

I chose the second lesson for today's sermon text, Acts chapter 2.

The title for today's message is: **The Holy Spirit dwells within.**

Luke wrote: ***And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

As you probably know, today is Pentecost Sunday, also known as the Feast Of Weeks, the Feast Of Harvest, or The Day Of First fruits.

Pentecost is all about the day the Holy Spirit descended right down on the heads of the disciples in the form of divided tongues of fire.

Pentecost a very special day that without fail always comes on the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover.

And on that day of Pentecost, the Christian Church, was born. Yet today in many church's, the Holy Spirit is hardly ever mentioned.

And in many cases, when the Holy Spirit is mentioned, its mostly in passing, and without any real importance placed on the Spirit at all.

Even though there are hundreds of times in the Bible, that refer to the Holy Spirit as being powerful, and a major player in Christianity.

Now, today, were going to talk about the Holy Spirit, who just so happens to be the third person of the Holy Trinity.

Were also going to look at how the Holy Spirit interacted with the disciples, and how He's still at work in our lives today.

Now, in the first part of the Gospel lesson, John chapter 7, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water.

I begin by asking you to imagine one day, waking up, and finding out that you're being sued by someone you hardly even know.

A lawsuit which is very complicated, so much so you really don't understand it. So, who do you call for help? Well, you call a lawyer, right!

Someone who sits with you, and explains the lawsuit to you. Someone who advises you on what to do about your situation.

Look, the fact is, without a lawyer on your side, helping and advising you. You'd be totally lost.

This is exactly what the Holy Spirit did for the disciples, and does for you and me this very day.

Jesus said in John chapter 16 : ***When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.***

The "Spirit of truth," will testify about Jesus Christ. As He opens our minds to accept the things that are told about Jesus in the scriptures.

The Holy Spirit also matures our faith so that we too may testify about Jesus to others just as the disciples did.

This is what we see happening on the first Pentecost, the disciples were all gathered together.

Perhaps they were in the temple courts, a place where they often gathered together.

And it was at that time, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in a very special way. First, there was the sound of a strong rushing wind.

Then, there was something like tongues of fire, that landed on their heads, causing the disciples to speak in foreign languages.

And thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, 3000 people were converted to Christianity that day. Some say, why doesn't the Spirit do the same today?

He does, He is always adding to the number of believers, just as He did in our text for today.

Back then the Spirit worked in a very visible and fast way. Today however, there are no signs, such as rushing winds or tongues of fire dancing on our heads.

Today many people want the Holy Spirit to work visibly, and quickly, yet when that doesn't happen, they think, the Holy Spirit is no longer with them.

They think, it's all up to us now to make God's church grow, and to convince people to believe in Christ. That its up to us to do more than just plant the seed.

Now remember, the Holy Spirit's job isn't to "wow" us, nor is it to shock us with spectacular religious moments.

It's the Holy Spirit who speaks to us, helping us to understand and believe in all things Jesus Christ has said and done for us.

How, you may ask? He does it in and through the Word of God, the bible. Remember the Word of God is alive, and powerful.

God's Word tells us, that our sins have been taken away, forgiven by the shedding of Jesus' blood

The Word tells us many other things too, but most importantly it tells us that Jesus rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.

Yes, Jesus is alive, and the Word tells us that someday Jesus will return, and until He does, He promises to be with us always and to bless us.

You know, every time we hear the Word of God, or read the Word of God, we see the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Maybe we can't actually see Him, or feel Him, and maybe there's no sound of rushing winds, or flames of fire falling onto our heads.

But rest assured, the Holy Spirit is at work within us, causing us to grow in our faith, and to mature in our Christian life.

He's equipping us to be able to share the Gospels with others. And yes, He does this for all people who are believers in Christ.

This is how the Holy Spirit worked yesterday, today and tomorrow, always pointing in the direction of God.

There's a story I heard a few years ago, about a sunken ship hull. It's a story that I believe illustrates how the Holy Spirit works.

Several years ago, as engineers building a new bridge over the East River in New York, discovered a wrecked hull of a ship.

It was a ship that sunk many years before. However the hull was lying right where the center piers of the new bridge were to be built.

Powerful machinery was brought in to remove the ship hull, but the hull wouldn't budge, not even an inch.

Scratching their heads, one of the engineers came up with an unusual solution. He said, why not have the tide raise the hull.

Strong cables were attached to the ship's hull when the tide was low. The other ends of the cables were fastened to the barge floating above.

As the tide came in, the barge gently, yet quickly lifted up the sunken ship hull, allowing them to move it out into the ocean.

The Holy Spirit is like the tide. He comes gently, and very quickly. Coming to us with great power.

And it's the Spirit that lifts us up from unbelief to faith, and from weak faith, to strong faith.

Look, when you see someone baptized, you're seeing the Holy Spirit at work. When you receive the Lord's Supper, you're seeing the Holy Spirit at work.

It's nothing flashy. But its proof, that the Holy Spirit is still working in us, still lifting people up, changing people, and transforming people.

Today we thank God, for sending His Holy Spirit in a miraculous, and spectacular way on that day of the first Pentecost.

My friends, the Holy Spirit will never stop working in us, that is until the day our Lord returns on the last day.

I would like to close with this:

“Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest. And make our hearts your place of rest, come with your grace and heavenly aid, and fill the hearts which you have made.”

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.