



50 Days to Pentecost

April 17 – June 4

**Sixth Avenue Baptist Church
Dr. John L. Cantelow, III, Pastor**

As we enter into the Season of Pentecost it is my hope and prayer that you will engage in this Bible reading adventure with a desire to gain a greater understanding of the Godhead, a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work in the Old and New Testaments, an understanding of this season, and an understanding of the Spirit's work in the lives of believers and in the body of Christ. My greatest desire is that as the Body of Christ we will all experience our own personal Pentecost.

Pastor John Cantelow, III

Introduction

This booklet has been developed to guide us through the Season of Pentecost with selected passages to help us understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This introductory reading material is provided to give context to the reading plan. We have also included an overview of the H.E.A.R. journal and a sample H.E.A.R. journal entry to help maximize your understanding.

Outline

Understanding the Holy Spirit

The Godhead (Father, Son and Spirit)

Holy Spirit in the OT

- a) Present at Creation
- b) Limited to Certain People (e.g. Prophets, Judges)
- c) God's Promise to Pour Out the Spirit on All Flesh

Holy Spirit in the NT

- a) The Annunciation of the Birth of Christ
- b) Elizabeth, Zechariah and the Birth of John
- c) Jesus' Baptism
- d) Jesus and Nicodemus

From Influence to Indwelling - Jesus Promises The Spirit

- I. Counsels
- II. Convicts of Sin
- III. Just in Judgement
- IV. Righteousness

V. Guides

VI. Reveals Truth

Pentecost

- I. A Christian festival celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Resurrection Sunday commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.
- II. "Each one heard [the Apostles] speak in his own language".
- III. "They spoke of the wonderful works of God."

The Holy Spirit's Activities in the Lives of Believers and in the Body of Christ

- I. Rebirth
- II. Indwelling
- III. Holy Living
- IV. Fruit-Bearing
- V. Distribution of Gifts for Ministry in the Body of Christ

Understanding the Holy Spirit

Trinity: One God eternal who manifests as three divine and distinct persons: Father, Son and Spirit.

A. Father: The first Person of the Godhead (that which is uniquely God as well as that which proceeds from Him). God as Father in the New Testament corresponds with Elohim in the Old Testament and the name YHWH. God is revealed in the Scriptures as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of creation. He is Spirit, eternal, sovereign, perfect, free, unchanging and holy. He is NOT three gods (a polytheistic view). From the Godhead proceeds the Son. God is the agent of creation, revelation and salvation.

B. Son: This is Jesus the One in whom the Father is well pleased. Evidence of the tri-unity is found in the Gospel accounts of Jesus baptism. Christ is the instrument of creation, revelation and salvation.

C. Spirit: Third person of the Trinity is the actor through whom the will of God is revealed. His works are found in both the Old and New Testament where He empowers God's people and discloses His presence. He is quite often depicted as the wind, which can be both constructive and destructive. In the crossing of the Red Sea the wind held back the Red Sea and dried the land underneath. However, the wind also destroys. In the New Testament wind (pneuma) became

synonymous with an experience with the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost. God's Spirit moves about freely at the behest of God sanctifying Christians in the Body as He communicates with us, empowers us to do the will of God.

God is One (Father/Son/Spirit)

- An Undivided Unity
- 3 distinct WAYS of being
- 3 fold participation in justification, sanctification and glorification

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Some Christians seem to think that the Holy Spirit was nonexistent in the Old Testament, but in reality, the existence of the Spirit of God is clearly evident in the opening verses of Genesis as actively involved in the creation of the earth. In the Old Testament man's experience with the Holy Spirit was selective and temporary. The Spirit "came upon" certain people such as Joshua, David and even Saul. Scripture also notes that the Spirit departed from Saul. The Spirit "came upon the various prophets and judges to accomplish God's purposes, i.e. to perform specific tasks or to grant special abilities. One such instance was the example of Bezalel who was gifted to do much of the artwork relating to the Tabernacle. In the book of Ezekiel God promises a new heart and new spirit, and in the book of Joel He promises to pour out His spirit on all people.

The Holy Spirit in the Gospels and Jesus' Promise of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit appears in the Gospels working to bring about the plan of God in the fullness of time. We see the Holy Spirit at work in the birth of John the Baptist; the conception and birth of Jesus; the affirmation of Jesus as the Christ by Simeon and Anna in the Temple; the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan by John the Baptist; The Holy Spirit and the temptation of Christ in the wilderness and in the works of Jesus in His healing and deliverance ministry. As Jesus ministered to and taught His disciples, He revealed to them that He must go away, but He promised not to leave them alone. He promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Fulfillment of the Promise to Send the Holy Spirit and the Fulfillment of the Prophecy of Joel and Ezekiel

Pentecost, a Christian festival celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. In the New Testament, the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus. Pentecost Sunday marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. It occurs 50 days after Easter, and comes 10 days after the Ascension of Christ. Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise to send the "Counselor" and "Spirit of Truth".

Pentecost launches the large-scale spreading of the Gospel after Jesus' ascension. Scripture records that after Peter spoke to the crowd after receiving the Holy Spirit, some 3,000 people were baptized.

The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer and the Body of Christ

The Holy Spirit is the person and presence of God in the life of the believer to bring him to the salvation crisis, regeneration and progressive sanctification until the coming of the Lord for full redemption of the spirit, soul and body. He also operates in the lives of the members of the Body of Christ collectively and individually to bring about a bond of unity by production of spiritual fruit in our lives, and He distributes gifts to believers for the work of ministry to build up the Body of Christ and advance His kingdom on the earth.

Believers are Warned against Ignoring, Neglecting and Blaspheming the Spirit

Believers are warned against ignoring, neglecting and quenching the Holy Spirit by choosing their own way despite the leadings and promptings of the Holy Spirit. To consistently neglect, ignore, grieve or quench the Spirit may lead to a hardened heart and result in a dead spirit.

Believers are Exhorted to Cooperate with the Spirit.

Believers are exhorted to 'walk in the Spirit', and to 'keep in step with the Spirit'. This sounds somewhat regimented, but it actually means to submit to and rely on the Spirit; not to run ahead or lag behind Him, but to take our cues from Him --- daily trusting Him and praying to Him for understanding and strength.

The **H.E.A.R.**JOURNAL

You are strongly encouraged to use the HEAR Journal included as part of this material. Its purpose is to guide you through your daily reading . As you do this, **Highlight** the text you feel led to study more intentionally. Next **Explain** in a few sentences the meaning of the passages. Ask yourself what you are to take from the text and **Apply** to your daily living. Finally, respond by journaling what you believe is to be your **Response**.

SAMPLE H.E.A.R. JOURNAL

Read: Philippians 4:10-13

Date: 2-24-11

Title: Secret of Contentment

Highlight: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

Explain: The Apostle Paul is telling the church at Philippi that he has discovered the secret of contentment. No matter what situation was brought into Paul’s life, he realized that Christ was all he needed, and Christ was the one who strengthened him to persevere through difficult times.

Apply: In my life, I will come across many ups and downs. My contentment is not found in circumstances; my contentment is grounded in my relationship with Jesus Christ. Only Jesus gives me the strength I need to be content in all seasons of life.

Respond: Lord Jesus, help me as I strive to draw my contentment from You. Through Your strength, I can make it through all the various situations in life.

Holy Spirit Reading Plan 2017

<u>Day</u>	<u>Categories</u>	<u>Scriptural Text</u>
1	DIETY	Genesis 1:1-29
2	OLD TESTAMENT	Exodus 28:1-4
3	OLD TESTAMENT	Exodus 31:1-11
4	OLD TESTAMENT	Numbers 27:12-23
5	OLD TESTAMENT	1 Samuel 16:1-14
6	OT PROMISE	Joel 2:1-32
7	DIETY	Matthew 28:16-20
8	DIETY	John 15:18-27
9	DIETY	Acts 5:12-32
10	DIETY	Romans 15:14-33
11	DIETY	2 Corinthians 13:11-14
12	DIETY	Galatians 4:1-7
13	DIETY	1 Timothy 3:14-16
14	DIETY	Hebrews 9:11-15
15	DIETY	Hebrews 10:19-31
16	DIETY	1 Peter 1:3-12
17	DIETY	2 Corinthians 3:1-18
18	DIETY	2 Corinthians 5:1-5
19	NEW TESTAMENT	Luke 1:8-17
20	NEW TESTAMENT	Luke 1:39-45
21	NEW TESTAMENT	Luke 1:57-80
22	NEW TESTAMENT	John 20:10-24
23	REBIRTH	John 3 :1-16
24	REBIRTH	Titus 3:1-8
25	REBIRTH	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
26	REBIRTH	1 Peter 1:1-12
27	FILLED	Acts 2:1-21
28	FILLED	Acts 2:22-41
29	FILLED	Acts 4:1-22
30	FILLED	Acts 4:23-31
31	FILLED	Acts 6:1-15
32	FILLED	Acts 8:1-25
33	FILLED	Acts 9:1-18
34	FILLED	Acts 10:1-48

<u>Day</u>	<u>Categories</u>	<u>Scriptural Text</u>
36	FILLED	Acts 13:1-52
37	FILLED	Acts 19:1-11
38	FILLED	Ephesians 5:1-21
39	FRUIT	Romans 5:1-5
40	FRUIT	Romans 14:1-23
41	FRUIT	Romans 15:1-16
42	FRUIT	2 Corinthians 6:3-13
43	FRUIT	Galatians 5:1-26
44	FRUIT	Galatians 6:1-10
45	GIFTS	1 Corinthian 12:1-9
46	INDWELLING	Romans 8:1-27
47	INDWELLING	Romans 9:1-5
48	INDWELLING	Romans 15:16-20
49	INDWELLING	1 Corinthians 3:1-23
50	INDWELLING	1 Corinthians 6:12-20