

Introduction: The Holy Spirit inspired every word of The Bible, including the introductory books of instruction (Torah) on how to live in close relationship with The Covenant God. However, as a consequence of the first rebellion, people are not able, in their own strength, to live according to God's instruction. Every book from Genesis to Chronicles tells of one tragic failure of God's people after another for some four millennia. *** The major prophet Ezekiel could be called the prophet of The Holy Spirit. Toward the end of his account of his call to be a watchman over Israel, Ezekiel says The Spirit of God lifted him and brought him to the exiles in Babylon (Ezekiel 2:1-15). Sometime later, Adonai Yahweh told Ezekiel He would gather the exiles and He would give them the land of Israel again, and He would give them a new heart to keep the Torah and put a new spirit in them (Ezekiel 11:16-20). This cryptic message is later expanded and clarified: 'I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do *them*' (Ezekiel 36:27, KJV)! So, in the ninth century after giving His people the Torah of life that they were powerless to obey, The Covenant God said that when He put His Spirit in His people they would be able to fulfill His purpose for them. *** Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, is the fulfillment of this specific word Adonai Yahweh gave to Ezekiel. *** Our three passages this morning tell of: Jesus' Word at His last Passover that The Spirit of Truth will be in all His disciples; the description of the amazing filling of one-hundred-twenty disciples with The Spirit; and, how The Spirit aided the early churches in prayer and gave His fruit of peace to them.)

I. Jesus says His Father will give His disciples The Spirit of Truth; when they are filled with The Spirit, they proclaim the wonders of The Gospel in fifteen languages. (John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-11)

A. The Spirit of Truth will be in you all. (*John 14:16-17*)

1. I will request (of) The Father and another Helper He will give to you all that with you all to eternity He may be being: The Spirit of Truth. (*Verses 16-17a*)

Comforter: *Pa-ra'-klay-tos* basically means one called alongside someone to help – an advocate.

It could also be translated defender, counselor, intercessor or comforter.

Spirit of Truth: God IS Truth. And, His Spirit is also Truth.

2. Whom the world not is being able to receive because not it is seeing Him, neither it is knowing (Him). (*Verse 17b*)

World not able: Any not 'born from above' (John 3:3) are still in the evil being, existing (1 John 5:19).

The Holy Spirit is essential to living the life God desires of His people

3. You all are knowing Him because with you all He is dwelling and in you all He will be. (*Verse 17c*)

Disciples: The Holy Spirit was always with those seeking to follow God. Soon, He will be IN them.

B. The disciples are filled with The Holy Spirit to speak wonderful salvation in fifteen dialects. (*Acts 2:1-11*)

1. To have come the day of Pentecost, they were being all together in common in the same place; and, noise came suddenly from heaven as being borne of mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were being sitting. (*Verses 1-2*)

Pentecost: The feast of Pentecost (Weeks) was fifty days after the feast of First Fruits (Resurrection).

Suddenly: One-hundred-twenty disciples were surprised when the noise of a strong rushing wind came upon them all at once.

2. There appeared to them tongues being divided as fire and it sat on each one of them; they all had been filled Spirit of holiness and they began to speak with other tongues just as The Spirit was giving to them to speak loud. (*Verses 3-4*)

Fire: In the vision, tongues divided as fire and sat on each of the one-hundred-twenty disciples.

Spirit of holiness: The filling Spirit is described as being of holiness as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44).

Speak in other tongues: The Spirit enabled them to speak in languages other than Hebrew-Aramaic.

They spoke loud and were actively participating in what The Spirit gave them to proclaim.

3. But there were being in Jerusalem dwelling Jews, reverent men, from every nation under heaven. (*Verse 5*)

Three feasts: Pentecost was one of the three annual feasts which every Israelite male, from every nation, was required to attend (Deuteronomy 16:16).

4. But having been this sound, the multitude came together and was being confused because each one was hearing in his own dialect of them being speaking. (*Verse 6*)

Confusion: The diaspora (scattered) Jews were collectively confused by disciples from Israel speaking in the dialects of multiple nations.

5. They were being amazed and were marveling, saying, 'Behold! Are not all these who are speaking Galilaeans?

And we, how are we hearing, all in our dialect in which we were born?' (*Verses 7-8*)

Amazed: They are all amazed that Galilaeans, who were considered to be ignorant 'backwater' people could be speaking different languages even down to dialects!

6. 'Parthians, Medes, Elamites and those dwelling in Mesopotamia (far east countries to the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf); Capadokia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia (Turkey); Egypt, Libya and Kyraynay (northern Africa); sojourners in Rome; Cretans and Arabians; we are hearing them speaking in our tongues (languages): the wonderful works of God'. (*Verses 9-11*)

Fifteen nations: There are fifteen named nations, or ethnic groups, each with a distinct language.

Mighty acts of God: Amazingly, The Holy Spirit is giving Jesus' disciples (Gospel) good news words about the wonderful works of Salvation ten days after He ascended to heaven! We must pray to be filled with The Holy Spirit to proclaim the mighty acts of God in salvation IN Jesus.

The Holy Spirit enables Jesus' followers to communicate The Gospel of salvation

II. Peter declares Joel's prophecy of The Spirit is fulfilled so people may be saved; joyful and gentle prayers result in God's peace. (Acts 2:12-21; Philippians 4:4-7)

- A. The visitors are amazed, Peter stands with support, declares Joel's prophecy of God pouring out His Spirit is fulfilled and whoever may call on His Name will be saved. (*Acts 2:12-21*)

1. All were being amazed and being confused, one to another saying, 'What meaning is this to be?' But others, mocking, were saying, 'Having been filled of new wine, they are being'. (*Verses 12-13*)
Amazed and confused: The miracle of speaking The Holy Spirit gave to Jesus' disciples caused the minds of all the visitors to Jerusalem to be blown.
Mocking: Jesus said fifty-two days earlier, 'the world' is not able to understand the miraculous works of God, so their coping mechanism is to mock what they don't understand.

2. But having stood, Peter with the eleven, he lifted up his voice and he said to them, 'Men! Judeans! All dwelling in Jerusalem! This to you all known must be being, and you all must pay close attention to my specific words.' (*Verse 14*)
Peter stands with support: Peter stands with a semi-circle of eleven apostles behind him. They all 'have his back'! God's plan is that each member of His Church always be supported by others in His Church. We must all support each other in proclaiming The Savior Messiah.

Pay attention: With three emphatic exclamations, Peter grabs the attention of 40,000 Jewish pilgrims.

3. 'For not as you all are supposing, these are being drunk, for it is being the third hour of the day; but, this is being what had been spoken through the prophet Joel'. (*Verses 15-16*)
Not this: They are not drunk on wine. It is only 9:00 AM (the third hour after sunrise – Roman time)!
But spoken through Joel: What you all are seeing is fulfilling a specific Word of God to Joel.
4. '“It will be in the last days (the Church age) God is saying 'I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and they will prophesy the sons of you all and the daughters of you all; and the young men of you all visions they will see, and the old men of you all, dreams they will have dreamed'. (*Verse 17*)
Promise of God's Spirit: God spoke through Joel seven centuries earlier that He will pour out His Spirit on all His children and they will speak His words! And God's people of all ages will be shown what is to come.
5. 'Indeed on My male servants and female servants in those days, I will pour out from My Spirit, and they will prophesy'. (*Verse 18*)
They are prophesying: Peter is saying this Holy Spirit inspired speaking for God, as spoken through Joel, is exactly what is happening. They are speaking (the Gospel) good news about Jesus, the Savior.
 We must be filled with The Holy Spirit to proclaim the mighty acts of salvation by God IN Jesus.

The Holy Spirit enables Jesus' followers to communicate The Gospel of salvation

6. 'And I will give wonders in the heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath: blood, fire and vapor of smoke; the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before to come The Day of The Lord, great and glorious'. (*Verses 19-20*)
Second coming: This is all that will happen before the great and glorious Day of The Lord – Jesus' Second Coming. 'The Day of The Lord' occurs sixteen times in the prophets, mostly as judgment. The key words: darkness, dreadful, destruction, decision, doom, retribution-reward, silent sacrifice, bitterness (references on *Bulletin Insert*); and, to stand firm in battle (Ezekiel 13:5). It is fulfilled in Revelation 18-21.
7. 'And it will be all whoever may call on The Name of The Lord will be saved' ". (*Verse 21*)
Call and be saved by Gospel: Peter concludes with the offer of salvation given through Joel, now fulfilled by the work of Jesus. The Gospel says anyone may call on Jesus' Name (Savior) in humble obedient faith, will be saved. Paul who wrote to churches in Rome, before quoting Isaiah, 'How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher' (Romans 10:14; Isaiah 52:7, NAS). It is all because of The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables Jesus' followers to communicate The Gospel of salvation

- B. The Church must rejoice IN The Lord and make gentleness known to all so prayer with thanksgiving will result in God's peace. (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

1. You all must be rejoicing in The Lord always, again I am saying, you all must be rejoicing! (*Verse 4*)
Rejoice: The repeated command says rejoicing before God can only be done by those IN The Lord. True rejoicing never comes from circumstances and certainly not from ourselves!
2. The gentleness of you all must be made known to all men: The Lord (is) near. (*Verse 5*)
Show gentleness: Gentleness is a fruit of The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit baptizes people into The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit in Jesus' followers enables others to feel Jesus' nearness and gentleness.

The Holy Spirit enables Jesus' followers to communicate The Gospel of salvation

3. Nothing you all must be being anxious about, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, the requests of you all must be made known to God. (*Verse 6*)
Not troubled: Followers of Jesus should never be troubled or anxious to the point of being overwhelmed.
Petition: All people will experience trouble that could lead to anxiety. The remedy is to petition God, while also thanking Him, telling Him everything we feel we need.
4. And the peace of God, the passing all understanding, will guard (keep) the hearts of you all and the minds of you all IN Christ Jesus. (*Verse 7*)
Guarded by peace: God's surpassing peace (a fruit of The Holy Spirit) will guard and keep all who are IN King Jesus by humble obedient faith. May we receive gentleness from The Holy Spirit so others may be guarded by God's surpassing peace.

The fruit of The Spirit is peace

Conclusion: At His last Passover, Jesus tells His disciples that The Spirit of Truth will be in them. On the day of Pentecost, after Jesus ascended to His Father, His disciples were filled with The Holy Spirit in a powerful way and proclaimed the wonders of salvation in fifteen languages. Peter rose with support and declared the prophet Joel's words fulfilled so whoever may call on Jesus will be saved. The fruit of The Holy Spirit of joy and gentleness, in prayers and thanksgiving, results in hearts guarded in the peace of God.

The Holy Spirit enables Jesus' followers to communicate The Gospel of salvation