

God's Spirit Within

As we begin today's Feast of Pentecost, pause and think about the many blessings God has given us:

He created us in His image and gave us dominion over all of His creation.

Genesis 1:27-28- “And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

He gave us the breath of life.

Genesis 2:7- “Then the LORD God formed man *of the* dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

He gave us His Commandments and Holy Days.

Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 23:1-44

God gave us His only Son.

John 3:16- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten ★See

Luke 1:35 Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have everlasting life.”

God gave us the promise of eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:22-23- “But now *that* you have been delivered from sin and have become servants of God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end result *is* eternal life. For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God gave us His Holy Spirit to be within us at baptism.

Acts 2:38-39- “Then Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For **the promise is to you** and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, *as many as the Lord our God may call.*”

We are called out from the world and adopted into the Family of God.

2 Corinthians 2:17-18- “Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says *the* Lord Almighty.”

We shall be part of the “First Resurrection” and reign with Jesus Christ on the Earth in His Millennial Kingdom for a thousand years.

Revelation 1:6- “And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

Revelation 5:10- “And did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 20:6- “Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

This of course is quite a brief list as if we could even begin to count the blessings God has given to all of us. If we stop to try and count them up, much like the things Jesus did during His ministry, they could not be counted.

John 21:24-25- “This is the disciple who testifies concerning these things and who wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I do not suppose that even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

As today we celebrate Pentecost, we will look at the blessing of God giving us His Holy Spirit. It is not part of a “triune godhead” or a separate entity. It is the essence and power of God the Father’s Divine will. God’s Holy Spirit had not yet been given to the disciples.

John 7:37-39- “Now in the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and called out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. The one who

believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those who believed in Him would soon receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

It was given as a ***gift*** to the disciples on Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4- “And when the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, was being fulfilled, they were all with one accord in the same place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a powerful wind, and filled the whole house, And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire and sat upon each one of them. And they were all ***filled with*** the Holy Spirit; and they began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the words to proclaim.”

The disciples were “***filled***” with the Holy Spirit, indicating that God put His Spirit ***within them***. There is a difference between having God’s Spirit “***within***” us compared to His Spirit being “***around***” us. It isn’t rocket science but a quick look at our source, Merriam-Webster, “within” means: in or into the interior : **INSIDE**, in one's inner thought, disposition, or character : **INWARDLY**.

When looking at “around” the most fitting definition from Merriam-Webster is “in or near one's present place or situation. God the Father is the One who draws us to His truth (**John 6:44, 65**). It is His Spirit around us that guides us. Our curiosity may be sparked at some point in our lives as most of us here have admitted to searching for God’s truth as the “religions” always felt like something was missing. The fact that God the Father is the One drawing us, it is another blessing we can add to the list.

I relate the first part of our journey towards God’s truth in the first five of the “Beatitudes” from Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:2-6- “And He opened His mouth *and* taught them, saying, “Blessed *are* the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed *are* **those who mourn**, for they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* **the meek**, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed *are* those **who hunger and thirst after righteousness**, for they shall be filled.”

The realization of being **poor in spirit** is not something of which one is naturally aware. It becomes a work of God’s Holy Spirit in the minds of those of those He

has called. When we come to the place of repentance and baptism and receive His Holy Spirit, the veil is lifted and His truth becomes clear. The closer we draw to Him, the more He reveals Himself to us. The more we come to realize just how our spiritual condition *really* is. To be poor in spirit is to openly recognize honestly and with understanding just how deficient our spiritual condition is.

I always thought “**blessed are those who mourn**” dealt with funerals. News flash! It does not. It too deals with a sense of remorse, humility, and an attitude of being a contrite spirit. As we begin to seek God and His Word, we will begin to see things through His eyes. His Spirit will enlighten us and will change our perspective on the things around us and even how we approach things.

Psalm 51:17- “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

This godly sorrow leads to repentance. It is a *motivator to know more*. One that takes us from the realization of being a sinful person to the grateful state of change. The realization that our “poor spiritual condition” needs work and our mourning is a turning point. We have turned a corner and desire to please God. We have a reverent fear of God.

Romans 2:4- “Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the graciousness of God leads you to repentance?”

God will supply His goodness by His Spirit to our sorrow.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11- “For sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world works out death. For see how this very thing—your personal sorrow before God—brought about such earnestness in you! And, *what* a defense, and *what* indignation, and fear, and vehement desire, and zeal, and vengeance! In every *way* you have proved yourselves to be pure in the matter.”

These qualities are geared towards changing the self from sinful man to one of fully serving and pleasing God.

James 4:6- “But He gives greater grace. This is *the* reason it says, “God sets Himself against *the* proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble.”

Meekness is a *lowliness of mind*. It does not mean being a wimp or a sissy by any means. Another common term that fits is “submissive.” Meekness does involve

submissiveness. Webster's would define it as the "*absence* of feelings of being better than others" which is not a dreadful thing.

Philippians 2:3-5- "*Let nothing be done through contention or vainglory, but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not *only* after his own things but *let* each one also consider the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus;*"

We read "consider" in **Haggai 1:5, 7**- "**5.** And now therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways." **7.**- "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways."

When (*and if*) we examine our conduct and inward self, it will be God's Holy Spirit "*around*" us *if* we feel conviction. Some would call this "conscience" or maybe "intuition." But if you are seeking to know God, know it is He that is guiding you through His Spirit.

Luke 11:9- "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you."

Being meek in God's way is a good thing.

Zephaniah 2:3- “Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth who have executed His judgment; seek righteousness; seek meekness. It may be that you shall be hidden in the day of the LORD’S anger,”

Psalms 37:11- “But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

When God's Spirit around us prompts us to look inward and we begin to see His truth unfold to us in His Word, we will develop a **hunger and thirst for righteousness**.

Psalms 119:172- “My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.”

We all have a good idea of what hunger, thirst and righteousness are. God wants us to desire His righteousness with a spiritual hunger and thirst that only His Word can satisfy.

Psalm 63:1- “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is,”

God desires that hunger and thirst to increase in us. Not to cause us any discomfort, but to keep us drawing closer to Him. To seek Him, to be filled by His Word and Spirit. The question we must ask ourselves is how much do we want the righteousness of God? Would we want it as much as food if we were starving or water if we were dying of thirst? These ‘beatitudes’ are the basic “considering our ways” being instructed by God’s Holy Spirit *around* us. Those whispers or questions needing answers are God’s drawing power being used to bring us to that place of choice, choosing His way of life.

God’s Spirit “around” those in scripture, several examples are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. Terms used were anointed, chosen, charged, or upon. In Exodus 31, we read that “filled him with the Spirit of God” was used.

Exodus 31:1-4- “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Behold, I, I have called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, and in understanding, and in

knowledge, and in all workmanship, To devise designs; to work in gold, and in silver, and in bronze.”

This may be confusing and contradictory considering what we read earlier in John.

John 7:37-39- “Now in the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and called out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those who believed in Him would soon receive; **for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.**”

In the case of Bezaleel in Exodus 31, being filled meant God had given him the knowledge he needed to fulfill his task. Moses too is an example of God’s anointing and charge, empowering the individual to accomplish a task. Gideon, Samson, Saul, and Ezekiel are some of the others that God’s Spirit “came upon or entered.”

In the New Testament, we find an example of God’s Holy Spirit guiding and being around a group of “disciples” in Ephesus.

Acts 19:1-5- “Now it came to pass that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the upper parts and came to Ephesus; and when he found certain disciples, He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit after you believed?” And they said to him, “**We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**” Then he said to them, “Unto what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Unto the baptism of John.” And Paul said, “John truly baptized with a baptism unto repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in Him Who was coming after him—that is, in Jesus, the Christ.” And after hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”

After being baptized into the Name of Jesus, they received God’s Holy Spirit. This is an example many are led by God’s Spirit to a place of truth and understanding. Many of the Protestant churches are at a place of understanding but do not fully **OBEY** the Word of God and therefore, never make the vital connection for the First Resurrection.

Today we celebrate Pentecost. We are blessed beyond those who never had the opportunity to have God’s Holy Spirit **within** them. We have Christ's sacrifice, complete Bible, Old and New Testaments, and the gift of God’s Holy spirit! We should be shouting with joy from the rooftops!

We know that joy, like love, are fruits of God's Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, **Meekness**, self-control; against such things there is no law. But those who *are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by *the* Spirit, we should also be walking by *the* Spirit.”

Like love, joy is not a creation of the natural mind but the product of the Holy Spirit of God. If true joy cannot be produced through our natural mind, then we cannot expect to find it without seeking it through God and His Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11-13- “For I know the purposes which I am proposing for you,’ says the LORD; ‘purposes of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you shall call on Me, and you shall go and pray to Me, and I will hearken to you. And you shall seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Matthew 7:7-8- “Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened.”

These thoughts have stirred the spirit within me to know God and His will more.

Romans 8:26-28- “Now in the same way also, the Spirit is conjointly helping our weaknesses because we do not fully understand what we should pray for, according as it is necessary, but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be expressed *by us*. And the One Who searches the hearts comprehends what the strivings of the Spirit *are* because it makes intercession for *the* saints according to *the will of* God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

There is an Einstein “witticism” that defines insanity, “insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” I do not believe that God gambles in any instance but we as humans do consistently. We do the same things over and over expecting change that never occurs. How does this compare to spiritual growth? The only one who can answer this question is ourselves. But God already knows the answer. It is clearly visible to Him in our hearts. God’s Holy Spirit and His Power has a way of moving us in the direction He would have us go.

Judges 13:25- “And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

Job 33:3-4- “My words *shall be* from the uprightness of my heart, and my lips will clearly speak knowledge. The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Seeking and loving God first, allows His Holy Spirit to bring about the changes ***in*** our own spirit. We begin to live by the spirit and not the flesh. When we come to that place of understanding and we truly are loving God with all our hearts and we have that contrite spirit within us, repentance and baptism and the laying on of hands will give us the gift of His Holy Spirit ***within*** us.

Our carnal minds present the greatest struggle to spiritual change, and therefore we cannot go it alone. We have been given the Spirit of God at baptism. We have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16- “Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God, Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of

God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ.”

Our spiritual potential is only limited by our own efforts in seeking a relationship with God. Are we truly using all we have been given to its fullest to glorify Him? If you know God’s truth, His Spirit has brought you to this place of understanding.

2 Corinthians 2:14- “But thanks *be* to God, Who always leads us triumphant in Christ, and manifests the fragrance of His knowledge through us in every place.”

We are truly blessed to have God’s Holy spirit ***within us***! Amen.