



“God’s Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit” (I Cor 12:13, CEV).

**By Pastor Don Pickerill
September 11, 2022**

The purpose of this study is to show the inseparable link between the Holy Spirit and Jesus the Messiah, our representative and Savior. We are called to be, “Israelites without guile/deceit, nothing false, not a bone of pretense (dolos, OT mirmah, John 1:47, I Pet 1:22, Rev 14:5, see Gen 27:35-36, 32:28). “Let God be true and every man a liar” (Rom 3:4). The most difficult thing in this world is to be an honest, open, **authentic person**--real, natural, holy, loving and totally good (Matt 22:32-40). We are created to do God’s will and “retain the place in life that the Lord assigns us” (I Cor 7). This only happens by the **enabling** agency of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:13). He is given to us to drink! He indwells us and empowers us to **follow Jesus** (Matt 19:21-22, see John 10:27, 12:26). As the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells us and makes us whole. He unifies us and enables us to be real people, friends and brothers, who walk with a limp.

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to ‘debauchery’, instead be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18, Titus 1:6, a-soteia, being wild, cheapen). “He (John the Baptist) will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth” (Luke 1:15). “As soon as the sound of your (Mary) greeting reached my ears (Elizabeth), the baby in womb (John) leaped for **joy**” (Luke 1:44).

“Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing **mighty wind** and divided tongues as of **fire** sat upon each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak** in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4).

“The place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke** the word of God **boldly**” (Acts 4:31). “Choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and **wisdom**” (Acts 6:3).

“The kingdom of God is **righteousness, peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit” (Rom 14:17). “May the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace** as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the **power** of the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:13). “You will receive the **gift** (dorea, free, undeserved) of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2:38-39).

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city of Jerusalem until you have been clothed with **power** (dunamis) from on high” (Luke 24:49). “The power of an indestructible life” (Heb 7:16). **God’s life**, eternal life, the life of Christ (Acts 3:15, John 5:26).

“As he (Jesus) was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove” (Luke 3:24). The peaceful dove brought signs of salvation from the flood (Gen 8:8-12). The sacrificial dove symbolized the new creation of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the agent of fulfillment, as the Spirit of the Messiah (Col 1:27, II Cor 3:17).

EMPTY VESSELS. We are the ‘hollow’ people. We only exist when something outside us fills us. If we stop breathing, eating or drinking we die. We have lungs but we don’t have air. Spirit, breath and air are the same word. We have a stomach, but we don’t have food. Life is non-stop receptivity. We are complex but **unified** beings: Spirit, soul and body (I Thess 5:23, bio-psycho-spiritual). We are not two or three parts pasted together. Body, soul and spirit equals the combined wholeness of being human. The divide is between our inner self and our outer appearance, flesh vs. Spirit.

We are created in the image and likeness of God. “God breathed into our nostrils the breath of life and we became a living being/person” (NLT, Gen 2:7). We have a God-like capacity and are created to be a person like him. “We participate in the divine nature” (I Peter 1:4). God, of course, is a higher, perfect Person (Mt 5:48, II Cor 7:1). The Holy Spirit is the supreme person. A Spirit-filled person is a person as God meant a person to be. Jesus models ‘person’. “The Son is the brightness (reflection) of his glory and the express **image of his person**” (upo-stasis, subsistence, essential essence, Heb 1:3, see II Cor 4:5-6). ‘Person’ transcends gender and race. The best synonym of Spirit is person. Jesus called us friends and told us to be brothers, without titles, roles or worldly power (Matt 23:8, John 15:14). The church lives by family dynamics, non-power, freedom and love. We are not a legal corporation with officers or an institution with roles. We only have spiritual gifts, without a boast in one body.

GOD IN THREE PERSONS. There is only one God, but he has constituted himself eternally through self-giving love as three persons, a tri-une being. We all have a self-image, which is important psychologically. God is so personal, so loving and so giving that his self-image is another ‘person’, his one and only Son (John 1:18). As God’s Word, Jesus completely communicates the Father. The fellowship, union life, between the Father and the Son is the Spirit. He proceeds from the Father and the Son as a third person (Matt 28:19). II Cor 13:14 prays: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love (agape) of God, and the fellowship (koinonia, participation, sharing) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” The incarnation of Jesus is the assumption of humanity by the Son. His sonship opens the door for us to be filled by the Spirit, the life of God. There is a man in the Godhead!

PENTECOST. Pentecost is an essential event in the **last days** of redemptive history. It was the second of the annual feasts, when Jews and visitors came from all over the world to Jerusalem (Acts 2:5). It came 50 days after Passover at the summer harvest time (Sunday, May 29, 30 AD). The death and resurrection of Jesus made Pentecost possible. As the Passover Lamb, he bore the curse of sin and death and fulfilled the resurrection hope of ‘Firstfruits’. **PENTECOST MARKED THE ADVENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE WORLD, AS THE SPIRIT OF THE MESSIAH.** The gift of the Spirit was promised in God’s blessing to Abraham (Gal 3:14). This divine blessing for all flesh possessed the prophets (for example, Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, 59:21, Ezekiel 36:25-30, 39:29, Zechariah 12:10, Joel 2:28-29). They prophesied that the Spirit of the Lord would fulfill God’s universal plan that included Gentiles through his servant, the Messiah. I Cor 12:13 explains best: We are all baptized by *one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink*” (a **baptism of voluntary unification** (see Eph 4:4-5). It called for unrestrained, conscious drinking!

The book of Acts traces the outpouring of the Spirit on the diverse ethnic groups: Jews (Acts 2:1-4), Samaritans (8:14-17), the Gentiles (10:44-48), the far-reaches of the Gentile world (19:1-7). The result was a new humanity, “the one new man” (Eph 2:11-22). Colossians 3:10 equates it to “a new self, renewed in the image of the Creator.” The ministry of the Messiah, universalized, democratized and naturalized the Spirit. The power of the “new covenant of the Spirit” empowers all flesh in daily life (II Cor 3:6, Acts 2:42-47).

God gave Israel the law on Pentecost at Mount Sinai (Exo 19-20). The advent of the Spirit fulfilled the Law and became the new way of the Spirit (II Cor 3:6). We are not under the law but under grace (Rom 6:14). Grace reigns. We have been made free to live a new life in the Spirit (Rom 6:4). “We live unto God” (Rom 6:10, Gal 2:19). “For me to live is Christ/Messiah” (Phil 2:21, Col 1:27).

DRINKING ONE SPIRIT, A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IS Poured OUT. “The Holy Spirit was poured out for all of us to drink” (I Cor 12:13, NEB). Water is the source of life. A drink must be poured out. Water is mentioned over 600x in the Bible and is a part of many stories and involves rivers and wells. Who can read and ever forget about Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4). He said to her, who had five husbands: “The water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (Jn 4:14). At the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus called his life, living water and compared it to the Holy Spirit: “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit*” (John 7:37-39). Revelation closes with this mutual invitation: “The Spirit and the bride (that’s us) say, ‘whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the **water of life**’” (Rev 22:17). The bride is the wife of the Lamb by the Spirit. The church is called to be a satisfied, satiated community of the Spirit.

Our physical thirst for living water, matches our thirst for the living God: “*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God*” (Psa 42:1-2). Isaiah sang: “*The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and song; he has become my salvation. With joy I will draw water from the wells of salvation* (Mayim, Mayim, Isa 12:2-3). Drinking is strictly passive, total receptivity. We give nothing but thirst. To drink of **one Spirit**, is life-giving and **unifying**. The Spirit is not sectarian, with a party-spirit (I Cor 3:4, 21-23). “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’, except by the Holy Spirit” (I Cor 12:3). The main ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring us under the Lordship of Jesus, the confession of our life.

JESUS, THE MESSIAH. The Messiah is the main subject of the Bible. He is understood in light of the Fall of man. We were created in the image and likeness of God to rule the world and mediate his glory to creation. Man represents the One God, rules for him, and reflects his glory. The kingdom of God is God’s mediatorial reign on the earth through man. Sin separated man from God and one another. A curse replaced his blessing on creation and man fell into bondage under enslaving spiritual powers. Rather than ruling for God, man is ruled by sin and death. The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of Satan. The curse had to be removed; sin had to be forgiven; freedom had to be won; God’s mediatorial reign had to be

restored; and hostile relationships reconciled. Jesus the Messiah and Son of Man came to restore all things (Acts 3:21, see Acts 1:6, Amos 9:11-15 with Acts 15:14-18. He reigns from heaven. His transfiguration demonstrated his Messianic glory (Mt 17, Mk 9, Lk 9). He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (Moses and Elijah). We follow and confess God's beloved Son (Mt 17:5).

The Messiah is God's **personal** response to human failure. As the singular seed of Abraham, he reinstated the blessing, bore the curse, paid the ransom for our redemption, reconciled us to God, set us free and proclaimed the eternal kingdom of God promised to David. Jesus is both the son of God and the son of man, the seed of Abraham and the son of David. fully human and fully divine.

ANOINTED. The Messiah is God's anointed. Messiah and Christ mean the same thing, 'anointed' (530x). Man spoke for God, served God, and ruled for God. This triple role was experienced in: Anointed **prophets** (Isa 61:1, Luke 4:12), **priests** (Lev 8:30, Psalm 110) and **kings** (I Sam 10:1). All three were anointed with oil/the Spirit. The anointing of David as king by the prophet-priest Samuel is an unforgettable model of the Spirit (please read I Sam 16:1-13). The conclusion explains: "*Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from the day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.*" Oil was used in everyday life for food and cooking, a healing balm, and light of the Menorah. Oil was refreshing, unifying, and joyful (Psalm 45, 133:1-2, 23:5, Heb 1:9). Most of all it symbolized the person of the Messiah and his ministry (Psalm 2:2, I Sam 16:13). Believers were called Christians, meaning Messianic people, people of the Spirit (Acts 11:26, Phil 2:1).

(John (and whole Bible really) was written, "*that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life in his name/person*" (John 20:31). Jesus received the fulness of the Spirit, without measure, and He ministered in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1, 14). He quoted Isaiah in his first sermon in his hometown: "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.*"

As noted, the Holy Spirit made his advent into the world on the joyful Feast of Pentecost. Peter explained that the Spirit was a gift from the Messiah: "*Exalted to the right hand of God (to rule), he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear*" (Acts 2:33). He cited Psalm 110:1 and concluded: "*Let all Israel be assured of this, God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both LORD and Christ/Messiah*" (Acts 2:36). It is impossible to separate the Holy Spirit from Jesus. We can distinguish but never divide. He told the disciples at the last supper, "I will send him to you" (John 16:7, please read John 16:5-16). He concluded, in John 16:16, "*After a little while you will see me.*" This readily applies to the risen Christ, who remained for 40 days teaching about the kingdom of God. Repeat: The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ are inseparable. "*Now the Lord (Jesus) is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom*" (II Cor 3:17). The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are rightly interchangeable: "*You are controlled by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ/Messiah he does not belong to Christ*" (Rom 8:9).

CONCLUSION. It is misleading to merely ‘tarry at an altar’ to speak in tongues and be filled with the Spirit. We are filled with the Spirit by knowing Jesus, being controlled by him, and bearing the fruit of his character. *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that you may know him better”* (Eph 1:17). Jesus said, “learn of me” (Mt 11:29, see Col 1:10, II Pet 3:18). “The sword of the Spirit is the word of God” (Eph 6:17-18). Over and over the book of Acts connects the spread of the word of God with the outpouring of the Spirit on ethnic groups (28x, see 6:2, 8:25, 12:24, 15:36, 16:6, for example).

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (God’s word, all the psalms) and make music in your heart to the Lord” (Eph 5:18-19, see Psalms 19 and 119). The Spirit-filled believers were “not drunk, as the crowd supposed” (Acts 2:15). It was only nine in the morning. “Those who get drunk are drunk at night” (I Thess 5:7). They obviously were joyful and free. Acts 13 reviews the ministry of Paul and Barnabas at Antioch (in modern day Turkey. They proclaimed the word of the Lord (13:44, 46, 48, 49). As a result: *“The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit”* (13:52). Joy is sure proof of the Spirit. Jesus wants to fill us with his joy. He taught the disciples at the Last Supper: *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete”* (John 15:11).

The first miracle Jesus performed was to turn water into wine (John 2:1-11). He changed the old order, symbolized by the ceremonial pots of water. Jesus manifested his glory (John 2:11, see, 1:14). He was full of grace and truth. Once we know who Jesus really is and believe in him, we develop a ‘Christian belly’ (John 7:38). The water of the Spirit flows from us like a new Temple (see Ezek 47). The servants filled the jars up to the brim. “The one whom God has sent speaks the word of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit” (John 3:34).

Being filled with the Spirit above all makes us **personal**, communicative, joyful, loving and full of grace (John 1:17). It shows up in our character and relationships: Honest, open, non-judgmental, responsible, dependable and wise. It gives us a song. It is a person as God created a person to be. The Spirit is God’s eternal life as lived in the person of Jesus, the Messiah. We drink the divine nature. *“God is able to make all grace abound in you”* (II Cor 9:8). *“We were all given the one Spirit to drink”* (I Cor 12:13). Follow Jesus!

By Donald Pickerill, Sept 11, 2022, in honor of Ron and Diane, trophies of great grace.