

Sermon: The Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church: The Unity of the Spirit

The promise of the Holy Spirit was sent on the Day of Pentecost. A day when men “from every nation under heaven” were gathered together in Jerusalem. They had come to take part in the waving and offering of the two loaves.

The waving of the loaves occurred exactly fifty days after the waving of the Omer.

The waving of the Omer celebrated the firstfruits of the Barley harvest, and the waving of the two loaves celebrated the firstfruits of the wheat harvest.

The waving of the Omer finds fulfillment in the resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 ⁽²⁰⁾ But now **Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.** ⁽²¹⁾ For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ⁽²²⁾ For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive.** ⁽²³⁾ But each in his own order: **Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming.**

In the same way, the waving of the loaves (fifty days later) finds fulfillment in the church.

The two loaves were prepared before the day of the feast.

They were kneaded and rolled separately in the city of Jerusalem and then brought to the temple court where they were baked separately.

However, on the day of Pentecost, they would be consecrated and offered together as one unto the Lord.

These two loaves of leavened bread represent the church. Through the work of Christ, now **both, Jew and Gentile have been united together into one body unto the Lord.**

As the leaven reminds us, we have this treasure in earthen vessels.

Raised with Christ (Power of the Holy Spirit)

Ephesians 2:1-6 ⁽¹⁾ And **you were dead in your trespasses and sins,** ⁽²⁾ in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ⁽³⁾ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁽⁴⁾ **But God, being rich in mercy,** because of **His great love with which He loved us,** ⁽⁵⁾ **even when we were dead** in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), ⁽⁶⁾ and **raised us up with Him,** and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.

Made One in Christ

Ephesians 2:11-18 ⁽¹¹⁾ Therefore **remember that formerly you, the Gentiles** in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands— ⁽¹²⁾ **remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded** from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.** ⁽¹³⁾ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ⁽¹⁴⁾ For **He Himself is our peace,** who (1) **made both groups into one** and (2) **broke down the barrier** of the dividing wall, ⁽¹⁵⁾ by (3) **abolishing** in His flesh **the enmity,** *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself **He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,** ⁽¹⁶⁾ and might **reconcile them both in one body to God** through the

cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ⁽¹⁷⁾ and he came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ⁽¹⁸⁾ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

We are one in Christ through the unity we possess in the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3-6 ⁽³⁾ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁽⁴⁾ *There is one body* and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁽⁵⁾ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁽⁶⁾ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Baptism by the Spirit into the church.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Our unity gives power to our witness. Through our unity His Love can be seen and known.

John 17:22-23 ⁽²²⁾ "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ⁽²³⁾ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

What is the glory that the Father has given Jesus that Jesus has shared with us?

I believe it is the glory of being in union with the Father; to partake of His love, His nature, His righteousness, and to dwell in His presence in the Holy Spirit.

This is how we can glory in persecutions – glory in tribulation which we may endure for His sake.

Sharing in His eternal glory.

Romans 8:16-17 ⁽¹⁶⁾ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ⁽¹⁷⁾ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

John 17:22-24 ⁽²²⁾ "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ⁽²³⁾ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ⁽²⁴⁾ "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

He desires for us to be witnesses (to experience) His glory when He takes His rightful ownership of this world.

Author and Bible commentator, Jack Wilson Stallings, writes

"His fondest wish for those whom He knows truly loves Him is that they will be privileged to experience eternal intimacy with Him.

Second, He desires that they may see Him in all His glorious splendor. He wishes for each of them to be present and observe when He steps forward, opens the book and claims the universe as His own ([Rev. 5:5-10](#)). He wants them to experience that moment for themselves. He wants them to be able to join the great shout of victory when He is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. He wants them to share in all His glory. This is a glory in which they would have no part except on the basis of their unity with Him. He wants them to know fully and existentially the depth and the fullness of the love that exists between Himself and the Father."