**WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO YOU?**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY 2019**

**Introduction:**

(Part A of story for Jan 14th in “*On This Day in Christian History*” by Robert J Morgan Thomas Nelson Publisher © 1997)

Walter Lewis Wilson, a Christian medical doctor, agonised over his fruitless efforts at witnessing. One day in 1913, a French missionary visiting the Wilson home asked the doctor, “*Who is the Holy Spirit to you?”*

Wilson replied, “*One of the Persons of the Godhead… Teacher, Guide, Third Person of the Trinity.”* The friend challenged Wilson: “*You have ot answered my question.”* To this Wilson replied sadly: “*He is nothing to me. I have no contact with Him and could get along quite well without Him.”*

1. **The Promise**

John 7:37b-39 “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

* Living water = life-giving

John 14:15-18 “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

* Working backwards….
  + We are not orphans (v18)
  + He will be in us (v17)
  + He is our Counselor
    - Comforter, advocate, helper, encourager

Quote: *The Holy Spirit protects, defends, saves us from ourselves, keeps us whole. He guides, comforts and consoles*. (Footnotes The Passion Translatio P630)

* The Holy Spirit comes to end the work of the curse of sin in our lives and save us from its effect.

We have been marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

* “Another” = just as if Jesus was here (v16)

John 15:26 “*When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father he will testify about me.”*

* Testify = make Jesus real
  + Disciples did not like the idea of Jesus going.

John 16:7 “*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”*

* Jesus said: ‘it is good that I go….’
  + It was Holy Spirit released in people that spread the good news.

Acts 1:4-5 *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do no leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”*

* Baptised with Holy Spirit

**2. What the Gift Looks Like**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description:** | |
| 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.* | clothed |
| Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* | Come on you |
| Acts 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people…*.” | filled |
| Galatians 3:2 *I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?* | received |
| **Results:** | |
| Acts 3:6-7 *Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!” Taking him by the right had he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong…”* | Healing |
| Acts 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people…*.” | Power to witness |
| Acts 10:45-46 *The [Jewish] believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.* | Prayer language (tongues) and release of praise. |
| Acts 19:6 *When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.* | Tongues and prophesy |
| 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit., to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between sprits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.* | Common good; wisdom  Knowledge  Faith  Miraculous powers, distinguishing spirits, Interpretation  As spirit determines |

**3. Infusing Your Prayer Life**

(A) When you don’t know how or what to pray:

Romans 8:26 “*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

(B) As part of your armour:

Ephesians 6:18 *And pray in the Spirit on occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

(C) Building your faith:

Jude 20 *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

**Conclusion:**

(Part B of story for Jan 14th in “*On This Day in Christian History*” by Robert J Morgan Thomas Nelson Publisher © 1997)

Later, Wilson heard someone speak on Romans 12:1, saying “*Have you noticed that this verse does not tell us to whom we should give our bodies? It is not he Lord Jesus. He has His own body. It is not he Father. He remains on His throne. Another has come to earth without a body. God gives you the indescribable honour of presenting your bodies to the Holy Spirit, to be His dwelling place on earth.”*

That night, Wilson prayed: “*My God, I have treated You like a servant. When I wanted You, I called for You. Now I give You my body – my hands, my feet, my lips, my brain…”*

The next morning, two ladies came to Wilsons’s office selling something… and he promptly led both to Christ. It was the beginning of a life of evangelistic fruitfulness.