

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Risen Lord Jesus Pours Out the Holy Spirit



“Pentecost” by Jean Restout the Younger 1732

Pentecost recognizes the Holy Spirit for the role He fulfills to work faith in us and to keep us in the faith, so we can trust Christ’s sacrifice as the full atonement for our sins. But the Holy Spirit does more! He gave the disciples power to witness to the world! He reversed the confusion of multiple languages began at the tower of Babel, by giving the disciples the ability to speak in all the foreign languages of the travelers to Jerusalem for a festival..Such words were not empty as the church added 3000 souls in one day simply by telling the crowd what Christ did for them. Thus we should be unashamed to also witness of Christ and joyfully accept the blessings and the power the Holy Spirit brings to our life by giving us assurance that we are “Saints” with God”—now and through eternity.

The Lessons: Numbers 11:24–30, Acts 2:1–21, & John 7:37–39

The Lord took *“some of the Spirit”* that was on Moses *“and put it on the seventy elders”* of Israel (Num. 11:25), and they *“prophesied in the camp”* (Num. 11:26). In the same way, our risen Lord Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost — the 50th day and the “Eighth Sunday” of Easter. When *“a sound like a mighty rushing wind”* and *“tongues as of fire appeared”* and rested on each of the 12 apostles, *“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”* and proclaimed *“the mighty works of God”* (Acts 2:2–4, 11). The Lord Jesus grants this same Spirit to His Church on earth to proclaim Him glorified on the cross and risen victorious from the grave for us sinners. From His open heart, our crucified and risen Lord pours out His Holy Spirit in *“rivers of living water”* (John 7:38) and invites everyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink freely (John 7:37). Through this life-giving work of the Holy Spirit, we hear our pastors *“telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God”* (Acts 2:11), and *“everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Acts 2:21).

Background: This weekend, we are celebrating the Festival of Pentecost. It certainly is one of the 3 most significant festivals of the church year. All 3 give extra tribute to one of the 3 persons of the Trinity. Christmas would be God the Father as he sent his son to earth to fulfil His “Plan of Salvation”. Easter would be God the Son as he fulfilled God’s “Plan of Salvation and showed himself to be a Living God capable of being our adversary with the Father as having paid a fitting atonement for all our sins.