

Pentecost 2025 Notes

Our service this week explored how the Holy Spirit connects us with the ascended Christ, and the tensions and contrasts between the 'exciting' work of the Holy Spirit and the more everyday ways in which the Holy Spirit uses Scripture to encourage, correct, and inspire us. We thought about the images of the sea and beach and sun and moon and stars. Just as the waters depart from the beach leaving behind beautiful shells, and just as the sun sets but is still reflected in the moon, so the words of Scripture are reminders of the powerful works of the Spirit that have happened to us in our pasts or can happen in the future. Our questions this week explore this reality.

The Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-13

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' **13** But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

1. Do we call on the Holy Spirit enough? What might happen if we called on him more?
2. 'in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power' Why is this the way in which the Spirit first manifests itself? What's going on here?

John 14: 15-29

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' **23** Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father

will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

3. Read the text over to yourself. What words or phrases or images stand out to you? Why?
4. Jesus says that he and the Father live in us through the Holy Spirit. What do you think that means?
5. Sometimes we contrast the work of the Holy Spirit with the everyday activities of the Church like bible reading and prayer. According to Jesus, are we right to do that?
6. Group Activity. We've been concerned this week with how the Spirit speaks through Scripture, and that the Spirit can work in both exciting and less dramatic ways. Take some time to think about the more 'exciting' work of the Holy Spirit that you or others have experienced. Make a list of these among the group. Then, try and think of bible verses or hymn lyrics that express this experience and write them next to them. End in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to come to you, but also rejoicing that the Spirit speaks through Scripture as much as through the dramatic and exciting.