

Dawning Light from Resurrection to Pentecost

Thomas Robinson, *Light of the World 5*, May 20, 2018

Acts 2:1-4; 32-33; Luke 24:1-10

¹ And as finally the fiftieth day – **Pentecost** – was fully arriving, they were all in one place together. ² And suddenly a sound emerged from heaven like a powerful **gale of wind**, and it completely filled the house where they were sitting. ³ And tongues that seemed to be **fire** appeared to them, dividing, and one sat over each one of them. ⁴ And they all were filled with **Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as **the Spirit granted** them to proclaim a message. ...

Peter Speaking to the Crowds in the Temple Court

³² **“This Jesus God raised up**, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore, since he was **exalted at the right hand of God** (Ps 110:1), and since he received from the Father **the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this** that you yourselves **see and hear.**”

Luke 24:1-11

¹ But on the **first day of the week**, at **early dawn**, they went to the **tomb**, taking the **spices** they had prepared. ² And they found the **stone rolled away** from the tomb, ³ but when they entered it they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ And they were **perplexed** about all this. But suddenly, two men in gleaming clothes stood by them. ⁵ But when they became terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, *“Why are you seeking **the one who is alive among the dead?** ⁶ He is not here, rather **he has been raised!** Remember how he spoke with you, while still in Galilee, ⁷ telling you that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful people and be crucified and on the third day rise.”* ⁸ And **they remembered** his words.

⁹ When they returned from the tomb they **announced all of this to the eleven** and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now the group was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them. They told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but this message appeared in their eyes as **an idle tale**, and they **did not believe** them.

Acts 20:16 (Cf. 1 Corinthians 16:8)

¹⁶ Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus ...for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

John 7:35-37

³⁷ Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.*

³⁸ *Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”*

[Isa 55:1-3; 44:3-4] ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Acts 2:37-39

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Every one of you needs to change your way of thinking and be plunged in water in the name of Jesus Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Romans 8:11

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Messiah Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 14:17 (Cf. Romans 15:13)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Celebrating Pentecost

One day of the year that Paul especially honored was Pentecost, the 50th day after Passover, the Feast of Weeks. Something happened that changed the world.

The result and power of all that had happened in Jesus began to be poured out for humans in everyday life: God fulfilled his promises from creation and throughout Israel's long history and opened that history wide for all the rest of the world to participate.

In the incarnation in Jesus, God united God and human. God's self-giving love embodied in creation and covenant he gave in new form by taking to himself human suffering, brokenness, sin and death. He defeated death by the creation of new life in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. On Pentecost all of this was poured out for all people, beginning with the Jews. God and human were united in a new way by the gift of God's own self, God's life, God's power in the Holy Spirit given to those who trusted in all that Jesus had done. God filled broken human life with love, joy, and hope by beginning the process that will finally defeat death and unite all reality in resurrection, new creation.

Darkness, Dawn, and Full Morning Light

The darkness when Jesus was crucified (Lk 23:44) pointed to a deep darkness in his disciples. "We had hoped..." they said (Lk 24:21), but hope was crushed by death. At dawn, the women went to the tomb with spices for a corpse. The two men reminded them. They couldn't make sense of Jesus' words till it happened. The Eleven still couldn't believe.

During those 7 weeks till Pentecost the light dawned – the Light of the World. The disciples became people who experienced the dawn. They become Salt and Light as Jesus said.

Even when tested / persecuted they know the light of creation & new creation has shone in their hearts. They never forget that the resurrection and Spirit come through the love embodied in Jesus' suffering and death. They bear in their bodies Jesus' death.

At Pentecost they are ready but surprised by what God does. God gives himself as creator of the whole world: All languages are distinct but also united as they speak that day. People have never learned to overcome their brokenness, to overcome hierarchies, injustice, oppression, violence, ethnic prejudice, racism, etc. God does not wait.

Even within the Roman Empire, he models his intentions for humanity. He takes people wherever they are in human power structures, and brings them together as beloved sons & daughters of God their creator. He calls them to a truth of justice and love that can transform their broken societies, but is also a new beloved community within that brokenness. They begin to experience the union of God and human by his Holy Spirit.

Joy in the Holy Spirit

The result is Pentecostal Joy. They can't believe how good this is, how sweet it tastes. They celebrate in dinners together and in prison! They long for ultimate union in God's life!