

**JPC, 5-24-26**  
**The Promise of the Father**  
**Pentecost Sunday 2026 (Student notes)**  
**Acts 2:1-13**

- I. **What in the World is God doing?...answer: *more than we can imagine*. Remember that God is doing something bigger than we are...**
- A. **The story arc of the Bible is the account of how God is taking his fallen world back under his personal lordship and grace.**
1. Creation, Fall, Redemption, Renovation/Resurrection.
- II. **Pentecost is the beginning of the long-awaited divine invasion of eternal life...**
- A. **The beginning of personal regeneration**
1. Being born from above by the Spirit. This had never happened before... Jn.7:37-39
  2. What Jesus told Nicodemus (Jn.3). Born from above.
- B. **The beginning of the living organism of the Church.** Matt.16:18; 1Cor.3:12
1. A living organism, enlivened by the Holy Spirit in the individuals.
  2. Not primarily an "organization"... Where three or more...
- C. **The beginning of the invasion of eternal life into a dead world.** Matt.28:18-20
1. **Mission**—Spreading eternal life
- III. **Which He promised in the OT. *A new miraculous, supernatural work that will be internal.***
- A. **The coming wholesale work of God's Spirit in a new covenant.**
1. **Jer. 31:31-34.** (Heb.10:15-18). I will make a new covenant and write my word/torah/instruction on their hearts...Forgive them for everything, know them personally (be their God)
  2. **Ezekiel 36:24-28.** I will cleanse you, give you a new heart, put my Spirit in you.
  3. **Joel 2:28-32.** I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people, male and female, and they will speak for me (prophesy) and receive from me (dreams and visions).
- B. **Jesus and John the Baptist said that people would be immersed in God's Spirit.**
1. **John the Baptist. Luke 3:16-17.** He will baptize (immerse) you with Spirit and fire ...
  2. **Jesus before the Cross.**
    - a) **Jn. 7:37-39.** Out of his inner being will flow rivers of living water (Isa 12:3)
    - b) **Jn. 14:16-18; 16:1-15.** The Helper will come in my name. He is with you and will be in you.
  3. **Jesus after the Resurrection.**
    - a) **Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5,8.** The promise of the Father—immersion in God's own life. The Spirit.
- IV. **And which He initiated in Spring of AD 30 ... Acts 2:1-13**
- A. **At the right place on earth—Jerusalem.**
1. The most important city in the world and in God's Word. (over 800 times in the Bible)
  2. Where God's name dwells. Deut.12:11; 2 Kings 21:4; Joel 3:16-17
- B. **At the right redemptive point.** After Passover, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension...
1. Why did it have to happen in this order?
    - a) *Because God cannot and will not enter the fallen human soul in its sinful state.*
    - b) *But He can and does enter and join with a sinner whose sins are forgiven completely and eternally! A completely justified sinner! Forgiven and Declared Righteous.*
- C. **On the right Day—Pentecost. *Because the OT feasts point to Christ. Col.2:16***
1. **Pentecost: "fiftieth", what to know...**
    - a) 2nd of the three great pilgrim feasts. Lev.23
      - (1) Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles.
      - (2) Exactly 50 days after Passover (when Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected)
    - b) Beginning of Harvest: (mid-May)
      - (1) Feast of harvest (early, barley harvest) Feast of Weeks, Feast of Ingathering.
  2. *This ties the biblical account together. One story...*
- D. **Among the right people. *Disciples of Jesus.*** 120 of them. **Jn.1:12-13**
1. Descendants of Abraham who were Disciples of Jesus the Messiah.

**E. With 3 simultaneous signs that symbolize God's personal presence and a New Covenant Work.**

**1. Sound: They hear something. Wind...**

a) Symbolizing God's Spirit: Wind/ ruach/ pneuma.

**2. Sight: They see something. Fire...**

a) Symbolizing God's presence (like the burning bush in Ex.3)

b) *It is individualized, but unifying as well. 1 Cor.12:12-13*

**3. Speech: They were enabled to speak about and for the Lord. Acts 2:11**

a) And intended for the whole World. The languages, international

(1) A momentary, symbolic reversal of the curse of Babel. Gen.11 language confusion.

b) *It's not about "Tongues"—it's about Mission.*

c) *BTW...The Spirit knows your language, what it takes to talk to you...*

**F. Note: the emphasis of the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ. They share the same essence.**

1. *Jn.15:26 He will bear witness of Jesus. If you want to walk in the Spirit, focus on the depth and power of who Christ is and what he has done and is doing.*

**V. Why do we celebrate Pentecost Sunday? It reminds Christians of at least 4 wonderful things...**

**A. We have been convicted (Acts 2:37) and drawn into Christ. Jn. 16:8-11; 6:44;**

1. *He has begun this work in us (Phil.1:6) He who began a good work...*

2. *We do not become Christians by "self-identifying" as Christians, but by being Pierced/Cut to the heart" and then Healed by the Spirit, forgiven. Acts 2:37-38*

**B. We have been completely and eternally forgiven in Christ. Acts 2:38**

1. *What to do? Turn and Trust Jesus Christ and you will receive the Spirit. (37-38)*

2. *Because God will not enter and regenerate a person who is still identified with their sin.*

3. *But He can and does enter and regenerate a sinner who simply repents and trusts Jesus the Lord! Because that person is now IN Christ! They become justified sinners!*

4. *This is why Pentecost follows Passover, the atonement, the ascension, the session of Christ. Acts 2:33.*

a) *Note: these people hadn't done anything themselves to remove their own sin! The Lord did it.*

**C. We are spiritually and eternally alive in Christ. Jn.3:3; 1 Pet.1:23**

1. *Born from Above. God is not an abortionist. (did you make yourself born again or did He?)*

2. *John 3:16. Christ Himself through the Spirit literally, metaphysically, spiritually lives within our souls and spirits, sharing our life. Titus 3:3-7.*

a) *Is it the Spirit or is it Christ that lives in us? YES. Trinitarian. Gal.2:20*

**D. We are being spiritually transformed in Christ. Rom.12:1-2; 2; Cor.3:17-18**

1. *We do not do this, though we cooperate with it. But He initiates it and sustains it.*

2. *Passive imperatives, command to allow something to take place.*

3. *The Spirit is shaping us to think and feel like the Lord Jesus. Teaching, correcting, guiding.*

**VI. How can you tell if you have the Spirit? (these four at least...)**

A. *You have been pierced and drawn to Christ personally. (The Spirit opens your heart to do this)*

1. *Receiving Him. Jn.1:12-13; desiring to be baptized.*

B. *You are radically impressed with Jesus Christ as the risen Lord.*

1. *More impressed with Him than with yourself or the church.*

C. *You want to grasp His word and walk with Him. Matt.11:29-30; Jn.15:7*

1. *The whole Bible is the Word of Christ, by the Spirit. Nourishment for our redeemed souls.*

D. *You have a deep instinct to love. 1Jn.4:7-12;*

1. *The universal fruit of the Spirit. 1 Cor 13; Gal.5*

**VII. How should we feel about the Spirit in and upon us?**

A. *Aware and Attentive. Phil.2:12-13. God at work in us to will and do according to His good pleasure.*

B. *Grateful and Confident. He is on our side forever in Christ...Rom.8:31-39*