

# THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

by Abri Brancken, 28 May 2017

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## INTRODUCTION

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place during the Biblical Feast of Shavuot, also known as Pentecost.

Pentecost is the second of the three major festivals.

- The first major feast is Passover (Jesus' death, burial and resurrection)
- The second major feast is Shavuot (Pentecost & the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2)
- The third major feast is Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles)

## THE GIVING OF TORAH ON SINAI & PENTECOST

Almost 3500 years ago God gave His instructions on tablets of stone to Israel. Pentecost (Shavuot) traditionally celebrates this great event, the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. God gave the Hebrews His instruction so that they can have a relationship with Him. Passover (Jesus' death, burial and resurrection) freed us from bondage, but Pentecost (the giving of God's instructions) helps us to understand God's ways, nature and desires. About 1500 years later He gave His instructions again, but this time He wrote it on the hearts and minds of His people. The prophet Jeremiah told us this would happen.

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Read also Hebrews 8:8-11)**

The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

### **Hebrews 8:8-11**

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

## **JESUS TOLD THEM TO WAIT FOR THIS PROMISE**

### **Luke 24:49**

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### **Acts 1:3-5**

After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. And when they were gathered together, He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

## **INTERESTING PARRELELLS BETWEEN SINAI AND ACTS 2**

- At Sinai 3000 people died because they worshipped the golden calf on Pentecost.
- On Pentecost years later 3000 got saved.
- The pillar of fire led them on their journey towards the Promised Land (Holy Spirit's leading).
- Cloven tongues of fire. The pillar of cloud divided and rested on them.

## **THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES**

The Holy Spirit has many functions, roles, and activities in our lives.

### **1. SEALS US FOR SALVATION**

The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a "first installment" to assure us that our full inheritance as children of God will be delivered. His presence in your life is a mark that you belong to God. Paul said the Holy Spirit is also a down payment that guarantees that you are completely Christ's. Read - 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30.

### **2. ASSURES US OF BEING GOD'S CHILDREN**

He assures us that we are God's children. Romans 8:16—"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

### **3. HELPER**

Jesus said He would send the Spirit to us to be our Helper, Comforter, and Guide.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever" (John 14:16). The Greek word translated here "Counselor" means "one who is called alongside" and has the idea of someone who encourages and exhorts.

### **4. REVEALER OF TRUTH**

Among those functions is that of revealer of truth. The Spirit's presence within us enables us to understand and interpret God's Word. Jesus told His disciples that "when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). He reveals to us the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living.

A crucial part of the truth He reveals is that Jesus is who He said He is (John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3). The Spirit convinces us of Christ's deity and incarnation, His being the Messiah, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His exaltation at the right hand of God, and His role as the judge of all. He gives glory to Christ in all things (John 16:14).

#### **5. GIFT GIVER**

Another one of the Holy Spirit's roles is that of gift-giver. First Corinthians 12 describes the spiritual gifts given to believers in order that we may function as the body of Christ on earth. All these gifts, both great and small, are given by the Spirit so that we may be His ambassadors to the world, showing forth His grace and glorifying Him.

#### **6. FRUIT-PRODUCER**

The Spirit also functions as fruit-producer in our lives. When He indwells us, He begins the work of harvesting His fruit in our lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are not works of our flesh, which is incapable of producing such fruit, but they are products of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

#### **7. HOPE GIVER**

He gives us hope. Romans 15:13—"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

#### **8. STRENGTH & POWER GIVER**

He strengthens us. Ephesians 3:16—Paul tells us to be "strengthened with the power through the Spirit in the inner man." Read also Acts 1:8.