

## PENTECOST: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”-Acts 2:1-4*

We have all tried, at some time, to unsuccessfully turn on an appliance, only to realize that it was not plugged in to a power source. Plug it in, and presto! It roars to life. This simple illustration explains the change manifested in the first band of believers, who for 50 Days after Jesus’s resurrection, had continued in close fellowship, prayer and praise. On the glorious Day of Pentecost, the promise made by Jesus was fulfilled: *“But ye shall receive **POWER**, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”* -Acts 1:8. In an instant, the Holy Spirit transformed their lives, making them fearless, powerful witnesses possessing extraordinary spiritual gifts and insight. The word POWER in Greek = DUNAMIS= DYNAMO, from which we get our words DYNAMIC and DYNAMITE.

The Power of the Holy Spirit is in fact, the Power of God, manifested in the Third Person of the Trinity. He is the Divine Comforter whom Jesus had promised to send: *“And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.”* – John 14:16. He is the One, who constantly tugs at our hearts to do the right thing. He is the One who knows our most secret yearnings, able to intercede for us *“through our wordless groans.”* –Romans 8:26. He is the One the world needs today! In the midst of our world pandemic, we need His comfort. In the blistering heat of racial discord and social unrest, the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit can bring Love.

It is interesting to note that our Jewish brethren also celebrate a festival – *Shavuot* – 50 days after Passover. Originally a harvest/ingathering fest, it also memorializes the giving of the Mosaic Law, the TORAH. On that first Pentecost, as Jews from everywhere gathered in Jerusalem for *SHAVUOT*, Peter’s preaching resulted in a great INGATHERING OF SOULS into God’s kingdom, *as “about three thousand souls were added to them.”* – Acts 2:41. *“The Law was given through Moses, but GRACE and TRUTH came through Jesus Christ.”* –John 1:17.

At the Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11*), human pride, presumption and arrogance resulted in the confounding of languages, which halted construction of the God-defying ziggurat. In contrast, at Pentecost, many languages were understood as ONE, as **the POWER** of the Holy Spirit gave utterance and understanding, to the glory of God! May we today speak the language of love and understanding.

**HYMN:**           *Holy Spirit, breathe on me, – until my heart is clean;  
Let sunshine fill its inmost part, with not a cloud between.  
Breathe on me, breathe on me, - Holy Spirit, breathe on me;  
Take Thou my heart, cleanse every part, - Holy Spirit breathe on me.*

**PRAYER:**       You are our source of strength, O Living God, in whom we move and live and have our being. We give thanks for the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to live triumphantly above the perils of the day and night. May your Spirit so fill our lives, enabling us to transform the world, to Yours honor and glory, In Christ, Amen.