

**Sermon Notes of
Elder Ed Stonick's Sermon on June 9, 2019:**

**"A Christian's Guide to The Holy Spirit
(The Day of Pentecost)"**

[In today's sermon on Pentecost Sunday, Elder Ed Stonick shows the importance of the coming of the Holy Spirit and His significance in our lives as Christians.]

Notes

Introduction:

- Today is the day of Pentecost.
- This day has a very special meaning in both the Old and New Testaments.
- Shortly after Christ was resurrected and just before He ascended to heaven, He told his disciples about an upcoming event.

Acts 1:4-5, On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5) For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

- Now here's what happened on the first day of Pentecost in the New Testament.

Acts 2:1-11 (The Message): 1) When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2) Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force - no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. 3) Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, 4) and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

5) There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. 6) When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. 7) They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? 8) How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

9) Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, 10) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; 11) both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

- Even though many people were impressed, there were still some skeptics.
- On the Day of Pentecost, prophecy was fulfilled.
- Acts 2:1 literally reads, "As the Day of Pentecost was being fulfilled."
- What was fulfilled was the prophecy given by both Jesus and John the Baptist concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- John the Baptist had said this of Jesus:

Matthew 3:11, I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after Me is mightier than I . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- Ten days before Pentecost Jesus reiterated the prediction.

Acts 1:5, “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

8) “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- When Pentecost occurred, the Holy Spirit came as promised, baptizing the believers into Christ and giving them tremendous power to be His witnesses.
- On this day of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given, and some translations say that He was “poured out.”
- What an incredible gift indeed. He is for us all, and that is a promise.

The Holy Spirit:

- Just who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit fit in with our Father and with Jesus Christ?
- How do they interact and work together?
- What does the Holy Spirit accomplish for us?
- And, how should we interact with and respond to the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit is God at work – creating, speaking, transforming us, living within us, and working in us.
- The Holy Spirit is God at work in our lives. Everything God does is done through His Spirit.
- Paul therefore encourages us:
 - “Let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).
 - “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30).
 - “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire” (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
- We should be attentive to what the Spirit says. When He speaks, God is speaking.
- Although the Holy Spirit can do this work without our knowledge, it is helpful for us to know more about Him so that we can better interact with Him and be led by Him.
- The Bible does not have a section titled “The Holy Spirit.”
- But we do learn about the Spirit a little here and a little there, as Scripture mentions what the Spirit does.
- So this morning, let’s review some things about the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit in the Old Testament:

- The Spirit was involved in creating and sustaining all life., we read:

Genesis 1:2, Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Job said, **“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).**

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was somewhat limited, but still came upon people, anointing them for a specific task or purpose.
 - For example, the Spirit of God filled a gentleman named Bezalel with skill to build the tabernacle (Exodus 31:3-5).
 - The Spirit filled Moses and came upon the 70 elders (Numbers 11:25).
 - The Spirit filled Joshua with wisdom and filled leaders such as Samson with strength or ability to fight (Deuteronomy 34:9; Judges 6:34; 14:6).
 - The Spirit gave David the plans for the temple.
 - The Spirit inspired the prophets to speak.

The Spirit and Jesus:

- The Holy Spirit was involved with Jesus throughout His life, and even caused His conception in Mary.

Matthew 1:20, But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

- The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism:

Matthew 3:16, As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

- At key moments in His life, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit:
 - Jesus was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1).
 - The Holy Spirit anointed Him to preach the gospel (Luke 4:18).
 - Jesus drove out demons by the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28).

Jesus’ Sacrifice and Resurrection:

- It was through the Spirit that Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for sin

Hebrews 9:14, How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

- And by that same Spirit, Jesus was raised from the dead.

Romans 8:11, And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

The teachings of Jesus about the Holy Spirit:

- Jesus taught that the Spirit would speak through his disciples in times of persecution (Matthew 10:19-20).
- Jesus told His disciples to baptize followers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).
- And Jesus also said that God was certain to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for Him (Luke 11:13).

John 7:37, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

- The apostle John adds this explanation:

39) “By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

- Jesus promised that his disciples would be given the Spirit of truth, another name for the Holy Spirit, who would live in them.
- The Holy Spirit does satisfy our thirst to know more about God.

John 14:16, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – 17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

- Jesus also promised that the Spirit would teach the disciples and would remind them of what He had taught them.

John 14:26, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

- Now it’s interesting to note that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ as well as the Spirit of the Father – sent by Jesus as well as the Father.

Children of God:

- In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit dwells within all believers (1 Corinthians 6:19) and assures us that we are children of God.

Romans 8:16, The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- The Holy Spirit enables Christians to live the Christian life.
- It’s not done through our own power, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14, Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15) The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

- The Holy Spirit provides gifts for Christian service.
- And the Holy Spirit has all knowledge.

1 Corinthians 2:10, The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

- It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and takes us deeper and deeper into God's truth and into our flourishing relationship with Jesus and helps us to grow in our Christian life.
- We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, but we can grow only by the help of the Holy Spirit.
- The moment that we receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts.
- Our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit helps us live the Christian life.
- The Holy Spirit sees everything that goes on.
- He knows what goes on in our hearts. He knows what goes on in our minds. Nothing is hidden from Him.

The Holy Spirit and the church:

- Paul says that all believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit into one body – the church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- Everyone who has faith is given the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:13; Galatians 3:14).
- The book of Acts shows that the Spirit is the power behind the church's growth.
- On that first day of Pentecost, 3000 people were so moved by the Holy Spirit that they were baptized.
- The Spirit gave the disciples great boldness in preaching Christ (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:10) despite threats of death.
- The Spirit encouraged the church and set leaders in it (Acts 9:31; 20:28).
- The church existed and grew only through the Spirit working in the hearts of the believers.
- Like God, the Holy Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).
- Like God, the Holy Spirit is everywhere present (Psalm 139:7-9).
- Like God, the Holy Spirit knows everything (1 Corinthians 2:10-11; John 14:26).
- When the Holy Spirit does something, God is doing it.
- When the Holy Spirit speaks, God is speaking.
- The Holy Spirit does the work of God in our lives.
- We are born of God (John 1:12), which is the same as being born of the Spirit (John 3:5).
- The Holy Spirit is the means by which God lives in us.

Ephesians 2:22, And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit lives in us (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16) – and because the Spirit lives in us, we can say that God lives in us.

The Spirit and believers today:

- God the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in our lives today as believers.
- The Holy Spirit grants us eternal life.
- Through the Holy Spirit, we share Christ's resurrected, glorified human nature.

Romans 8:10, But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11) And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

- The Holy Spirit:
 - Leads us to repentance and gives us new life in Christ.
 - Grants us repentance and helps us see the need for forgiveness and confession of sins.
 - Lives in us, teaches us and leads us (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; John 14:16-17, 26; Romans 8:14).
 - Is the Spirit of wisdom, helping us look at choices by giving us confidence, love, self-control and other fruits of the Spirit (Ephesians 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:7).
 - Produces in us love and the fruit of righteousness (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 5:9; Galatians 5:22-23).

Romans 5:5, And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Ephesians 5:9, For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.

- The Holy Spirit gives us freedom and comfort.

2 Corinthians 3:17, Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- The Holy Spirit also helps us to pray when we are at a loss for words.

Romans 8:26, In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27) And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

The Holy Spirit backs us up!

- The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts, including to the leaders for the church (Ephesians 4:11), basic functions within the church (Romans 12:6-8), and some abilities for extraordinary purposes (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).
- We use these gifts for the common good, to help each other and the entire church (1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12).
- Every gift is important (12:22-26).

Ministry to Unbelievers:

- Does the Holy Spirit minister to unbelievers? Absolutely!
- We were all unbelievers at one point in our lives and the Holy spirit worked with us and eventually brought us to Christ.
- The Spirit is at work in the world, continuing the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit is at work reaching out with all compassion and wisdom to all people, because Christ died for all and loves all.

- The Holy Spirit may often act in ways unseen to us, but we can be sure it involves seeking to bring all to repentance and faith.
- The Holy Spirit is preparing and freeing unbelievers to receive God's forgiveness, to accept God's freely-given grace, and to experience all the blessing and benefits that Christ has already made possible for them!

2 Peter 3:29, The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Conclusion:

- We've all had best friends. Hopefully we still have a best friend or several.
- Best friends are great!
- Probably the best and most satisfying description of a happy and solid marriage is one where each partner acknowledges that he or she married their best friend.

- What does a best friend do or provide? Many things!
 - They're honest with us, especially when pointing out flaws or concerns we need to know about.
 - They appreciate us.
 - They love us regardless of our foibles and idiosyncrasies.
 - Elbert Hubbard once said, "A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."

- Every single one of us has the same best friend – the Holy Spirit.
- He's the best friend one could ever have!
- He helps us to go forward in our spiritual lives.

Closing prayer