

Day of Pentecost  
05-06-2022  
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church – Tweed Heads

Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost
Psalms 104: 26-36	The Lord is in control of all the Earth, the Spirit renews it
Romans 8:14-17	If we live by the Spirit, we are God's children and heirs
John 14: 8-17,	Jesus tells his disciples he and the Father are One and he will send the counselor to help them

### Introduction

Today we celebrate the festival of Pentecost. We remember how the first followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost. And we are reminded and encouraged that the Holy Spirit is with us as followers of Jesus today.

Today I would like to look at two questions:-

Firstly, "Who is the Holy Spirit?"  
And secondly, "What does the Holy Spirit do?"

And I would like to look at these questions in the light of another portion of scripture that I was reading this week on the Holy Spirit:-

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

So let us first look at "Who is the Holy Spirit?"  
As Christians we believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity.

The first Christians were Jews. Jesus was a Jew. And Jesus said he was the Messiah, the one who had come to fulfill all the Jews were expecting from God. And the Jews believed there was only one true and living God.

In today's Gospel reading we hear Phillip asking Jesus to show them the Father. That is, to show them God. In a sense Jesus chastises Phillip. "Have you been with me all this time, and you still don't get it?" Jesus tells Phillip, and by doing so, also tells all humanity, that he and the father are one. And Jesus promises that he will send an Advocate who will be with his followers forever.

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear clearly how the power of the Holy Spirit affected the lives of the first followers of Jesus. We hear how the Holy Spirit came upon them in great power, and how they were enabled to speak in other languages to share the good news of God.

The first followers of Jesus knew there was only one God, but they experienced the presence of God in The Father (the Creator), the Son (the Redeemer) and the Holy Spirit (the Sanctifier). And so, the theology of the Trinity developed. One God, experienced and known by us as mere human beings as One God, and yet in three "persons". We will of course talk more about the Trinity next week on Trinity Sunday, but this week we are concentrating on the Holy Spirit.

So, for us as Christians, the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity.

### What does the Holy Spirit do?

And what does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit is God in us as followers of Jesus.

In today's reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear not of a God "out there somewhere", but a God who loves us deeply. We hear that if we are lead by the Spirit of God, then we are children of God and adopted as heirs of God.

These are the words that Jesus spoke in today's Gospel reading:-

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

Jesus is telling his followers that the Spirit of God will abide in them. So as followers of Jesus today, the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit abides in us. In fact, no one can claim Jesus as Lord, without the Holy Spirit first at work in them.

A little further on from today's reading from the book of Acts we hear:-

<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

And then this:-

<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

So firstly, the Holy Spirit is there to convict us of our need for God, and then the Holy Spirit is there to guide us in the way we live our lives.

The Holy Spirit is also known as the Sanctifier, the one who helps us to live lives more in tune with God and with God's will, to live the good lives that God has prepared for us.

The Holy Spirit may be manifest in our lives in supernatural ways like we heard of on the first day of Pentecost, or it may be in more subtle ways like bringing us closer to God through prayer, but the Holy Spirit is always there to build up the Body of Christ.

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit in this way:-

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Wow. What a list. Imagine how wonderful it would be here at St Cuthbert's if we all fulfilled this list all the time. Sometimes when I reflect and think about what has happened over the last week, I'm challenged as to how the fruit of the Spirit could have been more evident in my life. As Christians the Holy Spirit is within us, but one of the things we need to do is continually call upon God's Holy Spirit to lead us, and guide us, in our lives.

## Conclusion

Today we have looked ever so briefly at who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does. As Christians today we live in the Age of the Holy Spirit.

God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to all Christians.

This Pentecost, I pray that we will be refreshed anew with the power of the Holy Spirit. That the Holy Spirit would fill us, assuring us of God's love in our lives, so that we in turn, would be better enabled to show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. That those who see us, might look at us, and see in us, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

And, as the fruit of the Spirit is evident in our lives, others will also be drawn into the presence of God, just like on the first day of Pentecost. Amen.