2. **tongues of fire (v. 3) – picture of judgment (Mt. 3:11) but not consumed**
 Eph. 2:22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit
3. **tongues of the nations (v. 4ff)**
 →the judgment of Babel reversed by word of reconciliation

C. The Last Days (Joel 2:28-32)

1. **new intimacy through pouring out of Spirit (vv. 17-18)**
 →God’s prophetic Word accessible to all
I John 2:20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
2. **collapsing Creation: symbol of New World Order (vv. 19-20)**
3. **Access opened: everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (v. 21)**

III. Pentecost: All About Christ

A. What is the burden of the Spirit?

1. self-effacing, Christ-exalting
John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.
2. Notice Peter’s sermon: all about Christ

B. Peter’s message

1. This Jesus (Second Adam) made Lord and Christ (vv. 35-36)
2. Reminds you of Paul’s summary of Pentecost (I Cor. 15:45)
3. How do you join this New World Order? Repent and receive Jesus Christ (vv. 38-39)

C. The Spirit and the Church

1. The Spirit necessary for the establishment of the church (Eph. 2:22; I Cor. 3:16; 12:13)
2. The Spirit as down payment, pledge, first fruits (II Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14; Rom. 8:23)
3. Necessary for us to participate in the work of the harvest (Acts 1:8)