

Dear Holy Spirit followers:

One day in July a farmer sat in front of his home, smoking his corncob pipe. Along came a stranger who asked, "How's your cotton coming?" "Ain't got none," was the answer. "Didn't plant none. 'Fraid of the boll weevil."

"Well, how's your corn?" "Didn't plant none. 'Fraid of the drought." "How about your potatoes?" "Ain't got none. Scared of tater bugs."

The stranger finally asked, "Well, what did you plant?" "Nothin", answered the farmer. "I just played it safe."

Do we sometimes live life like this? Do we find ourselves in constant fear of the next move we make? Do we just want to play it safe? Is it possible to find security in life? Is it possible to have comfort and peace in our everyday life?

Yes, through the work of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

### **Follow the Holy Spirit**

Today we celebrate Pentecost. We celebrate the person and work of the God the Holy Spirit.

\* Pentecost is considered by the Church as the 3<sup>rd</sup> great festival

\* Christmas and Easter are no. 1 and 2

\* Have you sent any Pentecost cards this past week?

One of my seminary professors said about Pentecost: "Ask the man on the street to name the 3 great festivals of the Church and chances are good he will have little trouble coming up with Christmas. With a bit of reflection he may also think of Easter. But mention of a 3<sup>rd</sup> festival is likely to draw a blank stare." Prof. Panning

Pentecost happened 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. The disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They remembered the words of Jesus. They remembered that He told them that He would send the Holy Spirit upon them.

Acts 2:1-4; John 14:26

Why celebrate Pentecost?

\* The Holy Spirit brought us to faith

\* The Holy Spirit keeps us in the faith

Therefore, we follow the Holy Spirit

I. For you are God's children vv14-16

### **We are led by the Holy Spirit**

A. Because you are led by the Holy Spirit v14

1. Which is one of the privileges of being God's child

Galatians 4:5 - We have received the "full rights of sons" We have been adopted as children of God

2. The basis for living in peace is the work of the Holy Spirit in us

A. He produces faith in us

I Corinthians 12:3 "No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

B. He produces repentance in us.

II Corinthians 7:10 "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret..."

C. He produces good works in us.

Philippians 2:13 "For it is God who works in you to will and to act..."

D. He produces fruit in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

E. He produces gifts in us

I Peter 4:10-11 "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...If anyone speaks...If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides..."

- **Speaking means...**

- teaching = the ability to explain and apply truth
- exhortation – to comfort and encourage others

- word of wisdom = to apply scriptural truth to problems
- word of knowledge = the ability to grasp and organize facts
- **Serving means...**
  - giving = willingness and cheerfulness to contribute
  - leadership = to oversee the work of the church with vision and by example to inspire others to follow
  - administration = one who steers the ship...the church on its course...to organize, delegate and motivate
  - showing mercy = sympathy for another that shows itself in words and actions – compassion for people

F. He produces perseverance in us

**Philippians 1:6 “...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”**

G. He produces prayer in us

Romans 8:26 “...We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

B. Because we have been adopted by God v15

1. Spirit of Sonship = adoption

A. We are no longer cringing and fearful slaves, instead we are the Master’s children - What a privilege!

B. Spirit of adoption gives us a childlike confidence which calls God the Father –

**“Abba” which means “Daddy”** God is our Father able and ready to help us. It is by the Holy Spirit that we come to the Father.

C. No more fear - In your mind picture a slave trembling before a hated taskmaster. We are no longer slaves but children living under the Father’s watchful eye.

Some of you may remember the picture showing President Kennedy sitting at his desk in the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis with the world on the edge of nuclear war with underneath that desk the president’s son was playing peacefully with his toys.

We are under the Father's watchful eye in the midst of the world's chaos.

D. Holy Spirit is our adoption placement agent.

"You are all children through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26

2. The meaning of our adoption

A. A legal action whereby a person is taken into a family and given all the rights and privileges of a member of that family.

B. II Samuel 9 - David's adoption

David adopted Mephibosheth who was crippled from birth. He was the son of David's best friend Jonathan who was killed in battle. Mephibosheth was insignificant but David elevated him. David's actions are like God's grace, mercy and love bestowed upon us.

- David took the initiative so does the Lord
- David showed mercy to one who was unworthy
- David was motivated by love for Jonathan
- David desired to show kindness
- David brought Mephibosheth to his own table
- David gave him an inheritance

In Rome the adoptive person lost all relationship to his old family and gained all the rights of his new family. The adoptive person became heir to the whole estate of the father as the natural born children would. The former life of an adoptive person was wiped out and he was given a new name and his past was forgotten. In the eyes of the law an adoptive person was literally the son of his new father.

C. Because the Holy Spirit confirms it in our heart v16

1. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are God's children. I John 3:1

It is not a voice at night but it is confidence in our heart that God's Word is good. The Holy Spirit supports our spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us security from the Word. The Spirit affirms in our heart that we are God's children.

2. The voice of conscience and conviction as we read the Word is the voice of God speaking to us. When we are in the Word we are led by the Spirit. When we

are in the Word the Spirit injects thoughts and impulses into our minds and hearts. The evidence of the Spirit in your life assures you of your sonship.

Follow the Spirit

II. For you are God's heirs v17

A. Heirship follows sonship

1. Children are heirs of their father

Psalms 73:25-26 **Whom have I in heaven but you?** And being with you, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Lamentations 3:24 The Lord is my portion therefore I will wait for him.

2. God's children are co-heirs with Christ

Romans vs. Jewish view of adoption

In Rome all the children shared equally in the inheritance whereas in the Jewish culture the firstborn received a double portion.

We are co-heirs - we share what Jesus has John 17:22 "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one."

**We are filled with the Holy Spirit...why, then, so often...**

- \* Do we walk around defeated and downcast?
- \* Why do our homes often lack love and joy?
- \* Why do we find ourselves discouraged and sad?
- \* Why do we contend with strife and worry?

Answer: Sin

King David wrote: "I am bowed down and brought very low. I am troubled by my sin." Psalm 38

However, over all our sins is "The blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses me from all my sin." 1 John 1:7

As long as we live in this world we will have to contend with a sinful world and the trials and tribulation that brings, however...

B. Glory follows suffering v17 “We share in His sufferings...”

Christ did not suffer apart from us nor will his glory be apart from us. **“For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives,** so also through Christ our comfort overflows.” II Corinthians 1:5

Someday we will inherit what Jesus has. I John 3:2 We won’t be equal to Christ in the sense of the deity but in what the deity possesses.

God has a reason for any suffering in our lives because we are co-heirs with Christ.

**Peter says: “These have come so that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus is revealed.” I Peter 1:7**

Follow the Holy Spirit – look at the world and your life in view of what God has done and is doing for you.

### **Happy Pentecost!**

The Holy Spirit guides and controls our words, action, thoughts and deeds.

- Be filled with the Spirit Eph 5:18
- Walk in the Spirit Gal 5:16
- Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord. Zech 4

The Holy Spirit gives us: Joy --- Hope --- Wisdom --- Strength

This is why we celebrate Pentecost.