

Remnant Life Church  
June 16, 2019  
**The Story of Love: The Gift of the Holy Spirit**  
**Pt 2**  
Acts 2:1-12; 22-32  
*Pentecost Sunday*

Last week we talked about Pentecost as it relates to the second chapter of Acts

- It was actually a feast celebration in the Jewish calendar to celebrate the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai
- It occurred 50 days (Pentecost) after Israel left the bondage of Egypt under the leadership of Moses
- In the book of Acts, the time was 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- It is the fulfillment of what Jesus said to His disciples in **Acts 2:8**
  - *...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you (2:8)*
- That power was so great that it impacted, not only each person there, but the physical world as well
- In the time of the OT Pentecost, the presence of God was proclaimed in a mighty and physical way

**READ – Ex 19:16-19**

- The presence of God does not sneak into a place
- God announced the coming of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2** in a similar way
  - *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. - Acts 2:2-3*
    - In the original Greek, the words for wind and spirit are the same
    - The wind that came was, in fact, the Holy Spirit, and it changes everything about these men just as it changed their environment at that moment
  - What appeared to be tongues of fire (**Acts 2:3**)
    - Note that it does not say they WERE tongues of fire, but they APPEARED to be tongues of fire
    - This was an effort by Luke to describe something that had never been seen before
    - But the presence of God is often described in the Scripture as fire – known especially to the Israelites
      - The burning bush (**Ex 3:2**)
      - The pillar of fire (**Ex 13:21**)
      - The consuming fire on Mt. Sinai (**Ex 24:17**)
      - The fire that hovered over the tabernacle in the wilderness (**Ex 40:38**)

That same power of the Holy Spirit is here with us today

- The day of Pentecost in the NT was the giving of the Holy Spirit to help us in our daily walk as Christians
  - *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)*
  - The word used by Jesus to describe the Holy Spirit in **John 14** is pah-RAH-teh-klahz
  - That word is the same used to describe someone who pleads a case on another's behalf in a court of law
    - This is what the Holy Spirit does on our behalf just as Jesus is doing right now...
    - **Rom 8:24** - *Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*
  
- The time of Pentecost in the NT was also the beginning of the church
  - These were the first gatherings of those who knew who believed Jesus was the Son of God, had risen from the dead, and accepted Him into their hearts to be forgiven of their sins
  - They then committed their lives to living for Jesus and one another that demonstrated the change that had been made in their lives
- This is what Luke wrote about in his two books
  - The first, the Gospel of Luke, was written to tell what Jesus did on earth through His physical body
  - The second book, the book of Acts, was written to tell what Jesus was continuing to do through the body of the church
  
- And when the day of Pentecost came, in **Acts 2**, it marked the beginning of three new elements of the work of the Holy Spirit
  - It actually changed from what the Spirit of the Lord did in the OT
    1. His presence was now universal
      - a. Up until that time, the work of the Holy Spirit had been confined to one people group – the nation of Israel
      - b. Prior to this time there is nothing in the Bible about the Holy Spirit coming to the Romans, the Greeks, the Philistines or the Babylonians
      - c. But now, every sinner could hear the good news of Jesus and be saved
      - d. This is why when the disciples were speaking in Acts 2, every person who was there, from every different type of land, could understand them in their own language
    2. His presence was now permanent
      - a. The Holy Spirit did come upon men in the OT, but then it would leave
        - i. Samson – the Holy Spirit would come upon him at various times to strengthen him (**Jdg 14:6,19; 15:14**)
          - But one of the most sobering passages of the Bible is found in **Judges 16:20**

- *Then Delilah called out, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.*
- ii. King Saul – the Spirit of God came upon him so powerfully in **I Sam 10:10** that he began to prophesy with the prophets of God
  - But we then read that the spirit of the Lord left Saul and he was tormented by an evil spirit (**I Sam 16:14**)
- iii. While there is nothing to indicate the presence of the Lord ever left King David, he was certainly aware it could happen
  - **Ps 51:11** - *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
  - No Christian today needs to ever pray that prayer
  - But one prayer that more Christians should pray is what David prayed next
  - **Ps 51:12** - *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

### 3. His presence was now perfecting

- a. With Samson and King Saul, there was no indication that they grew in moral or spiritual things
  - b. It was only strength, not purity, they received
  - c. But the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2** was given so that every person could grow in grace and live more like Jesus
- And is this not what we talk so much about here at RLC?
    - To know Jesus, to walk in and with the presence of the Holy every day, is to live more like Jesus in our words and deeds
  - That same Holy Spirit we read in **John 14:26** is also your advocate and mine
    - The accuser, satan, constantly attempts to remind us of our faults, our sins, our crimes
    - He wants us to continue to believe that we are guilty and carry that guilt in our lives
    - But the Bible tells us that...*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* **I John 1:9**
    - Our advocate, our helper, the Holy Spirit pleads to the Father on our behalf, and we are forgiven!
  - What were the results of the coming of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2**?
    - The immediate result was 3000 people gave their lives to Christ (**2:41**)
    - The long-term results are still being seen and felt today
      - 12 men, who had been hiding in a secret room less than 8 weeks earlier were now going out as the first to fulfill the Great Commission, to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth (**Matt 28:16-20**)

- Men who would undergo great persecution and eventually give their lives, many in horrible ways, for what they were doing in the power of the Holy Spirit
  - A perfect example that we can and will do things when we give ourselves over to the power of the Holy Spirit that we could never do on our own
- There is one more thing that must be understood about the coming of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2**
  - The purpose and importance of that time was not the manifestations that were witnessed
    - The different languages, the rushing winds, the appearance of what looked like tongues of fire
    - Manifestations are NEVER, nor should they be, the focus of God's presence
    - Yet this is exactly the point when so many ministries begin their downfall
    - Every great move of God came to a stop when the focus of glory was moved off of God and put on people
    - People are nothing more than vessels of God's work!
  - God's presence is never about unexplainable occurrences
  - It is the presence, the power, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
    - The Good News of God's love
    - His love that conquers sin, brings life and healing to our broken lives
- The Holy Spirit leads us to Christ, and Christ leads us to the Father!