

44-02-05.wpd --The Heavenly Dove on Earth  
Pentecost, Holy Spirit, prophesying, power, witness  
Acts 2:14-18

The Holy Spirit makes Christ's Incarnation an ongoing reality.

### **INTRODUCTION:** (text as the Scripture Reading)

--In my last sermon, I spoke of Heaven's reception of Christ's incarnate and resurrected body at His Ascension as "Our Deposit in the Bank of Heaven." I said that "*By faith in Jesus Christ we have the authority of Heaven on Earth.*" Today I want to explain more about the means of having that "*authority of Heaven on Earth.*" I want to talk about the Holy Spirit, **title**.

--*Pentecost* does not mark the day that the Holy Spirit started working on earth. He was there at the beginning of creation. What Pentecost celebrates is the special ministry He now has in the Christian church. Something new has been added since Christ's bodily Incarnation, Resurrection and Ascension. **HOM.idea**.

--In our text, read earlier, I like Peter's preface: "*listen carefully to what I say*" because people need to know that the Spirit-filling that happened at Pentecost and that continues to be God's program for the church, is not something strange of bizarre. It is simply *the power of Heaven being manifested on Earth....*

### **I. We Are Not Drunk or Crazy (re-read v.14-15)**

- A. Observers suspected inebriation... that was close, but *NO... filled up and under the influence?* **YES**, not with intoxicating substance, but with God's presence-- Eph 5:18, Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
- B. Some look at Christians as *crazy people* (the central point of the Christian faith is the very area called *foolishness* by those who reject it-- 1 Cor 1:18, For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  1. Holy Communion puts us the closest we can *physically* be to what happened on the Cross, yet its observance is seen by some as incompatible with sound thinking (this is the reaction to it that occurred when Jesus first mentioned it-- John 6:56-57, Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me

will live because of me.... John 6:60, On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" ....John 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.)

2. Yet the Cross, represented at the Communion Table, is the very means of humanity becoming the ongoing incarnation of Christ.

**TRANS:** The Holy Spirit makes the Cross real to us, but also **makes Christ's Incarnation an ongoing reality**. When people believe that all that exists is the material world, they may call you *crazy* for saying, "*God spoke to me.*" It doesn't fit in their mental framework. That's what Jesus tried to illustrate in Luke 5:37-38, And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. People become new wineskins by being born again, then the new wine of the Holy Spirit can bring the power of Christ into their lives.

### **II. We Are Recipients of an Ancient Promise (re-read v.16-18)**

#### A. Who is this promise for?

1. **In general**, God wants to pour out His Spirit "*on all people*" (regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, wealth, social status, background... that about cover it *all...*)
2. I want to focus briefly on one area in these distinctions where there has been a long history of discrimination: GENDER.
  - a. This Scripture clearly describes who will receive Spirit-filling: "*Your sons and daughters,*" "*both men and women*"... and what they will do once filled: "*they will prophesy*"
  - b. This is a difficult, "in-your-face" description of God's will for those who want to keep women out of the pulpit, because to *prophesy* means to *speak out for God*, which is what a pulpit ministry is all about! Pentecost equipped women to speak up and speak out for God, and it's a disgraceful how long it's taken us to learn that.)

#### B. In general, "*on all people,*" but the **specific qualification** is "*even on my servants*"

1. What does it mean to be a servant? It means to do the will of the Boss, who in this case is God. [employer-employee relationships are a good example, because to be hired and keep from getting fired, you have to do, not your own will, but the employer's] (God's business becomes our

business when we become God's servants, and the special task described in this ancient promise is a fulfilment of what Moses said so long ago in Num 11:29b "I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" God wants us all to *speak up* and *speak out* for His heavenly will on Earth.)

2. But specifically, what does it mean to be *Christ's servants*?
  - a. Christ described it this way in John 15:15. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (It's so much more intimate to be the friend of Christ rather than just His servant... but the intimacy is not meant to stop there...)
  - b. The women at the tomb heard Jesus use new terminology in Mat 28:10. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell **my brothers** to go to Galilee; there they will see me."
    - (1) A family relationship is God's ultimate, pre-determined plan for humanity through the Incarnation of Christ-- Rom 8:29. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
    - (2) Christ became what we are, so that we may become what He is, a human with God living on the inside.

### CONCLUSION:

--There's a verse that is often used to illustrate salvation, and I've used it that way myself in explaining how a person can receive Christ. But it's really a verse addressed by Christ to Christians-- Rev 3:20. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

--By new birth, the Holy Spirit brings Christ into the house of the soul. Being filled with the Spirit turns that house into Christ's home, making it His throne room, where He reigns not only as Savior but as Lord.

**The Holy Spirit makes Christ's Incarnation an ongoing reality** and connects us with the same heavenly power through which Christ did His earthly work. Let's make it our daily prayer that the power of Pentecost will fill us to continue that work.

Acts 2:14-18 (NIV) Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. {15} These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! {16} No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: {17} "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. {18} Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.