

# Sermon Outline

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2011-2012

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## CHRIST JESUS, GIVER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: A MESSAGE ON PENTECOST

(ACTS 2:32-36)

### I. Safe Arrival

### II. When the Day of Pentecost Arrived (Acts 2)

- A. When Pentecost arrived (nearly ten days after the ascension), the disciples “were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1).
- B. Suddenly, “there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2).
  1. In the Old Testament, rushing wind is one indicator that the Divine Presence has arrived.
  2. And “tongues as of fire” (2:3) also materialize and rest on each disciple.
- C. Luke gives the interpretation of the event: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- D. The disciples are now experiencing the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise.  
—“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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” (Acts 1:7-8).
- E. Now that Jesus has accomplished salvation for his people, he gives them his Spirit, enabling them to continue the mission of evangelization.
- F. The work of evangelization begins right away.  
—Once the Holy Spirit is poured out on the disciples, they begin preaching boldly (Acts 2:11).
- G. Since the disciples were enabled to preach in different languages, some bystanders thought that they were drunk (Acts 2:13).
- H. But the apostle Peter explains the significance of what was going on.
  1. Peter’s sermon stretches from Acts 2:14-36.
  2. Peter explains that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel 2 (Acts 2:14-21).

—“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...”

3. From there, Peter proceeds to show how the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is connected to Jesus Christ.
  - a. Peter talks about how Jesus was handed over to his enemies by the plan of God (2:23), but that God raised him up from death (2:24).
  - b. Peter also shows that the resurrection of Jesus was itself a fulfillment of prophecy, Psalm 16.
    - i. In this Psalm, God reveals through his prophet, King David, that he will not abandon the soul of his Holy One to the grave or let him experience decay.
    - ii. Peter recognizes that Psalm 16 was actually talking about Christ.—Acts 2:31: “he [referring to David] foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) Based Acts 2:1-3, what did the disciples experience when the day of Pentecost arrived? (2) How does Luke interpret the wind and the tongues of fire (Acts 2:4)? (3) What Old Testament prophecy does Pentecost fulfil? (4) According to Peter, what Old Testament prophecy does the resurrection of our Lord fulfil?

### III. Our Exalted Jesus Pours Out the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33)

- A. Then comes the statement where Peter explicitly links the gift of the Holy Spirit with the Lord Jesus Christ—Acts 2:33.
- B. There are three important details in this statement, and all of them concern our Lord Jesus Christ.
  1. Jesus has been “exalted at the right hand of God.”
  2. Jesus has also received “from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit.”
  3. Jesus, having received the Holy Spirit from the Father, has now poured out the Spirit upon his Church.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What are three important details concerning Christ that Acts 2:33 brings out? (2) What does it mean for Jesus to be exalted to God’s right hand? (3) What did Jesus receive from God the Father when he ascended? (4) What did Jesus do with the Holy Spirit after he received him from the Father?

### IV. Who Is the Holy Spirit?

- A. One way to approach the question is to say that the Holy Spirit is the Life-Breath of the almighty God himself.

1. In Hebrew, the word for “Spirit” is *ruach*, which means “breath” or “wind.”
  2. The Holy Spirit is therefore the dynamic Breath or Energy of the Lord God.
- B. However, the Scriptures describe the Holy Spirit not just as God’s Power or Breath, but as a person in his own right.
1. Key Scriptural texts:
    - a. Acts 5:3: The Holy Spirit can be lied to.
    - b. Isaiah 63:10 and Ephesians 4:30: The Holy Spirit can be grieved or saddened.
    - c. Mark 3:29: The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed.
    - d. All those details imply that the Holy Spirit is much more than a force—he is a *person*.
  2. Additionally...
    - a. Christ speaks of the Holy Spirit as the third Person of a Community of divine Persons.  
—Matthew 28:19: “...the name of the Father and of the Son *and of the Holy Spirit*.”
    - b. Paul says that each individual Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19).
  3. From those Scriptures, the Church came to the conclusion that the Holy Spirit is the third Member of the Community that is God.
    - a. While the Spirit is *not* the same person as God the Father or Christ, he himself is God by nature.
    - b. As such, the Holy Spirit deserves our worship, adoration, and obedience, together with the other members of the Trinity.
- C. One more thing can be said of the Spirit of the Lord.
1. He is, in a sense, the heart of salvation itself, because Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will be the reward of all those who believe in him.
  2. John 7:37-38: “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
  3. John 7:39 explains who the Living Water is: “Now *this he said about the Spirit*, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”
- D. So who is the Holy Spirit?
1. He is the dynamic, energizing Breath of YHWH.
  2. He is God and the Third Person of the Trinity.
  3. He is the Living Water that Jesus will give to his Church through his obedient life, his death on the cross, his resurrection from the dead, and his ascension into the skies.
  4. In the end, even salvation itself is deeply personal.

—The salvation Jesus won for us has a name—God the Holy Spirit.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) Who is the Holy Spirit? (2) What are some passages that imply that the Spirit is a person, not just a force? (3) Based on John 7:37-39, how does the Holy Spirit relate to our salvation?

## V. Jesus, Lord and Christ (Acts 2:34-36)

- A. But Peter still has more to say about the Lord Jesus.
  - 1. Earlier, he cited Psalm 16 to show that King David had prophesied about Jesus' resurrection.
  - 2. Now, Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 to show that Jesus' ascension was also prophesied by David.
    - “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’”
  - 3. It seems that David recognizes two other persons above himself.
    - a. The first is the Lord God, YHWH.
    - b. The second is one whom David calls “my Lord.”
  - 4. Who is the mysterious second Master to whom David gives allegiance?
    - David merely speaks of him in Psalm 110, but does not reveal his identity.
- B. But Peter is now saying that King David's mysterious Lord is the Lord Jesus.
- C. Verse 36 is the grand finale of Peter's sermon: “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- D. The phrase “Lord and Christ” summarizes Jesus' identity.
  - 1. Since the word “Lord” comes right after Peter's citation of Psalm 110:1, the word “Lord” means “Master.”
    - a. It refers specifically to the Lord to whom YHWH promises that his enemies would be made his footstool.
    - b. To call Jesus “Lord” means that Jesus is the Master of the House of David and the true Master of the whole world.
  - 2. The title of “Christ” means “Anointed One,” a royal title.
    - a. In a sense, each Israelite king can be called a Christ because each of them was anointed with oil at the moment they became king.
    - b. The anointing was a symbol of God's endorsement; God's approval resting upon them.
    - c. In time, “Christ” came to refer to the coming, supreme Anointed One, the final and ultimate King of Israel who would come to save God's people from their enemies.
  - 3. By calling Jesus “Lord and Christ,” Peter was proclaiming Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plans.

- E. But Jesus did not ascend to this place by himself—it was God the Father who promoted him.  
—“...*God* has made him both Lord and Christ...”
- F. The way Jesus begins to exert his royal power, his divine rights, is by taking this first step of sending his Holy Spirit.
1. The Holy Spirit is the holy and royal Power of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Zech 4:6).
  2. Just as the Holy Spirit was the vibrant, rushing, Energy of God in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is now the vibrant, rushing, Energy of Jesus Christ himself.
  3. By this great Power that is entrusted to him, Jesus builds his Kingdom—the holy universal Church—under the noses of the rulers of the world.

“It is not by might or violence...that Christ rules in the kingdom given Him by the Father. He did not do this in His humiliation, and He does not do it in His exaltation. His entire prophetic, priestly, and kingly activity He continues to carry on in a spiritual way from His place in heaven. He fights only with spiritual weapons. He is a king of grace and a king of might, but in both kinds He leads His regiment out through the Holy Spirit, who, in turn, makes use of the Word as a means of grace. By that Spirit He instructs, comforts, and leads His church, and dwells in it. And by the same Spirit He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).” (Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith*, 388).

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) Why does Peter bring in Psalm 110:1? (2) What do the terms “Lord” and “Christ” mean? (3) Jesus did not promote himself. Who made Jesus Lord and Christ? Why do you think it was important for Peter to stress this? (4) “The way Jesus begins to exert his royal power, his divine rights, is by taking this first step of sending his Holy Spirit.” Discuss.

## VI. Falling Under the Power of the Holy Spirit

**The Holy Spirit is the energizing Third Person of the Trinity. He is the almighty God. He is the Prize of salvation. By fulfilling the Law for us, paying for our sins, and then ascending to the right hand of God, our Lord Jesus has now gained the Holy Spirit for each of us who believe in him (Gal 3:5). By his Holy Spirit in us, our Lord Jesus rules in us as well as through us. How so?**

**As he dwells in us, the Holy Spirit patiently—but persistently!—purifies us for Christ. He conforms us more and more into Christ’s ways. In doing so, he heals the broken image of God in us, and makes us more and more the holy sons and daughters of God.**

**But the Holy Spirit also expresses himself to the world through us (1 Cor 12:7). Using our thoughts, words, and deeds, the Spirit testifies for Jesus Christ before our world, and uses us to build up Christ's Kingdom on earth, the Church.**

**Let us therefore submit to the Holy Spirit, our God and Master. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to bend our wills to the rule of our Lord Jesus. And let us strive with God's grace to give ourselves more and more to the Holy Spirit's rule.**

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) How does it make you feel to know that Christ's Spirit is in you? (2) Where in your life do you need more grace to submit to Christ? Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you and make you will the will of Christ.