

PATH TO PENTECOST

“The Holy Spirit: Then and Now”

(Romans 8:1-11)

"a sound came from heaven like a rush of mighty wind . . . and there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2-4)

Then Peter preached a sermon and said,

"This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel, 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams'" (Acts 2:16-17)

❖ **The Holy Spirit and the Old Testament Saint**

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:1-8)

The Old Testament saints believed what we should believe today:

- The Spirit as Creator and Sustainer of Life

"The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4)

"When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground." (Psalms 104:29-30)

- The Constant Presence of the Spirit

Psalm 139:7–10 says,

"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. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."

- The Spirit as Counselor and Teacher

"You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst." (Nehemiah 9:20)

- The Gifts of Craftsmanship and Artistic Ability

"The Lord said to Moses, 'See, I have called by name Bezalel . . . and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise

artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting and in carving wood, for work in every craft." (Exodus 31:1-5)

- Power to Denounce Evil and Declare Righteousness

"As for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin." (Micah 3:8)

- Victory over Fear

"Work, for I am with you . . . My Spirit abides among you. Fear not" (Haggai 2:5)

"Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

- Power from the Spirit to Help God's People

"The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and he tore the lion asunder as one tears a kid" (Judges 14:6)

"The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and the ropes which were on his arms became as flax" (15:14)

❖ **The Holy Spirit and the New Testament Saint**

"The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone

does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:7-11)

And he says that what distinguishes us when we are "*in the flesh,*" (cf. 7:5) or when we have the "*mindset of the flesh,*" is three things, or one thing said three ways:

Verse 7a: *that we are hostile and insubordinate to God;*

Verse 7b: *that we cannot submit to the law of God – that is how deep our corruption and our rebellion are;*

Verse 8: *We cannot please God. That is our condition and our plight and our identity when we are in the flesh – merely human (cf. John 3:6)*

Now at the beginning of verse 9 the issue is: What is different about you?

- The Spirit Dwells in You

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you." (Romans 8:9)

- You Are in the Sway of the Spirit

Now here is the second thing that makes you different. The second clause in verse 9: "*You are in the Spirit.*"

- You Belong to Christ

The third thing Paul says about our difference as Christians is that we belong to Christ. Note the last two clauses of verse 9:

"But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

In what sense? He explains in verse 20:

"For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

- Your Spirit Is Alive Because of the Righteousness and the Presence of Christ

The fourth difference from those in the flesh is at the end of verse 10:

"If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. The spirit is alive because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10)

- Your Mortal Bodies Will Be Raised

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)