

The Promise Of The Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28,29).

Introduction

On July 4, 1776, England's King George III recorded the following in his diary: "Nothing important happened today." How wrong he was.

Some people think nothing important happened on Pentecost in Acts 2. How wrong they are. The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost as God promised through the prophet Joel.

Message

1. The Holy Spirit came to us as God.

God said, "I will pour out my Spirit" (Joel 2:28). The Holy Spirit is more than a higher power.

a. He has characteristics of personality.

What are traits of personality? The power to know, to feel, and to will — to name only three. The Holy Spirit has the power to know (1 Corinthians 2:10). He certainly has feelings (Ephesians 4:30). And He has a will (Acts 13:1–3).

b. He performs acts only God can do.

The Spirit of God created (Genesis 1:2); He raised the dead (Romans 8:11); He drove out demons (Matthew 12:28); and the Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8). These are acts only God can do.

Illustration: An atheist was badgering a Sunday school boy. "Hey, Sonny, show me where God is and I'll give you an apple.

"Mister, show me where God ain't and I'll give you a bushel of apples!" The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and He is God.

2. The Holy Spirit came to us as promised.

"I will pour out my Spirit" (Joel 2:28). Let's learn that:

a. God knows what we need.

Many things in life are nice; a few things are necessary. The Holy Spirit living in our lives falls into the second category without a doubt (Romans 8:1–9).

b. God knows how to meet our needs.

There is a significant difference between knowing what someone needs and knowing how to meet that need. The Bible assures us that God is able both to will and to do His work in us (Philippians 2:13).

Illustration: In Mark 5, Jesus demonstrated that He was not only willing to help but also able to help. He raised Jairus' daughter from the dead.

3. The Holy Spirit came to us as a friend.

"I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." Since it was our loving Lord who poured out His Spirit on all flesh, we must conclude that the Holy Spirit came to us as a friend.

a. A friend to convict us.

What a desperate condition every believer would be in if it were not for the faithful conviction of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 119:67).

Illustration: A man had a rust spot on his car and foolishly covered it with paint. It looked great for 2 months. Then the rust ate through. How much wiser he would have been to get rid of the rust and then paint.

The Holy Spirit convicts us to get the sin out of us. The devil points out sin to condemn us; the Holy Spirit points out sin to cleanse us.

b. A friend to comfort us.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Comforter (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit gives us God's strength, which becomes our powerful comfort.

Conclusion

A child can easily bend a plastic straw. However, place a large nail in that straw and not even a strong man can bend it.

Life without the Holy Spirit is like that empty straw. God sent His Spirit to lead us to Christ so His all-sufficient power could stand like steel in each of us.

Do you have Jesus in your heart? If not, invite Him in today. If you know Christ as Savior, then depend upon God's Spirit. He came as promised, and He will fulfill the promises of God in your life.

Thomas Lindberg, D.Min., is pastor of First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee.