

Pentecost
“God pours out His Spirit on you too, His servants!”
Acts 2:17-18
June 8, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Sunday of the Day of Pentecost is from Acts 2:17-18

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days;”

So far the text:

In the world that we all live in, we are constantly being categorized and pigeon holed according to our age, gender, ethnicity, and so on and so forth...
For example: the softball girls pony league teams and boys teams are divided according to age...8u, 10u, 12u- which means 8 and under, 10 and under and so on...

You age out of a team and are no longer able to participate with a team when your age reaches the next level.

On the other end of the age spectrum, certain benefits and discounts start to kick in for seniors according to one's age...and in certain parks you have to be a certain age in order to live in them.

There are certain benefits for the military, certain benefits for first time homebuyers, for handicapped... in state college education is less expensive than out of state college education. And of course, good income tax preparation strives to find all the ways one is qualified for certain exemptions.

What a breath of fresh air it is for us on this day of Pentecost, when we hear Peter quoting the prophet Joel tells the people that God doesn't qualify some and restrict others to receive His heavenly blessings. Peter repeats:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;”

For the sound of moving air filled the house and indeed on that 50th day after Jesus' resurrection, in these last days, our last days, God keeps His promise and pours out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh. Everyone!

Who does that include? Young and old, men and women. God is pouring out what is so much more precious than any freebies or discounts that the world offers according to who you are.

God is pouring out freely what is needed by all people – His Spirit. The Lord and Giver of Life – as we say in the Nicene Creed. God is pouring out life – a new life burning with the brightness and love of Jesus!

You know, God doesn't ever do anything without planning and purpose. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for this coming of the Comforter. In Acts 1, right before Jesus ascends into heaven He says:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

God's got an amazing plan of witnessing to the whole world – to all flesh – the Gospel of salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection. It's about to begin...when God chooses for it to begin.

Nothing happens until God starts the New Testament church. God has those first 100 believers wait in prayer...humbly wait...for we can do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are nothing without the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are lost in our sins until the Holy Spirit comes to us through His means of the Word and Sacraments and calls us out of our slavery of sin into His marvelous light of freedom from sin! The waiting for the

day of Pentecost reminds us that as Hebrews 11:6 tells us: **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him”**.

And again, Ephesians 2 tells us and all flesh just exactly what was our condition before receiving the outpouring of faith by the Holy Spirit in our hearts. We were dead in trespasses. Absolutely without life. When there is no indwelling of the Holy Spirit, heavenly things have no meaning. They are passed off as drunkenness as the people said when they heard the Galileans speaking in different languages!

But listen to Ephesians 2 carefully... for God has a plan and a purpose for all flesh.

“4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Heavenly places! Yes, that’s just one perk of receiving the Holy Spirit. As Jesus ascended into heaven, so too even now, united with Jesus through faith in Him, we are already ascending in spirit to the heavenly places. We are already knowing and beholding the great love of God and new life by the power of Him who makes us alive!

The waiting for Pentecost humbles us. The waiting for the coming of the incarnate Jesus Christ, humbles us for without Him we are lost. We depend completely upon the mercy of God in Jesus our Savior.

And when the time was right, according to God’s gracious plans and purpose, listen to what Titus 3 tells us:

“4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

When the Savior Jesus appeared, when the Word became flesh, His righteousness saved us. And how does God make us alive who are dead in sin? Baptism! The washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...poured out on us abundantly!

This pouring out of the Holy Spirit is for all flesh, young and old including infants receive this gift of life through baptism. For it is all God's work. Nothing happens until the Holy Spirit creates faith and makes His home in a new believer's heart. Oh, lots of people were baptized on Pentecost. 3000 souls were added.

Who were these souls? **“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”**

The Holy Spirit of Pentecost continues in these last days, to us and our children calling us to repentance and the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit, the washing of our sins in baptism.

The church celebrates, we celebrate Pentecost as our birthday, the birth of the New Testament church and the birthday present is our salvation, sealed in our baptism. And our faith, our new spirit, is continually fed by the Spirit through the Word and the receiving of Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness.

For God who kept His promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit also promises another day when **“The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.”**

Judgement day. Who will receive the benefits of eternal life on judgment day? Peter tells us:

21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Whoever... God's mercy is for all people...for you and me...for Gentiles also. For Peter was clearly shown at the house of Cornelius in Acts 10 that the same Holy Spirit was poured out on these Gentiles who were unclean in the eyes of the Jews.

Listen to Peter speak of Jesus.

“Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with

Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

And then at that moment, Pentecost arrived at the house of Cornelius.

“4 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”

Who can forbid water that these should also be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And they were.

The same Holy Spirit claims you and I as His. We are His menservants and maidservants. God owns us and gives to us all that is His. And because you are His and only because you are His, God gives to you the amazing gift of prophecy – to bear witness of the truth of what God has done in your heart. That you are saved and redeemed.

And the Holy Spirit continually pours out His gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control upon you as you hear His Word. And you by the power of the Holy Spirit, in these last days, pour out these gifts as a witness to the risen and ascended Jesus Christ who will come again and judge all people!

Pentecost continues by the Holy Spirit through you and me as we pour ourselves out as drink offerings, as Paul says, to God and all people that others may know that God is merciful and loving not just to some, but to all.

All glory to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)