

Manifestation of the Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

PW Emerson – 06/16/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

Last week was Pentecost Sunday, when we recognize the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples.

That event dramatically changed the disciples and caused them to go **BOLDLY** proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, everywhere they could.

Today I want to look at the manifestations of the Holy Spirit

- at Pentecost
- other places in the Bible
- and today!

Acts 2:1-2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

The blowing of a violent wind

God has taken the form of wind on many occasions.

In Hebrew, the word for “spirit” and “wind” are the same word – ruah.

The disciples would have experienced this
“the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven”
And believed it was God.

Remember in the Old Testament when the Hebrews were wondering around the wilderness for 40 years? How were they led?

Exodus 13:21

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

By day, God led them by a pillar of cloud – by wind!

Look closely at what is says in Acts 2

It was a “violent wind came from heaven and **filled the whole house**”

When the Hebrews wandered around the wilderness, every times they stopped, the first thing they would do in setting up camp would be to put of the tent of the tabernacle ... the tent where God would reside.

Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

It's the same thing!

And Jesus' disciples would surly have known this history of theirs.

Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet—a vast army.

Breathe from the four winds breathed life into the bones

The spirit of God

God often takes the form of wind ... ruah!

Just like God breathed into those dry bones

AND he breathed life into the disciples' bones ...

God can breathe life into our bones as well!!!

There is a great lesson here.

God's presence filled the tent COMPLETELY when they were wandering around the wilderness.

God filled the house COMPLETELY at Pentecost.

God comes in power to fill us COMPLETELY and to fill this place COMPLETELY with His presence and He has not come to share the glory with anyone or anything else.

Let's continue on with the Pentecost story.

Acts 2:3

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Tongues of fire really isn't a good translation.

It's more like little flames that came to rest on each of them – flames the size of a tongue.

But look at the wording ... "they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire ..."

He's trying to describe the presence of God in the only way he can ... little flames.

Here, the Holy Spirit took the form of fire.

We can recall *MANY* places in the bible when God took on the form of fire.

Genesis 15:17 God is talking to Abraham

¹⁷When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

When you look at the larger piece, we see that BOTH the firepot AND the blazing torch are representations of God.

God is making a covenant and he manifests himself in the form of fire to seal the deal.

On Mt. Sinai – how does God appear to Moses? In the form of a burning bush. Fire again.

Exodus 3:2

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Earlier we read from Exodus 13 how God led the Hebrews wandering through the wilderness – God was a pillar of fire by night!

In I Kings 18:36-38

³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people

will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

God came down as fire, showing his presence and consuming the offering on the alter.

Let's go to the New Testament ...

Take a look at Luke 3, with John the Baptist speaking.

Luke 3:16

John answered them all, “I baptize you with ^b water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**.

Pentecost is fulfilling what was spoken by John the Baptist!

The tongues of fire separated and rested upon each of them.

In the Old Testament covenant the presence of God rested on the nation of Israel as an entity but under the New Testament covenant the presence of God comes upon individuals.

The emphasis from Pentecost onwards is upon the individual personal relationship with God.

I should also note that “fire” in Scripture in relation to God often speaks of purification.

Isaiah 6:5-7

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Isaiah was purified with a burning coal.

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and purified them.

The Holy Spirit seeks to purify us too!!

That is why when you become a Christian you find that things are brought to the surface which need to be dealt with.

It appears initially at least that becoming a Christian has in fact turned your world, your life upside down.

Past issues seem to come to the surface to be dealt with.

WHY – the purification of your life.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost upon individuals to purify them for service.

The Holy Spirit continues to do that today – with us!

Back to the Pentecost ...

Acts 2:4

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

It is clear that these “tongues” are immediately understood by the crowd who had gathered at the hearing of the sound of the mighty wind.

The disciples’ speech is clearly understood by a variety of people (verses 9-11).

It lists 15 countries, **depicting the nations of the world**, who understand what the disciples are saying.

To understand this significance, we need to look at Genesis 11 – the story about the Tower of Babel.

Here we have recorded the story of the tower of Babel when man in his arrogance and sin thought he could build a tower into heaven.

When you read the passage closely you see that God has come down to the tower, so feeble is its height in relation to where God.

The lack of understanding that God is not physical and cannot be reached by physical means is only compounded by the arrogance of the human race at Babel.

So God’s response?

God confused the language of the people at Babel, which resulted in the separation of nations.

Genesis 11:7

Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.

Here on the day of Pentecost ...

The coming of the Holy Spirit brings the nations together again as each person understands the message of the gospel in their own language.

The lesson here is simple – the Holy Spirit comes to unite people from all nations under the truth of the gospel of Christ Jesus!

CONCLUSION

So on Pentecost, we see God

Taking many forms ...

Working in many ways ...

To further the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

What does that mean for us today?

Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We should be speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, poems, spiritual **songs from the Spirit**

Sing and make music from your heart ... or share words of God from your heart.

Is that what you are doing with your words? With your songs?

The average person spends one-fifth of his or her life talking? That's what the statistics say. If all of our words were put into print, the result would be this: a single day's words would fill a 50-page book, while in a year's time the average person's words would fill 132 books of 200 pages each!

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What do the books of your life say?