

THE WIND OF CHANGE
ACTS 2:1:24
2026-05-24

No one ever needs a reminder that it's Christmas or misses Good Friday or Easter. **But Pentecost, though it's a critical day in the life of the church**, could come and go with scarcely anyone noticing.

But that certainly wasn't the case on the first Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by sound like a violent wind storm coming from heaven and filling the house where the disciples were. What seemed to be tongues of fire separated and came to rest on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues. I'm sure, if you had wind and fire coming on you like that and you started to speak involuntarily in a way you never had before, you would remember that day like no other!

Our Pentecostal friends focus their faith on the Holy Spirit. Some say you're not truly born again unless you speak in tongues. That's not a biblical truth. It may happen but **it's not a requisite** for being born again. Considerable misguidance exists around that argument. Still, **we could be** much more focused on the Holy Spirit and more enlivened in our spiritual walk.

Every day is resurrection day—the gift that just keeps on giving. Think **how people were changed by** the crucifixion and resurrection—**Jesus came to change lives**. Think of the remarkable change in the thief beside Jesus on the cross, the change in the centurion in charge of Jesus' execution. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea changed from secret-agent Christians to publicly proclaim Jesus. Peter, who denied Christ three times, was restored. When he and John were ordered not to speak Jesus' name Peter answered, "**Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight** to obey you rather than God. For we can't help speaking about what we've seen and heard."

I must mention **Jesus' ascension**. It marked a clear separation between the Jesus of earth and the Christ of heaven. **The Ascension provided a shift between** Jesus' life on earth and Jesus living through His Church. Twice in Acts 1 Jesus told the disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit who would make them His witnesses and bring His power to them. The **Ascension brings us** face to face with the Second Coming, making clear that God has a plan for His world. History isn't careening off-course haphazardly. **Humanity is heading to a future divine event** when Jesus will come as Judge and Lord of all. It's a call to ready ourselves. Are you ready? And Pentecost transitions Jesus' limited earthly presence to His unlimited heavenly presence with us.

Christ sacrificed His life for us, His family, so that we might have life and have it abundantly. **Part of that abundant life arrived at Pentecost.** It's difficult to know what exactly happened that day, but we do know that it was both a remarkable and a great day, the day that the Holy Spirit came to the Church in a very special way.

Pentecost was already an important day for Jews. It means “the 50th”. It was 50 days, a week of weeks after the Passover (7-7s=complete!). Every male Jew living within twenty miles (32 km.) of Jerusalem was legally bound to come. All of Palestine was only 120 mi. long by 40 mi. wide. That’s why there were so many people of international background in Jerusalem that day.

Acts has been called the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. **It’s not good theology to speak about** the events at Pentecost as “the coming of the Holy Spirit”, because it feeds the idea that the Holy Spirit came into existence at that time, and that’s not true. **The Spirit of God has been in every age**, revealing His truth to humanity. (The Spirit hovering over the deep: Genesis 1:2) **But from that moment the Holy Spirit became the dominant reality in the life of the early Church.** The Spirit is:

1)The source of all guidance; It moved Philip to make contact with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:29).

When I was a counsellor many years ago I worked with a teenage girl who had lots of struggles. She was often depressed and came to me frequently for help. I felt totally out of my depth. Have you ever been way over your capacity to manage? It’s terrifying.

But she kept coming back. To my great relief she saw a psychiatrist once a month where at least I thought she could get some real help for her real problems. Once when I felt like I had nothing left in the tank, she came back from her psychiatrist saying “My psychiatrist says you’re doing a great job. Just keep doing what you’re doing!” She didn’t notice my jaw hit the floor.

One morning I didn’t see her at school. I thought I should phone home and check on her. That was very unusual. Then I got distracted by other demands. Later though, the same thought came back to me. I called but no one answered. So I called Mom at work to let her know her daughter was a no-show. She checked it out; her daughter was in the garage with the car running, windows open and garage door closed. She was rushed to the hospital. Another twenty minutes would have been fatal. She was fine. But what prompted the thoughts I first ignored then subsequently followed up on? **It was the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever experienced that kind of nudging?**

2) The Holy Spirit prepares us; It prepared Peter for those coming from Cornelius’ household and directed Peter to go with them (Acts 11:12, 28).

3) The Holy Spirit sanctifies; He sets us apart, both from regular life and for special assignment; It **set apart** Paul and Barnabas to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (13:2, 4).

4) The Holy Spirit helps us make decisions; It guided decisions at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15: 28) and **kept** Paul away from Asia, but sent him to Troas. **The early Church was led by the Spirit.** And we should be too.

5) The Spirit is the source of daily courage and power. The disciples received power when the Spirit came (Acts 1:8). We talked about people changed by the cross and the Resurrection, for example how boldly Peter spoke before the Sanhedrin. On Pentecost **Peter** explained what had happened, quoting from Joel. Do you think those verses were his own thoughts? I doubt it. He was reeling from what he'd just experienced too. The power of the Spirit came upon him and gave him the words to say. He blew his audience away! People were cut to the heart; moved to respond. Three thousand became believers that day from Peter's Spirit led message!

This shouldn't surprise us. Do you recognize a time when something you hadn't really thought about before suddenly left your lips while in conversation, and there's this astonishment of, "**Where did that thought come from?**" Or maybe you were in a delicate situation, not sure what to say or how to say it, but again words started flowing, and for a change they were very articulate and it sounded like somebody borrowed your body and stole your voice, because what came out was far better than what you imagined possible. Jesus said expect that and don't worry about what to say, because the Holy Spirit will speak for us. Have you experienced that?

6) The Spirit gives us courage to meet dangerous or daunting situations. He gives us power to cope more than adequately with the challenges that come before us.

7) He gives us joy that is independent of circumstances. **Have you got** the joy of Jesus, the joy of the Spirit in your heart? (I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, deep in my heart...).

8) In Acts 5:32 we hear that the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God. So the measure of the Spirit within a person is conditioned by the kind of person you are. If you're sincerely trying to do the will of God, you will experience more and more of the wonder of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, different from the past where it had often been a hit-and-miss kind of experience. Some prophet would be filled by the Spirit and do an extraordinary miracle. Then, sometime later, the Spirit would leave that person until a next time. When Elisha threw Elijah's cape and the waters parted as they had for Elijah, the other prophets saw and knew that the Spirit that had been with Elijah was now with Elisha. **The Spirit was only for some people or for some people briefly for a special event.**

But since Pentecost, it's not like that. When you receive Jesus into your heart, born-again, you also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who moves right in with you, **full time, with no cancellation clause.** You may remember that the Spirit left Saul and Samson in the Old Testament. It could be like that before Pentecost, but not since. The Spirit of God doesn't shift in and out of us. He's always with us so we're never alone. He knows our thoughts. **The Spirit and Jesus both intercede for us in our prayers—the Spirit particularly,** when we don't know what to pray (Romans 8).

Have you ever been unsure about what to pray? Who hasn't? But you needn't sweat that. The Holy Spirit knows your heart, knows your needs and what's best for you. Rest in Him.

Welcome the Wind of Change! Now I know some of you don't like change. But this is the breath of new life, sent by God through His Spirit. It's a very bad idea to resist the Wind of Change, the Breath of God, **who wants to make you more like Jesus. Cooperate with Him in that** venture then just stand back and be amazed at what God will do in your life! God is doing a new thing! It's best to be working with Him. **As that happens** people will see the difference in you and will be drawn to God. **That's why we're here.**

Remember where we started? Jesus came to—including you. As you cooperate with the Holy Spirit, you will be changed to be more like Jesus. Then He'll use you to change others for Him too. Embrace the change!