

Pentecost Sunday -

Pentecost Sunday is a commemoration and celebration of the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the early church

Pentecost is significant in both the Old and New Testaments. "Pentecost" is actually the Greek name for a festival known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks ([Leviticus 23:15](#); [Deuteronomy 16:9](#)). The Greek word means "fifty" and refers to the fifty days that have elapsed since the wave offering of Passover. The Feast of Weeks celebrated the end of the grain harvest. Most interesting, however, is its use in Joel and Acts. Looking back to Joel's prophecy ([Joel 2:28-32](#)) and forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit in Christ's last words on earth before His ascension into heaven ([Acts 1:8](#)), Pentecost signals the beginning of the church age.

Fire is often associated in the Old Testament with the presence of God ([Exodus 3:2](#); [13:21-22](#); [24:17](#); [Isaiah 10:17](#)) and with His holiness ([Psalm 97:3](#); [Malachi 3:2](#)).

Likewise, in the New Testament, fire is associated with the presence of God ([Hebrews 12:29](#)) and the purification He can bring about in human life ([Revelation 3:18](#)). God's presence and holiness are implied in the Pentecostal tongues of fire.

After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did not stay in the room basking in God's glory but burst out to tell the world. This was the beginning of the church as we know it.

Evangelism With The Holy Spirit

The point/Big idea

The HS was given to you so that you could be a testimony (witness) for Jesus wherever you go.

Pray

Understanding The Holy Spirit

His Identity -

He is called 'Holy' - He is special, different.

John 14:15-17.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.'

Father, Son, Spirit. - God the Father is in Heaven, Jesus is with Him, and The Holy Spirit is inside of you.

He is not an 'it' - The Bible says "him" not it - a floating mist.

The Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He possesses a **mind**, **emotions**, and a **will**. The Holy Spirit thinks and knows ([1 Corinthians 2:10](#)). The Holy Spirit can be grieved ([Ephesians 4:30](#)). The Spirit intercedes for us ([Romans 8:26-27](#)). He makes decisions according to His will ([1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#)). The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity.

God - Trinity (**H₂O** (*solid, liquid, vapor*))

Psalm 139:7-8.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

The Spirit is not restricted to one location, and that is how the same Spirit that lives in you lives in me and lives in other Christians around the world.

His Purpose

You and I have the spirit as a guarantee of our salvation. But that's not the only reason for the HS.

J. 14:26: But the Helper (para-clete), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

J. 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

J. 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

Romans 8:26-27.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[a] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Every believer has the Holy Spirit and has gifts for that person to help, edify, build up, strengthen, teach, encourage, guide, and comfort us.

There is not a person here who can be a Christian without the Holy Spirit. Every Christian here has the Holy Spirit living inside of you and thus, you are a vessel of God's presence.

The Fruit of the Spirit - (9 of them listed in Gal 5) - is a byproduct of the Spirit living inside of you. When you find yourself doing this in a way that isn't natural, you can be sure that it's the Holy Spirit manifesting Himself in you.

Boil it down:

You have been given the Spirit of God to help you be a representative of Jesus on this earth.

If you remember and believe that and obey His instruction in your life, you will think differently, speak differently, and act differently.

The Spirit wants you to change - to be different than who you are today and to possibly believe differently than you believe today....

We are a vessel made by God that can't do what God put us on the earth to do without his help.

Now that we have touched on the **Identity** and **Purpose** of the Spirit, we are going to shift our focus to how the Holy Spirit works in regard to one of the most important, impactful, and transformative activities that you and I can participate in: **Making disciples, and more pointedly, Evangelism.**

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

Notice why He was sent. Not because the worship team invited Him in. Not because the music was great and the song said 'holy spirit come'. Not because someone wanted to raise the dead. Not because some other miracle needed to be proclaimed at that moment. Not because they were singing 'fire, come down'...

According to Acts 1:8, the reason the the HS was sent was so that we could be witnesses to a world that was lost and in need of a savior.

What does this tell us? To separate the work of the Holy Spirit from evangelism is unbiblical and prideful.

For us to think that conversions of the lost will happen because of color beads, the Romans road, a great altar call, a vibrant revival, or fun bible camp, we are gravely mistaken.

Conversion is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. The HS can use those as we practice them, but he can also use a little child and no props.

The role of the Holy Spirit is vital to evangelism and cannot be overemphasized. In fact, evangelism is not about you involving Him in your outreach efforts. It is Him involving you in His (work to reach the lost).

How do we live a lifestyle of dependence on the Holy Spirit in evangelism?

Prayer is vital. Prayer is not just a brief request asking God to bless our evangelism efforts. It is ongoing communication with the Lord as we rely on His Spirit inside of us to guide our steps, open doors of opportunity, and provide the words and boldness we need in our conversations.

1) He Will Give Us Personal Heart Change

I said earlier, the Spirit wants to change you.

God loves you where you are, and he loves you too much to leave you where you are.

One of the things God wants to change in us is our passions - He desires our passions to align with His passions.

(Too many of us are passionate about what God is apathetic about and apathetic about what God is passionate about).

Ps. 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

Romans 10:1.

Brothers,^[a] my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Sadly, the longer we stay in our church routine, the more stale and apathetic we get. For example, we begin to believe something dangerous. *Evangelism is the job of the church, not the job of the Christian.*

This is not a job for 'the church' or the other Christians, but for you. Personally.

How many of you feel burdened that you've never clearly articulated the gospel message with anyone? I'm not talking about leading someone to the Lord - that isn't within our power.

I don't think anyone here would say we've never had an opportunity to share the gospel.

What if we were willing to adjust our lives in such a way that we would interact MORE with non-believers?

Believers of the Word should be doers of the Word!

Romans 1:16 - "I am not ashamed because it's God's power for SALVATION!

Pray to have a heart like Paul.

Romans 9:2-3

2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers,^[a] my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Pray that God's Spirit living inside of us helps us to feel this way about our neighbors in Woodland.

2) He Will Give Us Opportunity

The Holy Spirit's desire is for the glory of God. If you and I ask Him to give us opportunity to have conversations of a spiritual nature with someone, He will open our eyes.

The current book of the quarter has been a helpful conversation starter for many of you. Last week, in our group, someone said "I bet we have a bunch more opportunities to share than we realize." I agree. And that's just if we don't go out of our way to create situations where we could do that - like passing out bibles on a street corner, talking with someone at the gym or park sports game, or at the community center with all their activities.

Col. 4:3

3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

We need to look for them and ask him to show us.

What if we started our day asking for an opportunity?

What if we reviewed our day looking to see where we had an opportunity?

The heart of God is that people would be saved. The Spirit of God indwells you and I so that we'd be His witnesses. Based on logic, not some deep theological study, we can **know** that God will give us opportunity to partake in His mission on this earth.

If I believe that I have been given the power of God to do the work of God amongst God's creation, then I will walk the world with my eyes looking for opportunities to glorify God.

3) He Will Give Us Boldness

Acts 4:8 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

Acts 4:29-31

'Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with all boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' And when they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

This was a regular prayer of God's people and God granted it. I love that this is communicated in the Word - it reminds us that even Paul and the apostles and early Christians were also afraid.

2 Tim. 1:7-8.

..for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

Boldness doesn't mean we have no fear, but that we'll step into the situation anyway.

Boldness to overcome fear occurs because you see the bigger picture. In regards to evangelism, it's because God showed you the bigger picture

You need boldness. You need courage.

You are rescuing people from Hell, and Satan will work to stand in your way! Fear of sharing the gospel might even be considered a tool of the devil that is highly effective amongst God's people.

We are engaging in a spiritual battle here! Perhaps, when you consider the big picture, this might actually make you more afraid, considering the gravity of the situation.

Thank GOD for point #4!

4) He Will Give You Words Of Wisdom

Have you ever said something to someone and, after you said it, you became very aware that those words weren't from you?

Luke 12:11-12

11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, **12** for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

The promise of Jesus is this: He will bring to 'remembrance' Jesus words. For us today, who haven't walked with Jesus, this means that we need to know His Word. It's not that the Holy Spirit can't reveal truth to us on the spot that we've never read, but we are called to be prepared. That means to study, to read, to get familiar with the Word of God.

The Words of everything in the Bible aren't what we need to recite, but rather, He will give us the right words at the right time. This is wisdom practiced. Wisdom in sharing the gospel is knowing what needs to be said and what doesn't need to be said. This is different for each person because each person is different.

Paul Prayed that his words would be clear:

Col. 4:4

that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Peter's monologue in Acts was appropriate for those listeners, but if you and I gave that exact speech to your neighbor, most likely that would not be a wise. Would it be biblical? Yes. But just because something is in the Bible doesn't mean it's what that person needs to hear at that moment.

Trusting the Spirit to give you wisdom also doesn't mean that we don't learn how to be effective in communicating. Study. Learn. Practice. **But don't wait** to engage the lost until you've got it all figured out.

Effective evangelism is prayerful evangelism. When we are listening to God's guidance and following through, that is successful evangelism - regardless of if they trust in Jesus right then.

5) He Will Bring Conversation and/or Conversion

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

1 Cor. 3:6-7

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Acts 11:18.

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.

John 16:8-11.

8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

We need to rely on the Holy Spirit to open individual hearts to the gospel message. Only the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of unbelievers to the truth of the gospel. The Bible illustrates this in Acts 16:14 where Lydia trusts in Christ: "The Lord opened her heart to heed the message of Paul." It is the same today as it was in Acts. It is the job of believers to communicate the gospel. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convert the heart.

The Holy Spirit is responsible for softening an unbeliever's heart, and leading them to a conversion.

Even if they refuse now, you may be only planting a seed for someone else to water later on; but it is God who causes the growth.

Spend a moment in prayer and ask God to reveal to you someone you can start having a conversation of faith with.

He will soften hearts

He will show people the significance of sin

He will show people their need for a savior

How will he do that? Through your lips. Remember, you're just a vessel for His glory.

Conclusion:

Do you feel like you're a 'lawnmower with no gas?

Trust in Jesus and His Spirit will fill you and use you for His purpose.

1. Will you commit, for the next 7 days, to asking Jesus to align your heart with His heart regarding the lost?
2. Will you own your personal responsibility for being a vessel and display of God's Spirit in your home, work, and with friends?
3. If Jesus were to make one thing different about you this week, and he could choose, what do you think He would pick?

Prayer cards in the foyer

Bibles in the foyer.

The point/Big idea

The HS was given to you so that you could be a testimony (witness) for Jesus wherever you go.

Closing Line:

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Everyone can reach someone. But together we can reach the Woodland and beyond.