



*Acts 2:1-4 "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."*

Acts 1:4-5 "Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said,* "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The day of Pentecost was the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth. The Father our Creator, the Son our Savior and the Holy Spirit given to us to guide, direct, and enlighten us as to what Jesus had paid for and the Father had given. He was sent as Jesus said, as another Helper, One called to be along side of us and in us, because Jesus was going to Heaven to be seated at the right Hand of God the Father. So He did not leave us as orphans but rather as adopted children, with the Presence of the Holy Spirit to be with us always.

#### **Our Helper is still here in 2007!**

The work of the Holy Spirit was not given temporarily just for the evangelism of the devout Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem, or for just the early Church.. He was given to all who would come to the Father through Jesus.

#### **Holy Spirit, You are welcome in Our Church and in our Lives**

As I was thinking on how God visited us this last Sunday I thought about Pentecost. First, I began to remember that God will visit those He has called and chosen and who call on Him and want His Presence in their midst. Second, as the 120 were gathered in one accord they assembled waiting as Jesus directed them, they were all in agreement, one purpose and one faith. Third, they were obedient and like minded. They were anticipating the Presence of God to visit them. When they were challenged as to what was going on Peter said:

#### **The Day of Pentecost**

*"Acts 2:15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel. Acts 2:17-21 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'"*

#### **The Gospel does not work without the work of the Holy Spirit**

We find ourselves trying hard to do things on our own power. While we do have our part to play in God's plan of salvation, without the Holy Spirit's Power working in us, we find it impossible to live the life God has called us to. There are many scriptures that tell us that it takes the Holy Spirit to enliven us to the things of God. Without the Holy Spirit's work in us we find ourselves spiritually powerless. And no wonder. If we try to keep the Commandments of God on our own power we miss the point of God sending His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit writes God's Commandments in our hearts and empowers us to keep them. The dramatic salvations that took place on Pentecost Sunday, took place in the hearts of those who waited as instructed, and in the lives of those who were devout in their love of God and open to hear from Him. They all wanted His will to be accomplished in their lives. The events of Pentecost were a watershed moment in the lives of all those that experienced the Power of God moving in and upon them. Living waters flooded their hearts with the preaching of the Gospel by the Power of God through the Holy Spirit. Jesus described the effects of salvation. **John 7:38** *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"*

#### **The Spirit, The Holy Spirit, gives life!**

**2Corinthians 3:6** *"who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."* The Apostle distinguishes between the letter of the law and having it made alive in us. As able ministers of the New Testament, they were ministers not merely of the letter, to read and memorize the written word, or to preach the letter of the Gospel only, but they were ministers of the Holy Spirit also. The Holy Spirit of God accompanied their ministries. This is to say that the Law of God, the Ten Commandments and all the regulations of the Old Testament, were impossible for anyone to keep in total. The outcome of breaking the law was, and is death. The Person of the Holy Spirit goes along with the ministry of the Gospel giving spiritual and eternal life through the Power of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit enables us to keep the Law of God. Our faith is not just laws, rituals and trying to do good, but it is life in the Holy Spirit making us good and righteous by the Sacrifice of Jesus once and for all. The Father drew you to Himself by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel. We cannot and will not continue to live as Christians with victory over sin and death without the Holy Spirit. Take comfort my brothers and sisters, you have the Holy Spirit called along side you to keep you alive in the Faith, and He will do it!

Pastor Vince