

# Spirit of Pentecost

(Sermon Notes) By: Warren Zehrung 6/4/2017

We begin each **Holy Day** with an Offertory. Are we wise enough to utilize the **timing**, the analogies, the **types** and the symbolism in Scripture – in order to comprehend the deeper meanings that God has for us – His saints?

Leviticus 23:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

Leviticus 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

This “sheaf of the firstfruits” pictures and represents the resurrected Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Wave-Sheaf Offering – the first of the firstfruits – the firstborn from the dead (Revelation 1:5).

Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: [49 days - yesterday]

Now we come to the verse that tells us exactly which day is Pentecost:

Leviticus 23:16 Even unto the **morrow after the seventh Sabbath** shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meal offering unto the Lord.

Today is the Feast of Weeks – or as we know it best, **Pentecost**. How do we – the Church brethren – fit into Pentecost?

Leviticus 23:17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations **two wave loaves** of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked **with leaven**; they are the **firstfruits** [also] unto the Lord.

The two wave loaves – that is us, brethren. The two wave loaves of fine flour represent the **firstfruits** of the harvest.

And notice, they are baked with **leaven** – making it puffy sinful bread – not the sincerity and truth of the Wave Sheaf with **oil** of God’s Holy **Spirit** – like the sinless Jesus.

Pentecost is tied directly to Christ’s resurrection by the counting – making us a part of the first resurrection.

Remember, Jesus Christ – the First of the first fruits has been presented 50 days prior to this – and yet, we too are considered by God to be of His **firstfruits**... “they (that is us) are the firstfruits unto the Lord.”

The early harvest began with Jesus Christ being glorified by His Father. The first harvest ends with Pentecost at the last trumpet and return of Jesus Christ.

That **future** harvest is the one we are most concerned about on this Feast of Pentecost. These two loaves represent all those who will be in the first resurrection – whether from the Old Testament or the New Testament times.

Leviticus 23:20 And the priest [Jesus Christ is our High Priest today] shall wave them [Just as Jesus was waved – presented to the Father for acceptance] with the bread of the firstfruits [that is us – the Church brethren] for a wave **offering** before the Lord...

God the Father will accept us as a wave-**offering** – presented by His Son, the High Priest – as well. We will be His eternal children forever! That is what this Feast of Pentecost pictures!

Offertory music – “The Lord’s Prayer” Piano solo

Title: **The Spirit of Pentecost**

Have you noticed how the concept of “Spirit” has been under severe attack – not only in the church – but in media, TV, Movies and children’s games?

There is a concerted effort to relegate the **spirit** world to every conceivable witch, phantom, gargoyle, sorceress, evil spirit, supernatural alien, bizarre life-form, ghost, walking dead, vampire, or zombie. It is a nasty world – and only getting worse. Brethren, you know where the fascination comes from. There is a universal fixation associated with the **dark demonic** underworld. Even Joe Jr. attempted to change the very nature of the **incorruptible God** into... “**creepy**” things – as Paul put it.

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and **creeping** things.

Young people today do not stand a chance of having a right biblical understanding of God – who is Spirit. Only **God’s Church** retains a right understanding of “**spirit**,” and how “spirit” relates to God’s realm.

After all, **God is Spirit**. (John 4:24)

I’ve chosen the name **Spirit of Pentecost** for today’s sermon. The **first** resurrection is pictured by Pentecost. Jesus said that the Comforter which is **Holy Spirit** would teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance (John 14:26). “**Spirit of Truth**” would have been a good title, as well.

John 16:13 Howbeit when the **Spirit of Truth** is come, it will guide you into all truth:

It is God’s Holy Spirit that **opens** our minds to know God, and to recognize the **will** of God. God’s Spirit is the **one** Spirit that the Father and Jesus Christ share with each other, and with us. We see that through the Holy Spirit, the profound and mysterious things of God are revealed to Christians who have God’s Spirit.

What can we know about this non-physical term that the Bible calls, “**spirit**?” The Scriptures speak of God and angels as being spirits, and of demons as being unclean spirits. It means that they are not of this physical, temporal realm in which man exists.

“Spirit” is not restricted nor constrained by the physical laws of nature and the universe – that we must abide by. But know this, “Spiritual” is much more real and **enduring** than the temporary physical existence we are a part of. Jesus said that “spirit” is eternal and invisible – like the boundless wind (John 3:8). Because we have been privileged to know of the Plan of God shown in His Holy Days, we understand that Pentecost pictures **God’s Holy Spirit** being bestowed on the called out saints.

Pentecost pictures the completion of the Spiritual Creation when we, the Children of God, become full-fledged members of the Spiritual, Eternal Family of God.

At our resurrection on a coming Pentecost is when we shall be like Him; that is when we shall see God as He is. We shall be like Him. But great change yet needs to take place in us – and that is what the Feast of Pentecost pictures.

At this time we are a **work in progress** – we are not yet complete – not yet like Him as He is. Miraculous signs marked the beginning of the New Testament Church and God’s giving of the Holy Spirit.

God wanted to spotlight, highlight and draw attention to this event, to begin to call a sizable initial base from which the Church would expand into the entire world. The first Pentecost after coming out of Egypt was accompanied by an active volcano...

Exodus 20:18 And all the people [heard] the **thunderings**, and saw the **lightnings**, and [heard] the **noise of the trumpet**, and saw the **mountain smoking**: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

And the Pentecost after Christ's resurrection was also accompanied by **sights and sounds** – tongues of fire...

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a **sound from heaven** as of a **rushing** mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Tornado-like – ripping of the air throughout the room...

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it **sat upon each of them**.

It was not fire; but it looked like fire to them. Probably crackling and sounding like static... We are unable to perceive God's Holy Spirit with any of our 5 senses – so God provided some **bold** physical manifestations for their benefit.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with **Holy Spirit**.

It was spectacular! At the launching and inauguration of the **Church of God** on that first century Pentecost, there were few who understood where God was headed, and **no one** available to explain to the brethren - how God was working.

God poured out His Spirit in great power and wonderful gifts **in order** to show clearly that **great changes** were taking place.

The old status quo no longer remained... God highlighted that first Pentecost with sight and sound so that everyone there – even the apostles – could attest to the fact that something new and marvelous was occurring.

What about that yet future Pentecost we all long for?

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

**That** is the harvest we are concerned about on this Feast of Pentecost.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the **voice of the archangel**, and with the **trumpet of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Let's ask ourselves this question: Why was it necessary for God to give His Spirit to people?

Romans 8:8-9 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Without God's Spirit we are not Christ's, but remain completely physical and carnal.

Yet the Church **is** described as belonging to Christ—it is His Body and Bride to be—as a **spiritually** transformed people. God's Holy Spirit makes that change possible. The Bible tells us that man does not naturally comprehend God or His ways.

1Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Corinthians 2:10 But God has revealed them unto us by **His Spirit**: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.

1Corinthians 2:16 Who has known the **mind** of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But **we have the mind of Christ!**

We know of the **physical** world through our five senses – touch, sight, hearing, etc., but how do we learn and know about the **spiritual** realm?

A physical man has life, vitality and breath. In the Greek of the New Testament we find these three terms. Physical **life** is "**psuche**."

We find Jesus using this word the same way that we do.

Matthew 16:25 Whosoever will save his **life** shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

When Jesus died for us, it was His "psuche" life that He gave for us.

John 10:15 As the Father knows me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my **life** for the sheep.

Physical vitality is "**zoe, zao**." It means to be lively, animated, alive and living (Luke 1:75). "Zoe" is also used with eternal spiritual and everlasting life as well.

The third term, "breath," takes on a great deal of significance in the Bible. In the Greek it is "**pneuma**." God builds on the concept of "breath" to help us grasp the meaning of "**spirit**."

The term, "pneuma," the breath in man, is interchangeable with and corresponds to Spirit in reference to God. It is **only** by the context of the verse that we are able to determine if a Scripture is speaking of **breath or spirit**. For example, when we read, "God is pneuma," we realize that He is more than mere breath, and interpret the verse as, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24).

Notice the ease in which Paul alternated between the Spirit of God and our spirit using the exact same word – "pneuma":

Romans 8:16 The Spirit [*`pneuma`*] itself beareth witness with our spirit [*`pneuma`*], that we are the children of God.

Even the Scriptures themselves are God-breathed, "theo-pneustos," that is, inspired by God's Spirit (2Timothy 3:16).

Besides our human life that we received from our father and mother, Christians have been conceived with the Spiritual Life of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Being born into the Kingdom of God with eternal Spiritual God Life will come at the resurrection – if we endure until the end Matthew 24:13.

## **God's Spirit**

**God's Spirit** is every divine attribute and means of God. It is the very essence of who and what God is. God's Spirit is His Life, His presence, His character, His mind, His power, His love, His very Spirit Life's essence that He is willingly sharing with us – to bring us into the eternal Family of God.

That **Spirit** is what a Christian has been baptized into (Matthew 28:19).

God's Spirit is the essence of His incredible mind, and that is the motivating principle which God's children receive.

God's Spirit includes His attitude, His principles, His thoughts, His feelings, His temperament, His disposition, and His will. We desire for God's thoughts to become our thoughts. God's Spirit is the motivating action of God at work.

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.

In the same way that breath is necessary for human life, God's Spirit in us is essential for our future eternal life.

When speaking of God's Spirit, it is appropriate to add "**hagios**" [holy] – Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, "hagios pneuma," represents the Life and Spirit of God.

God gave us His Holy Spirit, which if we understand it, is the very essence of Him, and His Life.

As God's **Life**, the Holy Spirit is the motivating influence which comes from God Himself. It is God's Spirit in us that – for the first time – makes us His children. God's Spirit is God's Life that He so wondrously is willing to share with us.

God's Spirit is His Life, His **heart**, His mind – not just raw power to move mountains – but His very **Spirit Life's essence** that He is sharing with us – to make us His eternal children of God.

When we receive God's Holy Spirit, we have **God Life** in us. God's Holy Spirit is another way of saying – the promise of God's eternal Life. God gives a measure of His own remarkable Spirit to begin motivating His children to think the same way He thinks, and to begin living the same way that He lives.

Jesus had said, "I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18).

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Peter and the apostles had been waiting in Jerusalem – as Jesus had instructed them – waiting for the "Promise of the Father."

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was "fully" come,

'Fully' means to implenish completely, that is, fill up for the first time, to finally accomplish. "Fully come," means that the Feast of the Lord was finding its fulfillment on that very day.

Acts 2:2-4 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:16-18 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit.

## What is the Church

It was the **first day of the Church** - God's called out ones. The definition of the Church will surprise many. The Church is not a physical corporate organization, nor is it a building with stained glass windows and a cross on a steeple. The Church is a spiritual entity which consists of all the *ekklesia*, the called out brethren – who are the Body of Jesus Christ.

The brethren who make up the Church are also known as the "saints."

The true Church is the collective body of individuals, called out from the ways of this present evil world, who have totally surrendered themselves to the rule of God, and who, through the Holy Spirit have become the begotten sons of God.

The Church, therefore, consists of those saints who follow the lead of God's Holy Spirit.

The glorious **purpose of the Church** is to reign and rule with Jesus Christ to bring willing mankind to righteousness.

Romans 8:14 As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

God breathed life into Adam – once and for all (connect to Pentecost)

This Day of Pentecost pictures the "giving of life." It looks forward to the future Day of Pentecost when God will breathe into us His Eternal Spirit for ever more. God will breathe into us, not only the breath of life, but the breath of Eternal Life forever more.

God does not have to step in and create a new life for every person.

Mankind **was** given the ability to reproduce, thus propagating his characteristics from one generation to the next.

That facility to reproduce is a picture of the Plan of God.

Romans 1:20 The invisible things of God are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are created, even His eternal power and Divinity.

God desires to **reproduce** Himself. That is the very reason He established the proclivity in man to reproduce. God's Plan is to reproduce Himself by developing man-kind into **God-kind**, placing them into the eternal Family of God. It is the Plan of God that all mankind eventually be created in the image of God—if they are willing. Genesis 1 reveals God's great Plan and ultimate purpose for mankind!

Genesis 1:26-27 God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

Man is not yet completely in the image of God because this creation is an ongoing process. The children of God are being created in the likeness of His own character image—wherein His standard of righteousness is being engraved onto our very beings.

For this course of action to be beneficial, God gave men and women the ability and the freedom to choose, and yet all their choices are still subject to God's sovereignty. This Godly development will not be complete in us until the time of our resurrection and the return of Christ.

Philippians 1:6 ...He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost is a **harvest** feast. God utilizes the cycles of the agricultural growing seasons in Palestine to equate the harvests of the various crops – WITH His spiritual gathering of converted saints into the Kingdom of God.

When you think “harvests” – do not think only of bringing in the sheaves and gathering the grain... Think of the **spiritual** implication and fulfillment of the saints being harvested by God.

God’s Holy Days utilize the meaning of the Harvests Feasts to demonstrate God’s gathering of His spiritual harvests. Pentecost pictures God’s Holy Spirit being poured out on the called out saints.

Mankind was created to be in the image and likeness of God. Man is mortal without the possibility of eternal life inherent in himself, except and until he receives the Holy Spirit of God with the laying on of hands at baptism.

Ephesians 1:13-14 You were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Being begotten (Fathered) by God makes us His children with His Spirit. This is the earnest and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

2Corinthians 1:21-22 He who establishes us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also **sealed** us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

The very purpose of man's existence is to ultimately be born into the Family of God. Christians are already the Children of God, heirs of the promise, but not yet inheritors. Mankind needs the addition of God-Life added to his temporal human existence. God’s Spirit is His Life that He alone imparts to us.

1Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [that is Jesus] was made a **quicken**ing spirit.

‘**Quickening** spirit’ means – able to give life. When we are “dead and gone,” God remembers exactly who and what we were in every last detail – and the important part is that He remembers the Godly Character that was formed in us through the working of His Holy Spirit.

We see that it is God the Father who will give us **eternal spiritual life** – the same Life that He consists of.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him [God the Father] that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, **He** that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken** your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.

1Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

We will be God-Kind – no longer man-kind! Can you imagine what the fulfillment of Pentecost will be like? Pentecost will be fulfilled on that last trumpet – that’s on a Pentecost.

1Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Can you imagine what will be going through our changed minds at that moment?

We will not be the same. We talk about waking up... We will have a **spirit mind** with total recollection – and incredible comprehension, untold knowledge and understanding. We will be a new creation – a spiritual creation. This is when the marriage covenant of the saints will actually take place. We will have been resurrected and brought to the throne of God in heaven and stand on the **sea of glass**. It will make us want to sing out – sing a song!

Revelation 15:3 And they **sing the song of Moses** the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Now, that's special music! Jesus had given His disciples the heads-up about Pentecost – knowing how devastated they would be at His death – and it would seem to them that all was lost... Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued [Greek, 'enduo' - clothed] with power [Greek, 'dundamis' – mighty works] from on high.

So, Jesus told them to count 50 days from the day of the Wave Sheaf – and observe the Feast of Pentecost. On this Day of Pentecost after the ascension of Jesus into heaven (Acts 1:9-10), the birth of the New Testament Church of God came about. God began to pour out His Spirit on a very special elect people.

The Feast of Pentecost shows the early harvest of the saints who have been prepared to reign and rule with Jesus Christ in the millennium. There will be a **sea of glass** wedding before the throne of God on the day when we are resurrected – at a soon coming Pentecost Day. The resurrected saints will stand on the sea of glass – it will be soon.

Revelation 4 shows us that the **sea of glass** and the throne are in heaven. We are permitted at the spiritual throne of God to be accepted, and for the royal wedding ceremony to Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7). And then back to work on earth with Jesus for 1000 years...

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show you things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded **lightnings and thunderings** and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne [of God] there was a **sea of glass** like unto crystal.

We saw yesterday:

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire:

You may want to review the prototype in: Exodus 24.



Exodus 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

"I Do." This was a marriage covenant with the blood of the covenant sprinkled on the people. A special Covenant marriage relationship between God and the Israelites was sealed at that time. However, the Old Covenant was only a foreshadow of the yet **future** Spiritual marriage of Christ.

Please keep in mind that these things are given to us by as symbols of the fuller reality to take place- Jesus Christ is going to marry the **New Covenant** Church and there will be a wedding supper in heaven.

Exodus 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in its clearness.

There will be a **sea of glass** wedding before the throne of God on the day when we are resurrected – at a soon coming Pentecost Day. The resurrected saints will stand on the sea of glass – it will be soon. It will take place on the Day of the next fulfillment of the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost. We will finally see God as He is – and we will be like Him – spirit (1 John 3:2). We will have been resurrected and brought to the throne of God in heaven to stand on the sea of glass.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice (Psalm 118:24), and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Here in Revelation 19 is where our **Marriage Supper** is spoken of.

Revelation 19:9 And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

"These are the true sayings of God," means that Jesus says that this is not a type, or an allegory, and not symbolic – but the real, definite, genuine Marriage Covenant of the Bride and the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, taking place at the very throne of God the Father.

These prophetic Scriptures show us the splendor of the ultimate nuptial ceremony. We do not want to miss out on the most splendid and majestic wedding of all time. We know that marriage is for life—well, this marriage to Jesus Christ is for all eternity!

God's goal for mankind is that we become God-beings, possessing His complete image – in form, in spirit, and in Godly character. God's Law is the expression of His Mind. It is God's Holy Spirit that transforms a Christian into the Life and realm of God, making him a partaker of God's **divine nature** (2Peter 1:4).

The New Testament Pentecost – with the pouring out of God's Spirit on His people has made it possible for the Church brethren to have the Mind of God. Wouldn't it have been great to be at that first New Testament Pentecost with the 120? We are now able to look **forward** to another Pentecost – a soon coming Pentecost.

There is yet to be an ultimate great fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost, which will be the "reaping" of the saints into eternal life as glorified children of God. Just as the original Pentecost was eagerly anticipated by the apostles and the first century Christians – We are eagerly anticipating the total fulfillment of Pentecost – the resurrection of the glorified Saints as eternal Children of God.

End: Spirit of Pentecost