

The Holy Spirit and His Work!

Sunday, 5/20 – 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 5/21 – 7 PM

The Day of Pentecost – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on the Holy Spirit and His work! He is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity; He **✦**was present at creation, **✦**was at work in the OT, **✦**was spoken of by Jesus in the gospels, **✦**was poured out on the **Day of Pentecost** – 50 days after Easter, and **✦**is with us today to ✓teach us, ✓guide us, and ✓empower us!

In today's sermon I'm going to touch on some parts of today's readings that have focused on **the Holy Spirit and His work!**

1. **Psalm: 139:** In this Psalm David prayed about the LORD's complete knowledge of all things: **¹ O LORD... ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.** // The Spirit of God was active in the OT; even now, He **✦**is omniscient – *knowing all things*, and **✦**dwells within baptized believers!
2. **OT: Ezekiel 37:** Prior to this reading, the southern kingdom of Judah had been conquered by the Babylonians; they destroyed **✦**the temple, **✦**the city of Jerusalem, and **✦**its wall, and many were taken by force to Babylon. It looked like the southern kingdom was done forever, *so the LORD made it known that He can do what seems impossible!* The vision took place in a **¹ ...valley; it was full of bones. ² ...and behold, they were very dry** [very

dead]. Then the LORD said to Ezekiel: ⁴ ...**“Prophecy over these bones... hear the word of the LORD.** Then, *as Ezekiel spoke the Word of the LORD, the Holy Spirit was at work* to give the people **▶**spiritual life and **▶**the promise of a restored southern kingdom! The work of the Spirit is always unseen, *but so important and so powerful!*

3. **Gospel: John 15-16:** Jesus spoke these words to His disciples late on Holy Thursday; He told them about ^{15:26} **“...the Helper**, who would come **▶***from the Father to the Son*; then **▶***from the Son to those who believe in Jesus*. Then Jesus told about the work of the Holy Spirit:
- a. ^{15:26} **“...he will bear witness [testify] about me.”** // Since the Holy Spirit knows everything about Jesus, He was poured out on the **Day of Pentecost** to **▶**teach Jesus’ disciples, **▶**move them to write the NT Scriptures, and **▶**teach and empower us today!
 - b. ^{16:8} **“...he will convict [reprove] the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**
 - i. ⁹ **concerning sin, because [since] they do not believe in me;** // The Holy Spirit impresses upon unbelievers that they are **▶**in their sins and **▶**under eternal condemnation. Some repent and are saved, but others continue to reject Jesus, who said: **“...you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am [the light of the world], you shall die in your sins”** (John 8:24 NAS).
 - ii. ¹⁰ **concerning righteousness, because [since] I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;** // The Holy Spirit impresses upon people that their own righteousness is like filthy rags; for some,

they keep excusing their sin as no big deal; for others, they confess and trust in Jesus!

iii. ¹¹ **concerning judgment, because [since] the ruler of this world is [has been] judged.** // The Holy Spirit shows people that Satan has already been judged, *so judgment will certainly come upon all who reject Jesus!* However, Jesus declared this good news, “...He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (NAS John 5:24).

c. ¹³ **“...he will guide you into all the truth... he will declare to you the things that are to come.”** // Since the Holy Spirit is the spirit of God the Father and dwells within those who believe in Jesus, *He is able to communicate all truth and all future things to those who believe!* The Bible says, “**Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.**’ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God” (1 Cor. 2:9-10 NAS).

4. **NT History: Acts 2:** Just as Jesus had promised, *so the Spirit was poured out!* It happened on the **Day of Pentecost**, during the OT festival of Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus was raised from the dead. So what work did the Holy Spirit do on that day?

a. The Holy Spirit filled the disciples, so that they ⁴ **...began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.** Those who heard the disciples speak were

⁵ **...devout men from every nation under heaven...**

Upon hearing, they said of the disciples, ¹¹ **“...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”** // In other words, God worked a miracle so that all who were gathered heard the mighty works of God in their native / first / best language!

- b. The Holy Spirit fulfilled the prophecy written in the OT book of Joel: ¹⁷ **“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.** // We tend to think of prophesy *only in the narrow sense – foretelling future events*, but Lenski noted that the **“chief effect of the Spirit’s activity is always prophesying... in the broad and far more important sense of voicing the saving and blessed will of God to men everywhere (74).** *So, as we know and grow in the Word of God, let us voice it, thus speak it to others!*
- c. The Bible says that ²¹ **“...everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”** // Then, *on that Day of Pentecost*, the Holy Spirit enabled 3,000 people to **◆**be sorry for their sins and **◆**believe in Jesus as their Savior; then they **✓**were baptized for the forgiveness of sins and **✓**received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, TY for bringing us into God’s family and helping us to understand God’s Word; help us to go forward with your power and guidance! In Jesus’ name!

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