**Word and Spirit Together**

Based on [John 14:23-31](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn14.23-31)

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The Day of Pentecost

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Fifty Days after Jesus was raised from the dead, and ten days after he ascended into heaven, his disciples were all gathered in one place. And the Holy Spirit rushed in and divided tongues of fire rested upon them, and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pentecost was the day of the Old Testament Feastival of Weeks. Jews had been dispersed all over the Roman empire. But now they were gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration. And it is a marvelous occasion; an occasion God used to undo the curse at the tower of Babel. Long ago, God divided the tongues of men, so that they could not cooperate in rebellion against Him. Now, the fullness of time had come. The Gospel had been established. God sent His Son who atoned for the sin of the whole world, who rose again and has ascended to the throne of the universe. And now, His dispersed people were gathered, and his disciples were all together. The Holy Spirit bestowed upon them divided tongues, diverse tongues, so that they could cooperate in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost is about the Holy Spirit, who comes to motivate and unite his people in the one true church. Without the Spirit, the church cannot perceive the word of Christ. Without the Spirit, people gather to no effect. Without the Spirit, there is no church. But Jesus promised to send his Spirit to the disciples, who would bring to their remembrance all that he had taught them. And it is this teaching, the teaching of Christ, that sends the Holy Spirit among us.

There is a different spirit that finds its way into many who gather themselves in the Name of the Holy Spirit, but apart from the teaching of christ. They trust--not in the teachings of Jesus--but in the impulse of the Holy Spirit. Consider this: do you have the Holy Spirit because your christian; or are you Christian because you have the Holy Spirit? Some look for evidence that they have the Holy Spirit, signs, miracles, wonders, prophecies, the ability to gather large crowds of people. And many preachers base their ministry on these signs and wonders and form churches around them. Other Christians look for signs of the spirit in themselves, they base the Spirit on the way they feel about certain things; they pray in the hopes of receiving a sign, an inner feeling to give them assurance. They claim to be Christian because they claim to have evidence of the Holy Spirit in themselves. But notice one big thing that is lacking in their spirituality. The foundation of that, christianity has nothing to do with Christ.

The church of the Apostles, though it had signs and wonders, tongues and prophecies, did not believe as though these things were the foundation of their faith. They did not believe they were Christian because they had the Holy Spirit. They knew they would receive the Holy Spirit because they were Christian.

What is a christian? Christian means someone who keeps the Word of Christ. Jesus says, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.” Those whose faith is based on their having the Spirit alone, have no need of keeping Jesus word. His word is secondary, the spirit is primary to them and they claim to receive him apart from the Word of Christ.

That is not the way Christ taught. Christ said that his Word comes to them before the Spirit, and in fact had already come to them. The Holy Spirit was not coming to teach the disciples anything new. The Spirit was coming, Jesus said, to “ ***bring to your remembrance*** all that I ***have said*** to you.” There are many spirits at work in the world. There is even the spirit of the world itself. Different spirits teach different things, but the Holy Spirit comes to teach only one thing, the doctrine of Christ...which the church has heard even prior to receiving the Holy Spirit.

The church is not built on the foundation of the Holy Spirit. The Church is built on Christ. Your faith is built on Christ. And Christ is his word, as he has said “If you love me, you will keep my word.” The church is built on the Word alone, but the word is never alone. With the word comes the Holy Spirit, always, whose purpose is to comfort us in the words of Christ.

Our world is still steeped in a malaise brought about by a sudden pandemic. And now, on a different note, riots have broken out in the United States as a reaction to injustice. And there are always prophecies and predictions that arise out of such national and global events. Some say the pandemic is a part of a larger governmental plot to require mass vaccinations and instil chips in people to control them. Some may say the lawless riots are God’s judgment against an unjust program of systematic racism and oppression.

I don’t know what spirit is at work in such prophecies, because these prophecies are not Jesus Words. But anyone who says that these things are signs that the world is convicted of sin and righteousness, they are right because Jesus said so. If they say that these are signs that Christ is coming soon, they speak with the tongue given them by the Holy Spirit. And because they are not drawing their own prophecies and predictions, but repeating the words of Christ, they have the counsel and comfort of knowing they have the right spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit who guides them in all truth, according to what Christ has taught.

That is the peace that the world cannot give. There is no peace in predicting this or that conspiracy about the pandemic. There is no comfort in rioting over injustice. But there is comfort in knowing that in these things, God the Father is wrapping up this age in the words of His Son and the promise of His Spirit. There is comfort in knowing that even if a conspiracy is afoot, it has not duped God, and Christ who rules over all powers and principalities. There is peace, even in this world, for those who face the injustice in this world, not with rioting and reactive violence, but with having carried with them the witness to the greatest act of injustice in the history of all things, the crucifixion and murder of the spotless lamb of God, lifted up so that all people are drawn to him.

So the day of Pentecost, Jews were drawn to Jerusalem, and the disciples preached in diverse tongues the Gospel of christ crucified for the redemption of the world. In that message we gather, and the Holy Spirit comes and abides with the Father and the Son together, to make their home with us and give us peace.