

BUMCSM Sunday School

Pentecost Sunday

If you're like us, sometimes we don't think about the Holy Spirit as much as we do Jesus or God. As important as the Holy Spirit is in our tradition, we don't talk about her much. Do you sometimes forget about the Holy Spirit? We always think to pray to God and we talk about Jesus' ministry on earth, but we often forget about the daily inner workings of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think that is? It seems crazy because the Holy Spirit is a way we are connected to God and, even more so, the Holy Spirit lives within us. But who or what is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit has always existed, just like God and Jesus. Pentecost, as written in the book of Acts, was the first mention of Holy Spirit enabled gifts. The Trinity as we understand it now, started that day because we started to see the mystery that surrounds the Holy Trinity begin to be revealed in a very in your face sort of way.

Remember: The Trinity is 3 in one. God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit. 3 forms of God but all together in one. This is a VERY confusing concept if you need a refresher click here: [Holy Trinity Explained-ish](#)

Scripture:

We see that the spirit came upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost in chapter 2 of Acts verses 1-40:

→Need a visual as you work through the scripture? Here is an awesome look at what happens! [A Creative Take on the Story of Pentecost](#)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 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. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men, and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words, he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Questions to Walk Through Scripture Together:

- Imagine you are in the room with the disciples, what are you doing? Who all is there?
- What happens when the window shutters fly open, the curtains are flapping in the wind, and you, all of a sudden, start speaking in a different language than those around you?
- Obviously, amazed and overwhelmed - the others who come in, what do you think is going through their minds? What other explanations could you come up with why everyone was suddenly speaking a different language?
- Why do you think (using scripture) that the Holy Spirit gave them the gift of different languages?
- Peter, obviously your BFF in this situation, gets up and explains what is actually happening - who all does he quote (from the Old Testament)?
- Why, do you think, does Peter quotes all of these writers?
- What does Peter do, after explaining why the Holy Spirit is with them now? (This is right after the people ask Peter what they should do now)
- What happens now? With this precedent (the start of a tradition), of the Holy Spirit, coming down on all Christians?

The Fruit Challenge that we have been doing the past couple of weeks is a further example of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the spirit are given to us by the Holy Spirit in order to spread God's will for all humanity. Since the fruits of love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control are not exclusively to Christians, it shows us that the Holy Spirit is not only with us. Just like John Wesley explains prevenient grace, the Spirit is with us even before we even know. Our responsibility as Christians is to foster these fruits in others and show them where these gifts come from.

How are you going to foster the fruits of the spirit in others this week?