Spirit and Flesh Unite

Acts 2:1-21

The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost marks the beginning of a new era in which God empowers His people to speak, live, and witness with supernatural clarity. What once divided humanity becomes the very means by which God proclaims His mighty works to every nation. In this moment, the Holy Spirit moves from being distant and occasional to personally present within every believer.

- **Restoration of the language barrier** — God reverses the confusion of Babel by enabling diverse people to hear one unified message in their own languages.
- **Omnipresence of the Holy Spirit** — The Spirit descends and fills *all* who are gathered, showing He is no longer limited to temples or select individuals.
- **New personal presence of the Holy Spirit** — Every believer receives the Spirit internally, marking a shift from God dwelling *among* His people to God dwelling *within* them.

Acts 2:1-9 NASB

[1] When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together
in one place. [2] And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing
wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where
they were sitting. [3] And tongues that looked like fire appeared
to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each
one of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and
began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving
them the ability to speak out.

[5] Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men
from every nation under heaven. [6] And when this sound
occurred, the crowd came together and they were
bewildered, because each one of them was hearing them
speak in his own language. [7] They were amazed and
astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking
Galileans? [8] And how is it that we each hear them in our own
language to which we were born? [9] Parthians, Medes, and
Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and
Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Acts 2:10-16 NASB

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya
around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and
proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs— we hear them
speaking in our own tongues of the mighty deeds of
God.” 12 And they all continued in amazement and great
perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this
mean?” 13 But others were jeering and saying, “They
are full of sweet wine!”

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the other eleven,
raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea
and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this, and pay
attention to my words. 15 For these people are not
drunk, as you assume, since it is only the third hour of
the day; 16 but this is what has been spoken through the
prophet Joel:

Acts 2:17-21 NASB

17 ‘And IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says,
‘THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHESY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL HAVE DREAMS;
18 AND EVEN ON MY MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS,
And they will prophesy.
19 ‘AND I WILL DISPLAY WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.
20 ‘The SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD COMES.
21 ‘And IT SHALL BE that EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.’

Consider the restoration…

- In Genesis 11:1-9 God separates people by confusing their languages and ending their arrogant plans to build a tower that reaches Heaven.
  - Centuries later, when the Spirit arrives at Pentecost, God brings separated peoples back together and—through the Holy Spirit—empowers them to understand and speak one another's languages.
  - God is restoring the harmony of creation, integrating all varieties of people into one good way of life.

Consider the omnipresence

- Peter sees the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that "in the last days" God would send his Spirit on "all flesh"—young and old, men and women, rich and poor (Joel 2:28-32).
  - Through the Spirit, all people will be able to know and communicate God's words, like the prophets in the Hebrew Bible.

Consider the new personal presence…

- The fiery tongues marking the Spirit's presence allude to God's appearances in the Hebrew Bible (ref Exod. 3:2, 19:18), which often include a visible fire.
  - Previously, God's presence had settled in the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kgs. 8:10-11), but now God will dwell in his people through his Spirit.
  - Their bodies will become living temples, where Heaven meets Earth (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
  - And they will become the presence of God to the world around them.

Reflect on the re-unification…

- Often, we consider physical and spiritual realities as separate from, or even opposed to, one another.
  - But passages like this reveal a story about God joining human flesh and his own Spirit together as one.
- Does this make you wonder about God and his relationship with creation?

More Relevant Scripture References

John 3:5-8
John 20:22
Acts 1:8
Ephesians 2:19-22