

E-Series

Holy Spirit



*The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make **breath** enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put **breath** in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no **breath** in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the **breath**; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O **breath**, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet--a vast army. 11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my **Spirit** in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'" —Ezekiel 37:1-14*

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. The word "Pentecost" literally means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is always the fiftieth day after Easter—that's seven weeks after Easter and the tenth day after Ascension Thursday (when we celebrate Jesus' ascension to the Father).

So that's when Pentecost is. What is Pentecost? Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus ascended to the Father, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come. He said that, although he was leaving, he would not leave us orphaned. He was sending us a Comforter, an Advocate. Ten days later (after his ascension), his promise was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit came down in a way never before seen. Some people have referred to that first Pentecost as the birthday of the Church, the day the Church came to life, invigorated by the power from on high, vivified by the very breath (wind, Spirit) of God. The Holy Spirit is the gift of Pentecost, and with the Spirit comes life, vitality, freshness.

It has been said that the Holy Spirit is the most neglected of the three persons of the Trinity, that of the three—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit is the least understood, perhaps the most MISunderstood.

So, how would you define the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? If you had to draw up a job description for the Holy Spirit, what would it look like?

As we prepare for Sunday, think about the Holy Spirit. Do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit working in your life? Discuss your Holy Spirit job description with a friend or family member and ask them to share with you what they would include in such a description.

Sparked by the Spirit,
Pastor Michael

