

# New Life and the Gift of God's Spirit

Thomas Robinson, *The Life of Resurrection* 7, Pentecost, May 19, 2013

## Acts 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup> When the **day of Pentecost** arrived, they were all **together** in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came **from heaven** a **sound** like a mighty rushing **wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided **tongues** as of **fire** appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

<sup>4</sup> And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak** in other tongues as the **Spirit gave them utterance**.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in **Jerusalem Jews**, devout men from **every nation** under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his **own language**.

## Romans 8:9-17

<sup>9</sup> **You**, however, are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if in fact **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.

<sup>10</sup> But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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**.

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if **by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, **you will live**.

<sup>14</sup> For all who are **led by the Spirit of God** are **children of God**. <sup>15</sup> For you did **not** receive the spirit of **slavery** to fall back into **fear**, but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** as sons and daughters, by whom we cry, **“Abba! Father!”** <sup>16</sup> The **Spirit himself** bears witness with **our spirit** that we are **children of God**, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then **heirs – heirs of God** and **fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we **suffer** with him in order that we may also be **glorified** with him.

## Romans 8:23

<sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for **adoption as sons and daughters**, the **redemption of our bodies**.

## Ephesians 1:13-14 (see also 4:30)

<sup>13</sup> In him (Jesus) **you also**, when you **heard the word of truth**, the **gospel** of your salvation, and you **believed in him**, you were **sealed with the Spirit of the promise, the Holy Spirit**, <sup>14</sup> who is the **guarantee** of our **inheritance** until our **redemption** as God's own possession, to the praise of his glory.

## 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (see also 5:4-5)

<sup>21</sup> And it is God who **establishes us** with you **in Christ** (the anointed one), and has **anointed us**, <sup>22</sup> and who has also **put his seal on us** and given us **his Spirit** in our hearts as a **guarantee**.

## 1 Corinthians 12:11, 13

<sup>11</sup> All these (spiritual gifts) are **empowered by one and the same Spirit**, who apportions to each one individually as **he wills**.... <sup>13</sup> For **in one Spirit** we were all **baptized** into **one body** – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made **to drink of one Spirit**.

## Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> Now the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.

John 14:16-18 Jesus speaks to his disciples:

<sup>16</sup> “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor**, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> the **Spirit of truth**, ... he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphans; I am coming to you.”

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## Pentecost – Gift of the Resurrected Jesus

In a sense, Pentecost was the climax of Jesus’ life. In the pouring out of the Holy Spirit a new world was opening for discovery. In Jesus the past and future of God’s work with humanity was compressed together. From Abraham to Moses, David, Wisdom teachers, the prophets, the renewing presence of God in the Temple, etc. all flowed together in Jesus’ ministry as Messiah, embodiment of Israel, son of David, son of Abraham, son of God, God and Human. All were fulfilled and raised to a new key.

Then the Future broke in. In his astonishing crucifixion Jesus did what no one expected, taking on sin and death itself. He conquered death and in his resurrection brought forth new resurrection life beyond death’s power. God’s ultimate promise of life was fulfilled in him. The end of the story brought into the present. In his ascension he united heaven and earth, God’s powerful realm of spirit and his physical creation.

But what happens between now and then? The Gift of the Holy Spirit, is crucial. Jesus gives us the very power and life of God. The Holy Spirit is the way God works out the full reality of all that was compressed in Jesus’ incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection step by step in our ongoing lives all the way to the final consummation.

## The Fulfillment of Past Promises

The story of Pentecost is filled with echoes of Israel’s story. Wind and fire – the wind of creation and the Red Sea; the fire of Mt. Sinai and the pillar of fire. God’s Spirit had always been with his people through the prophets. Now Peter cites Joel – a new flood of the Spirit of prophecy poured out on all flesh. Renewal of the world.

The renewal of Israel was symbolized by the presence of Jews from many nations. God unites them in their diversity by the miracle of tongues. A blessing for all nations.

## The First Experience of a Future Yet to Come

Our future hope is resurrection, new creation, “our inheritance” as children of God, “the redemption of our bodies” – now still very mortal, broken, suffering. The Spirit is that immortal life given to us now, anticipating the future consummation.

Paul calls the Spirit the “firstfruits” (as at Pentecost) of that future harvest. He also describes the Spirit as a guarantee (*arrabon*), down payment on our full inheritance. He says the Spirit is a “seal” on God’s children; an “anointing,” we belong to Christ. The future begins now in a powerful way that lets us taste exquisite delights to come.

## Healing and Transformation in a New Life Today

The Spirit is God’s active, personal, power working in us day by day. We are “in the Spirit,” “led by the Spirit” getting rid of all the destructive works of death in us, while the Spirit creates the “fruit of the Spirit” in us, full of love, free of fear.

The one Spirit baptizes us into the one body of Christ and gives diverse spiritual gifts that unite us and help us serve each other and the world. The Spirit shows us intimacy with God, “Abba, Father” as we learn the fullness of life as God’s children.