

Pentecost – God’s joyful covenant love

May 15, 2021 Sabbath

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: Pentecost, Shavuot, God’s spirit, Holy Spirit, gennao, divine nature, begotten, God’s seed, marriage covenant, arrabona, earnest, God’s presence.

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Summary: Dual sermons for a “double sabbath” weekend - focusing on a most exciting holyday – Pentecost. Hoping this sermon helps revive the fire of commitment and passion for God in us. We’re called to be holy; being home to God’s very presence. God’s seed, his divine nature, his power, his presence –and his transformation of us to His image and more, on this 1st of a dual sermon on Pentecost weekend, May 2021. Praise to our Father and Savior.

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Pentecost: I call it God’s transition holyday. It definitely pictures events that have already happened in the past -- at **Mt Sinai** and the giving of the 10 commandments and the Torah – and **then Acts 2**, the new covenant giving of God’s spirit and commitment to marry the Church in the future.

But I call it “transition” as I believe there’s still much more ahead of us that happens on this day. I believe it’s not just about historic events.

So buckle up – let’s start talking about this magnificent Day of First Fruits, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest, Pentecost; It’s called all of those! Some – who don’t understand it – may be bored by this day, but I fault us speakers if that happens, as this is a grand day of Pentecost, May 16, 2021.

IN my next sermon I’ll cover more of what Pentecost is about – focusing on the Acts 2 Pentecost especially.

I’ll also cover some points today that can just get brushed over, plus... how God covenants with us and gives us a guarantee that He’ll finish the course with us, and we will marry his Son. And to me, all the evidence points to that Wedding of the Lamb happening on Pentecost – which PICTURES the firstfruits – and not in the Fall, which pictures the massive rest of the harvest.

But I want to mention an overview quickly first – and some points that don’t often get mentioned or said this way. For example:

Acts 2 begins by saying on the original New Testament Pentecost, the small body of believers were all together, in harmony. A far cry from what the church is like today perhaps.

Acts 2 Pentecost was during and after a most difficult time. Yeshua, their leader – the Son of GOD – had been violently killed! His followers were nervous. Any one of them could be next. But they still came together!

Look at the body of believers today. We're all scattered. For many it's because the various leaderships won't agree to work together, or they want their freedom and **power**/authority – and not have to have someone else dictating what happens and what is said. Or it could be **doctrinal** differences that separate us.

But the early believers were as one, in accord... at least in the beginning. What a testimony to us end-time believers. And yes, I preach to myself here too. But that is why, **when I can or am welcomed, I try to visit with various groups, at the FOT,** and other times. I've even – like Paul did – I've visited a synagogue here and there.

I also have visited several **Hebrew Roots** groups for a time, though most of them insist we're in **a renewed OLD covenant**, which is simply not true. Plus I feel they over-emphasize **the physical nation of Israel** instead of Yeshua and the NEW COVENANT relationship with people God is calling from all nations! Sometimes I sense some disdain for anything Greek too. Plus there's a focus on Old Covenant books and not much in the New Covenant books.

Please hear my sermon on the vast differences between old and new covenant. We are NOT in a RENEWED covenant of the Old, but a brand-new covenant. God said, thru **Jeremiah 31:31-33**, there would be a NEW covenant. But Yah says THIS new one would NOT be like the one he gave when he led them out of Egypt. NOT like that one. Read **Jeremiah 31:31-33**.

So I visit other groups, but I long for the day when we will all TRULY be one, as the early Acts 2 brethren were. Yeshua prayed that we be one -- **John 17:20-21**.

So welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website. Our site is free, and please tell others about us as we have no funds for spreading the word ourselves.

Watch the video for this next section as we illustrate what I'm talking about.

We start with the Scripture we're hi-lighting for the month. Then if you scroll down, you'll see **VIDEO** sermons, then **AUDIO** sermons – without graphics or scriptures posted; and further down we have the 4-page **BLOGS** – short reads on topics people ask about. Obviously only those of you on VIDEO sermon will be able to see what I'm showing here.

Here's our **SEARCH BAR.** Just type in a word or 2, no more than 3 words, and if we have a sermon or blog on that topic it will pop up. For example if we type in "Pentecost" – this is what you see: various sermons on Pentecost.

Using the Search Bar is the key. If you want to learn more about the Holy Spirit – just type in "HOLY SPIRIT" – and again lots of sermons pop up including "**Cherishing the GIFT of the Holy Spirit**"; **Bearing the FRUIT of the Spirit**; **Being LED by the Holy Spirit**; **22 things the Holy Spirit is doing...** and on and on.

So we have lots and lots of sermons about the Feast of Pentecost and hundreds of other topics. Please tell others about Light on the Rock. Thank you.

So back to today's exciting preamble to the meaning of PENTECOST in God's plan.

God's spirit begets us into God's family.

We know early believers received the Holy Spirit on this first new covenant Pentecost. God's Holy Spirit does SO much. I have a sermon on "22 things the Holy Spirit does" (search bar it).

But one thing it does that I want to focus on briefly. People everywhere speak of receiving the Holy Spirit but don't often mention this: **God uses His Spirit to beget us into His Family**, thus we become true children of God. (Check out this sermon: **Breathtaking Destiny**)

I said God uses His Holy Spirit to beget us, but keep in mind, our father is not the Holy Spirit.

God's Spirit – is MANY things – but it is also the SEED of God; "seed" as in apple seed or carrot seed – NOT in the sense of sperm, just to be clear.

1 Peter 1:22-23

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth ***through the Spirit*** in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, **23 *having been born again, not of corruptible SEED but incorruptible,*** through the word of God which lives and abides forever...”

V. 22 “thru the spirit” was left out in NIV, NLT, ESV, all others.

Greek “gennao” – born or begotten?

Verse 23 says we've been “BORN AGAIN”. In Greek, the word “*gennao*” is used both ways – either as “born” or “begotten” and context usually makes clear which was intended. Either translation (born or begotten) can be correct for specific scriptures. For example, **Matthew 1:2** says “Abraham begot Isaac” – obviously that is “begot” there. “Begot” comes from *gennao* in the Greek.

But other scriptures use the same word “*gennao*” to refer to being “born”.

For example, **Matthew 2:1** – “When Jesus had been BORN in Bethlehem...” – that verse is clearly referring to being “born”. The Greek word there is also *gennao*. So either translation of begotten or born is possible with *gennao*, depending on the context. Usually it's very clear which is intended.

But my main point is that when we receive God's spirit, we receive God's “SEED” in us, his incorruptible seed that BEGETS us into his family-- and someday we will be totally BORN of Him at the resurrection. We'll be blameless, faultless (**Jude 24**) and in perfect glory -- when we shall be exactly like Yeshua and the Father (**1 John 3:1-3**).

But though we were begotten by that SEED of God, the SEED is not your father. GOD is.

For example, Yeshua the son of God – had God the Father as his father. But he was begotten of God's SPIRIT, but God's spirit was not considered Yeshua's father. The Spirit – in this case – was God's SEED which fertilized Mary's ovary, but the seed is not the father.

Luke 1:34-36

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of GOD."

So Peter calls the Spirit "God's SEED". The angel calls the Spirit -- "God's POWER". It's BOTH.

In the same way, *even WE are given God's SEED and begotten into the family of God when we receive God's Holy Spirit.*

In fact if we don't have God's spirit, we are not even considered HIS. So how precious is this seed of God, that brings us into his family. But besides the seed of God, I believe the Holy Spirit is also part of the very essence of God himself that we receive INSIDE US.

Note: God's spirit comes from the Father – through Christ – to us. So the ONE spirit (Eph 4:4-6) is referred to in scripture both as God's spirit and the spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11). There's one Spirit – so they're one and the same. Here's one example below. And remember I believe that God's spirit is actually a part of God himself in us.

Romans 8:9-10

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

9 Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And *IF Christ is IN you*, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

God and Messiah come LIVE inside us

The Holy Spirit is actually a PART OF GOD himself – through Father and SON – who make their HOME in us. Are you grasping this? The Holy Spirit is NOT just their power, though it's that too. It's a part of who and what they themselves ARE. **It's God's very PRESENCE in us.** Let that sink in. God's very presence inside us.

John 14:23

"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; *and My Father will love him*, **and WE will come to him and make Our HOME with him.**"

Did you get that? What an honor to have God and Christ living inside us. Through God's spirit, Father Most High and Yeshua themselves come make their home/dwelling inside us and beget us into his family as well. They MOVE IN, making us their home and we become the dwelling of God.

But what do we do? We relegate God and Yeshua to some back room in our lives – and we keep certain areas locked from them, areas we haven't surrendered yet. Please ponder that.

GOD moves in but we don't give them the run of the house – our lives. We too often treat them more like a GUEST instead of like a full-time resident.

In fact, God bought us with the blood of the Lamb. God owns us.

Guests are limited to certain areas of a home. But residents can have the run of the house. God owns us now; he should OWN this house – our lives – which is now HIS house, HIS TEMPLE, in fact.

We need to really grasp this and what it can mean to us.

And what is Christ doing OUTSIDE his door of the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:20)? God – or Christ – don't just come to VISIT. He is supposed to LIVE here. It's supposed to be HIS dwelling place, HIS home. And HE should be the one saying what happens in that home. So we pray, "THY WILL be done, right here on earth – in my life – as your will is done in heaven." He OWNS us now.

How are we doing so far? *How is GOD doing in your life?* There's too much of "we" and not enough of "HE" in our daily life's plans. HE and HIS desires and his will - -should be what's running our lives now if we have truly surrendered. Our lives should really be showing off HIS life more and more each day.

How humbling, that out of BILLIONS to choose from, God the Father – God MOST High – chose YOU to be among the first fruits of his children by giving you his SPIRIT, a bit of HIMSELF, his SEED, his "DNA" if you will – making you totally different than those who do not have it.

GOD'S LOVE From Passover thru Pentecost

So what's happened to this point? We've had PASSOVER, DAYS OF Unleavened Bread AND Wavesheaf day. I'm growing in my

comprehension that these days are NOT about us – but about the LOVE of God to enter into COVENANT with you and me. So these special days *include* us but are not primarily *about us*.

Look at these special days with fresh eyes:

- **PASSOVER. Is it about US? It *includes* us – but it's really about God's LOVE for the ungodly... yes, even you. Passover is about holy and perfect God letting his perfect Son – die for the UNGODLY (Romans 5:6-8).**

We repented and received the washing away of our sins in the blood of the Lamb (1 John 1:7,9). But what LED you to repentance? WHO? Was it your own will? NO!

In Romans 1, Paul describes the evil depravity of mankind, causing the wrath of God on who do that. Then Paul says this in chapter 2:

Romans 2:4

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of GOD LEADS you to repentance?”

The LOVE and GOODNESS of God for YOU -- is what kept him nailed to the cross. But God led us to repentance and God chose us.

We didn't choose God. No, first step was that God chose us.

John 15:16

“You did NOT choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he may give you.”

So we repented at Passover (and since then) and receive all the blessings of accepting the blood of Christ that justifies us, removes God's wrath, reconciles us with God and so many other things.

The days of Unleavened Bread begin – and I used to think of this as being about me and you living a life apart from sin now. But who alone has lived perfectly?

ONLY Christ is who the Unleavened Bread can actually perfectly picture! HE is the perfectly sinless and unleavened Bread even after Passover and we picture taking HIM in daily as we eat Unleavened Bread for 7 days. Again, the focus is on HIM and not on us.

Then the year Christ died, Christ is resurrected – goes to heaven on **Wavesheaf Day** -- as our wavesheaf -- and is accepted by our father on BEHALF of all the rest of the harvest (Leviticus 23:11) – you and me, and the little flock so far.

But we soon find out that we need HELP in obeying God. So God comes LIVE inside us – by His spirit – which is like HIS very own PRESENCE -- inside us. And God begets us into his holy family. Because of PENTECOST, we share in God's HOLINESS inside us.

ARE YOU HEARING this? Are you GETTING this?

With God's holy spirit, we now have

- **the indwelling of God himself and Yeshua** – living inside us. It's their home.
- **God's spirit has made you a child of GOD MOST HIGH** and brother to Yeshua – Jesus Christ. Christ is the firstborn of MANY brethren (siblings). Ponder that. (Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-15)
- **God – EL or ELOHIM in Hebrew – literally means “STRONG one(s)” -- and now we have his power inside us too.**

AND WE BECOME HOLY... not because of things WE have done, but because of the presence of God in us. ONLY God can make something or someone holy.

- **He has come inside us.**
- **You and I become SAINTS of God** – which means “holy ones”. Set-apart for God's holiness. You doubt you are “holy”? (I do have sermons on being holy and a saint).

FOLKS, if DIRT can be holy because of God's presence, so can flesh, which is ultimately dirt too. (Moses and Joshua– “The place upon which you stand is HOLY GROUND...” Exodus 3:5; Joshua 1:16).

We become the holy TEMPLE of GOD by his spirit. Because of Pentecost. 1 Cor. 3:16-17.

And Father is so WILLING to welcome you into COVENANT with him and his Son, sealed by His Holy Spirit! And God wants you to have His nature, His seed, his presence – His spirit!

- **It's a MARRIAGE covenant with his SON. A covenant requires faithfulness. It was on or around Pentecost when God married Israel in Ex. 24-25.**
- **to help us stay faithful, he wants us to have his Spirit.**
- **It brings you into the family of God. Hear my sermon "You Breathtaking Destiny". Just use the search bar "breathtaking"**

PENTECOST – GOD SENT HIS 'ENGAGEMENT RING' -- see my blog on that please. It's so EXCITING.

God gave his Spirit as the "earnest" – the guarantee -- for you and his Son to be married. We're marrying the One who did the actual creating of the whole universe. Most likely in Heaven itself on the Sea of Glass, probably on this very day in some future year. More on that in the next sermon.

Look up "Wedding of the Lamb" in the Search Bar and you'll learn a lot about all the details in the sermons.

Holy Spirit is called the "EARNEST" of the Spirit, the promised down payment, to show total commitment. In Greek the word is "arrabon". The Greek for a ring that a man buys and places on his beloved's ring finger as a PROMISE to fulfill his love and marry her someday – the Greek for this engagement ring is ---ARRABONA!

2 Corinthians 1:22

"who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a GUARANTEE" . (KJV: earnest. Greek: arrabon)

See also 2 Cor. 5:5

[What the Bible says about Arrabona](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/CGG/ID/5953/Arrabona.htm)

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The **Greek** word for "earnest" is arrabon. When taken in the context of our understanding of a glorious wedding coming, it is a word packed with meaning. **Vine's Expository Dictionary** of New Testament Words comments: ... "In modern **Greek arrabona** is an 'engagement ring.'" Of course!

GOD MOST HIGH wants to GUARANTEE his commitment to you – so he

- gives you a part of Himself,
- and puts his SEED into you,

- begets you into his holy Family,
- Which makes you HOLY, set-apart for His holy purposes – for HE is Holy.

God's covenant faithfulness.

Though we are sometimes faithless, he remains faithful, as he cannot deny himself. And we are now a part of HIM, of Christ. (2 Timothy 2:13).

With God's spirit – a conversion process is taking place. We have a part. We have to surrender – and LET GOD come into and lead our lives and CHANGE us to be a copy of himself more and more (growing in his image). CHANGE must be happening. We can't remain the way we were.

- **The key to bearing fruit is staying firmly attached by prayers and constant contact with Yeshua, our Savior. John 14:4-6**
- **LET this mind be in you...which was in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5)**
- **We have to USE God IN-us. It had been Emmanuel – God WITH us – but now it is God IN us.** We are to USE the spirit, be LED by the spirit, to put on the armor of God and FIGHT sin, sinful thoughts, and stand in the power of HIS might (Eph 6:10-17).

We have to FIGHT like our lives depend on it. Yet too many of us go day by day without even praying first thing, every single day! *We must over time be changing, be converting, be transforming!*

Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, HOLY, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

If you think about it, God our Father chose a very INCOMPATIBLE Bride – at the time we were called – to become a perfectly compatible, spotless, blameless bride for perfect Jesus Christ (Yeshua). Over TIME, we are using God's spirit to be TRANSFORMED to be in the very image, exact likeness, of Yeshua the Messiah, our Beloved.

Please read these: 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:49; Rom 8:29; Eph 4:22-24.

Over time, God's spirit produces God's FRUIT – and we become a different person. WHY? Because we receive his divine nature, the very nature of Yeshua, who himself is an exact replica of Father. Heb. 1:2-3. But it's not the fruit of OUR efforts but is “the fruit of the Spirit”.

2 Peter 1:4

“...by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **YOU may be partakers of the DIVINE NATURE**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

So we receive God's POWER, God's SEED, God's PRESENCE, God's MIND, God's NATURE – and much, much more – by his holy spirit.

Now if only we would LET God have free rein in our lives! What wondrous growth and fruit we'd see. Yes, I preach at myself too! The changes in our lives could be dramatic – like Peter's.

Consider **the fearful Peter** who fearfully denied his Lord before receiving the Spirit. And compare that to the Peter after receiving the gift of God's Spirit. Peter's entire sermon was about Yeshua, who was executed. Peter is no longer afraid; no longer denying his Master. In fact, Peter focused on HIM, on the resurrection, and the empty tomb!

You and I must also open our lives, which is God's home in us now -- to God and Yeshua and let them transform us.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

“Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord IS the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This takes much more frequent prayer, folks, than I believe most of us are giving God. First thing in the day every single day—and several times after that, each day – we must be praying, even if just for 5-10 minutes.

Let me wrap this up. So we covered a lot today. Here's a bit of it:

God begets us by his divine seed.

- The Seed – God's spirit – is Christ himself in us (Romans 8:10; 2 Cor. 3:17—"The Lord is the spirit.").
- Our God Most High and Yeshua the king of Kings, come to make our lives their HOME (John 14:23). We need to let them have "the run of the house" and open all parts of our lives to them and ask God to help us change. The change in our lives must be HIS working, not ours.
- We reviewed God's love from Passover thru Pentecost and how it's all focused on GOD and HIS work, HIS doing.
- Our Father called you and me and **HE chose us**. HE led us to repentance. He called us to tell others about him too and be witnesses of Him and his good news.
- Then we received Christ's engagement ring – which is what the Holy Spirit is! A guarantee of marriage at the Wedding of the Lamb – which probably will happen on a future Pentecost day.

And this is just a PART of the magnificent meanings of Pentecost day. Much more is coming! Be sure to hear the next sermon for more insights into this exciting day!

Closing prayer.