

INTRO

- What is your favourite time of year and why?

Pentecost Sunday is the annual celebration of the Spirit's outpouring after the Ascension of Jesus. In his promise to never leave us nor forsake us, Jesus continues to dwell with us and empower us through the sending of his Spirit.

READ

Acts 2:1-4

REFLECT & RESPOND

In the Old Testament, the Spirit was at work but in a limited capacity, especially on certain people for certain tasks. However, the prophets predicted a time when God's Spirit would be poured out, enabling all of God's people to know God intimately and walk with God faithfully (rd Jer 31:33-34, Ez 36:26-27).

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Following Jesus' ascension, the sending of God's Spirit on the day of Pentecost was significant:

- It fulfilled God's promise
- It signified a new and final era of God's redemptive plan
- It marked an enhanced experience of the Spirit compared to the old covenant era

In other words, the Spirit is God's promised, personal and empowering presence for all who trust and follow Jesus.

The Spirit longs to glorify Jesus, and he does so in our lives by working:

- ON us drawing us to Jesus,
- IN us forming us to become like Jesus,
- THROUGH us advancing the mission of Jesus.

Qu: what are some examples of how the Spirit works on, in and through us?

There are two dominant pictures of how we are to cultivate a life in and with the Spirit:

1. WALK by the Spirit
2. Be FILLED with the Spirit

This speaks to an ongoing relationship with the Spirit and hungering for more of the Spirit.

Qu: practically, what does it look like for us to walk by the Spirit? How can we continuously be filled with the Spirit? What hinders or grieves the Spirit?

CLOSE THE GAP

For many today, the Holy Spirit is believed in but scarcely experienced as God's powerful, personal presence. We often feel the gap between what we read in scripture and what our lived experience is. But, regardless of your current experience, there is *always* more. We get more of the Holy Spirit when he gets more of us.

Qu: in what way/s can we get more of the Holy Spirit? What does it mean for Him to get more of you? Are there any areas in your life where He has not been welcomed?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Spend time inviting and desiring more of the Spirit in each one's life.
- Ask the Spirit to fill you afresh by simply crying out, "Come, Holy Spirit, come."