

# THE POWER FOR LIVING

## ROAD TO PENTECOST (2)

**Introduction:** What does the Holy Spirit mean to you?

(Part A of story for Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 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 not 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.”*

- “I can get along well without Him”

**James 1:18** *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*

- Word first, then life
  - Word then Spirit

### 1. Pointing the Way

- Word given in OT
- Showed the way, but we couldn't live up to the standard
  - Many people today are living in OT style
  - Always falling short, and living in shame and condemnation

**Jeremiah 31:31-32a** *“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....*

**Jeremiah 31:33** *“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...”*

**Ezekiel 36:26** *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

**Ezekiel 36:27** *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

- I will put My spirit IN you....

**Joel 2:25a** *“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten...”*

**Joel 2:28** *“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions...”*

## **2. Dealing with an Orphan Spirit**

- Have you ever felt you’ve never belonged?
- Have you felt that what you had has been taken?
  - Some feel that way with God

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus was preparing His disciples for His leaving:

**John 14:18** *“I will not leave you as orphans – I will come to you.”*

- Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit

**John 14:17b** *“...You know Him, for He will be with you and will be in you.”*

John 16:12-14 – Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do three things:

- He will guide you to truth
- He will speak what He hears – no confusion
- He will bring glory to Jesus

### 3. Power Release

- A switch was flicked at Pentecost!
  - The power of the New Covenant was released.
- The disciples had been told to wait:

**Acts 1:4b-5** ... he gave them this command: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

- Told to WAIT for gifts
  - What would it be like?
  - Baptised with Holy Spirit
- Giving of the Law (word) was spectacular

QUOTE: Targum Neofiti, an ancient Aramaic paraphrase of the Hebrew Bible, describes the giving of the Ten Commandments by the mouth of God, *“like torches of fire, a torch of fire to the right and a torch of flame to the left. It flew and winged swiftly in the air of the heavens and turned around and became visible in all the camps of Israel... and became engraved on the two tablets of the covenant.”*

**Acts 2:1-4** *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

- Word came with fire and still active today
- Spirit came with fire and still active today.
- NOW:
  - Holy Spirit is within and can come upon
  - Holy Spirit begins a work on the inside
  - Holy Spirit witnesses with my spirit that I am a child of God (Romans 8:16)
- Jesus said “I will not leave you as orphans...”
  - There is power for living.