**The Holy Spirit and Salvation**

 *Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.****30****Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,****31****he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.****32****This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.****33****Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.****34****For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,*

*“‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,****35****until I make your enemies your footstool.”’*

***36****Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

***37****Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”****38****And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.****39****For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”****40****And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”****41****So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:29-39, ESV)*

 Salvation in Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit are connected closely with each other. Greetings in the Lord dear brothers and sisters as we celebrate Pentecost today, while we also rejoice in our little ones and their Sunday School commencement. How appropriate it is that we will see the work of the Holy Spirit in them, planted and spurred on by our Sunday School – and how significant it is to remember that the same Spirit expects us to learn from Him as well… God sent His Son, who lived, served, suffered, died, resurrected, ascended to heaven and sent the Spirit from the Father upon His disciples. Pentecost was the continuation of Jesus’ works after his departure – He caused the Spirit to fall on the apostles because His work had to continue. Today, then, we are going to see that the Divine plan of sending the Spirit was not separate from the Lord’s mission which He passed on to His Apostles. Thus, I’m going to speak about the connection between faith and the Holy Spirit. Again, Salvation and Pentecost are closely connected. Let’s see how…

 Every believer can experience the help of the Holy Spirit if they repent unto Christ and become filled with Him. The passage takes place just as the coming down of the Holy Spirit was causing the disciples to speak with languages that they had not known. The gathered crowd was hearing their own languages and were amazed at how such a thing could be, since these were simple Galileans. The Apostle Peter explained the connection between what they were hearing and the significant events of the days prior. Jesus, who had been someone either hated or controversial to the crowd was the very person who was the Messiah and the cause of this phenomenon. The Scriptures contained in them that the Savior would not rot in the grave, but that He would live. Because of that, the Living Messiah sent the Spirit to continue His mission, since He now presided over God’s mission from God’s right hand, being Lord and Savior. Whatever was happening with the apostles was happening because of the Holy Spirit, but He would not have come if Jesus had not risen from the dead and ascended to the Father. In other words, if there were no salvation, the Holy Spirit would not have come in that way.

 Once the crowd, now moved by the message, wanted to fix their sin, the same invitation came to them that Jesus and even John the Baptist used to give. *“Repent and be baptized, and you also will receive the Holy Spirit who is for everyone who believes and those who will believe in the future.”* We can see that Peter was inviting everyone to receive the Spirit, but first they had to accept Christ and be baptized.

 Look at how important the Holy Spirit was for Christian life that even the famous preacher from Chicago, Dwight L. Moody said the follow about the in-filling of the Spirit. "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

 Here you have the secret to Pentecost and Salvation: if our life of salvation is expressed, the Holy Spirit begins to work within and among us as a church. He will heal us spiritually and sometimes physically, as well as righting our relationships. Through Him and Him alone, we can see our personalities and rough edges smoothened out and sanctified. It is through Him that we become new creations. If, however, our experience of salvation is only expressed superficially or as a ceremonial tradition, then the Holy Spirit has not yet begun His work within or among us. My prayer is that we invite the Holy Spirit to fall upon us based on the foundation of our salvation, to work within and among us, for the purpose of seeing the life-change within us and to be examples to the lost all around us.

 If I’m going to talk about practical tasks, to me, it is very simple: today, as you return home, or even before that, take a moment to think about how much you have asked the Holy Spirit to fill you and help you to be changed? How much have you asked Him to come and restore your interpersonal family relationships? How much have you asked Him to give you strength to conquer the obstacles in your path?

 You see, receiving the Holy Spirit is an everyday activity – our relationship with Him is to be constant – otherwise, we would be far from God’s Presence and Help, since the Holy Spirit is that for us.

 Let us pray: O God the Holy Spirit, come and fall upon us, fill us and do not allow us to remain powerless in this world. We are trusting you to come and accompany us on our journey. In Jesus’ Christ’s name, Amen.