

Baptised with the Holy Spirit (A topical sermon)

(Put together by Pieter van Huyssteen with due acknowledgement)¹

Acts 1:5; 2:1-13; Eph 1:3-14!

9 June 2019, Reformed Church of Wainuiomata 10:30 am

Intro (Short)

- Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Today we celebrate Pentecost Day – yes, that day which came 50 days after our Lord Jesus had risen from the dead.
- On Pentecost Day happened what John the Baptist (Mt 3:11) and Jesus Himself (Acts 1:5) had promised, i.e. that Jesus would baptise His Church with the Holy Spirit!
- Well, in the past I have preached on the events of Pentecost Day!
- So, this morning, I'd want to preach on what *Baptism with the Holy Spirit* is in *your & my* lives!
- And I would like to do that by way of the following three points...
 - Regenerated by the Holy Spirit
 - Sealed by the Holy Spirit
 - Filled by the Holy Spirit

(Go to First Point “Regeneration” on p.3)

Intro (Long)

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Today is Pentecost Sunday!

Yes, it's 50 days after we celebrated Resurrection Sunday!

Indeed, it was in about the year 30 AD, and 50 days after our Lord Jesus rose from the dead, that He,² from heaven, poured out His Holy Spirit upon the early church!

And so, what John the Baptist once said came true, i.e. that, whereas he (John) baptised with *water* (an outward washing visible to the eyes), Jesus would baptise with the *Holy*

¹ In putting together this sermon I was greatly indebted to the wonder work of Reymond, R.L. 1998. A new systematic theology of the Christian faith. Second Edition RVSD and updated. Nashville, TE : Thomas Nelson. 1210p.

I also appreciate the guidance I received via telephone and email from my colleague, Rev. Paul Archbald (Reformed Church Silverstream) who is way more experienced than I in systematic theology and in Christian ministry. However, I haste to say that Rev Archbald is not to blame for any deficiency whatever may be present in this sermon.

² Acts 2:33 tells us that it was *Jesus* who poured out the Holy Spirit, “***This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.***” (Emphasis mine).

Of course, it was Jesus in harmony with the Father (and the Holy Spirit) who did the outpouring. That's why Acts 2:17 (quoting Joel 2:28) says, “***And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...***” (Emphasis mine)

Spirit and with *fire*, i.e. Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, would do the real, inward baptism – yes, an inward, spiritual washing/cleansing, which, unlike with baptism with *water*, you & I can't see with our eyes!

So, on Pentecost Day, Jesus did what John the Baptist had prophesied!

But, look, it was not just *John the Baptist* who said that Jesus would *baptize with the Holy Spirit*! No, ten days before Pentecost, as Jesus was about to ascend back into heaven, *He Himself* used the same words! Yes, Jesus told the disciples (in Acts 1:4-5) ***not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."***

Baptised with the Holy Spirit? – What did that mean for the apostles (and all who were already Christ's followers) on Pentecost Day?

Well, for them, it meant...³

- that their minds/intellecets were enriched with unprecedented brilliance⁴ & insight;⁵
- their wills were strengthened, like never before, with contagious boldness – even in face of those who hated them;⁶
- and their hearts got flooded with warm affection for God and fellow believers – yes, to a degree previously unheard of.⁷

That's, in short, what baptism with the Holy Spirit meant for those who, came Pentecost Day, had already been followers of Christ!

But what did *baptised with the Holy Spirit* mean for those three thousand who, for the first time, received Christ on Pentecost Day?

³ I have gleaned these three points from Hendriksen's excellent commentary on Mat 3:11, for which cf. Hendriksen W. 2004. Exposition of the Gospel according to Matthew (In: Hendriksen, W. ed. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House. p.208)

⁴ Or illumination

⁵ Cf. e.g. what the Apostle John wrote to his congregation members in 1 John 2:20, "***They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge...***" (Emphasis mine)

⁶ See e.g. Acts 4:13, ***Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*** (Emphasis mine)

Acts 4:19-20, ***But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."*** (Emphasis mine).

Acts 4:33, ***And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*** (Emphasis mine)

Acts 5:29, ***But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men..."*** (Emphasis mine)

⁷ See, e.g. Acts 2:44-47, ***And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

Also Acts 3:6, ***But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"***

Also Acts 4:32, ***Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.***

Well, for them, *baptised with the Holy Spirit* meant everything the Holy Spirit does in the heart & life of every person who, by grace through faith, receives Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour & Lord – yes, it included, e.g. regeneration (new birth) & the washing away of their sins; justification, adoption as children of God, sealing with the Holy Spirit, and a filling with (equipping by) the Holy Spirit for the office of believer!⁸ Of course, on Pentecost Day (and with the three small-circle “Pentecosts” later in the book of Acts),⁹ baptised with the Holy Spirit also included a speaking in tongues – in languages which were known at the time, yet, languages which those who received the Holy Spirit had not learned through hard study! No, as the Holy Spirit came on them, they just starting speaking in these languages. But this phenomenon stopped at the closing of the Canon (Yes, when all of Scripture were written), because the purpose of that speaking in tongues was just to indicate in a very poignant way that the Gospel of Jesus would not be restricted mostly to Jews, but that it would go out to people of all languages and all walks of life!

That’s why the Apostle Paul was able to say (in 1 Cor 12:13), *For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*¹⁰

My brother & sister, so far regarding what *baptised with the Holy Spirit* meant on Pentecost Day!

But, here is the theme of our sermon:¹¹ **What does baptism with the Holy Spirit mean for you & me? How are you & I (have you & I been) baptised with the Holy Spirit?**

Well, I know, *to-be-baptised-with-the-Holy-Spirit* includes a whole lot of things in the heart & life of the Christian, but, because of time, I have chosen to focus on just the following three:

- Regenerated by the Holy Spirit
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit
- Filled by the Holy Spirit

Regenerated

My brother & sister, dear young people, and dear children, *regeneration* means *new birth*.¹² The Bible uses this word to describe the Christian’s spiritual birth, i.e. that moment when God worked faith in Jesus Christ in your & my heart!

⁸ In fact, Baptism with the Holy Spirit will include all divine activities in the human heart – yes, the whole package of the application of Christ’s savings work to the hearts of His loved ones. Such work will include the following “stages” known from the Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation): **Regeneration** (new birth), Three Divine Acts (**Justification, Definitive Sanctification, Adoption** and the Sealing of the Spirit); and it will blossom in the divine act of **Glorification** (Cf. the table of contents in Reymond, *ibid*:xiv-xv)

⁹ See Acts 2 for Pentecost on the Jews; Acts 8 for a Pentecost on the Samaritans; Acts 10 for a Pentecost on the Gentiles; and Acts 19 for a Pentecost on John’s followers.

¹⁰ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (1 Co 12:13). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

¹¹ A topical sermon

¹² There’s only one place in the Bible which uses the Greek word *palingenesis* (**παλιγγενεσία**), which literally means *rebirth* (or *again-birth*), rendered by most English versions as *regeneration*. That passage is Tit 3:5 (cf. Tit 3:4-6, especially v. 5), **But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...** (Emphasis mine).

Other NT passages describes this rebirth in several ways:

When our Lord Jesus talked to Nicodemus, He described regeneration as being *born again*.¹³

Now, in some way, this *being born again* (yes, this *spiritual* new birth) can be compared with our *physical* birth!

You see, you & I had nothing to do to be born! We came into this world without *our* doing!

And the miracle is that, even our *parents* from whom we were born, had no say whatsoever in *who* we would be and *how* we would look – e.g. whether we would be a boy or a girl, whether we would have blue or brown or green eyes, or what the colour of our hair would be. These were all God's doing – it all happened by God's decree. Our parents – important though they were in giving birth to us – were mere instruments in God's hands!

Well, in much the same way, did you & I have nothing to do with our *spiritual* birth – with becoming *born again*! It was all *God's* gracious work! And, if our *parents* had any hand in that, it might only be that, from we were little, they trained us in the Bible; yes, brought us to church, Sunday school and catechism! But, even *so*, our parents did not (and could never) work our *spiritual* birth! That was God who, through the Holy Spirit, worked faith in our hearts – faith in Jesus Christ, our Saviour!

Firstly: as *being made alive with Christ*.

See e.g. Eph 2:4-5 (especially v.5), **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—** (Emphasis mine). Also cf. Col 2:13 **And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses...** (Emphasis mine).

Secondly: the Christian is described as a *new creation*. See, e.g. 2 Cor 5:17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation** (Emphasis mine).

Also cf. Gal 6:15 **For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation** (Emphasis mine). Also cf. Eph 2:10 **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them** (Emphasis mine).

Thirdly: as *being born again* (So 1 Pt 1:23 **...since you have been born again** (ἀναγεγεννημένοι from ἀναγεννάω), **not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...**) (Emphasis mine).

Fourthly: as bringing forth (So Js 1:18 **Of his own will he brought us forth** (ἀπεκύησεν, from ἀποκυέω) **by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures**) (Emphasis mine).

Fifthly: as *being born*. So John in many places, e.g. Jn 1:12-13 (especially v.13) **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born** (ἐγεννήθησαν from γεννάω), **not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God** (Emphasis mine). In this regard, also cf. 1 Jn 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1; 5:4 and 5:18.

¹³ Cf. Jn 3:3 **Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."** The Greek word for "again" (ἄνωθεν) is purposely ambiguous and can mean both *again* and *from above*; also verse 7, in which Jesus which says, **Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'** (ESV). Gauging by Nicodemus' reaction (he thought he had to re-enter his mother's womb *again* [cf. Jn 3:4]), I prefer the translation, "born *again*."

Yes, it's God's work! That's why Jesus said (in Jn 6:44), "***No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws¹⁴ him.***" And again (in Jn 6:65), "***No one can come to Me, unless it has been given¹⁵ him from the Father!***"

You say, "But pastor, I did not *see/notice* that moment when the Holy Spirit worked faith and spiritual birth in me!"

Well, you *would* not, because Jesus said it's like when the wind blows!¹⁶ After all, you & I cannot see the wind *itself*, but we can see the *effect* the wind has on the tree branches and leaves!

Yes, take a picture outside on a windy day! Show people that picture! Can they see the *wind*? No! Can they on that picture see how the branches & leaves on the trees are bent and how a piece of paper is flying in the wind? Yes, they may be able to see that! So it is with the Holy Spirit's work in your/my heart! We cannot see the Holy Spirit self! In some cases, it's even difficult to say exactly *when* the Holy Spirit did that rebirthing work in us! But *this* we can see – the *effect* of what the Holy Spirit has done in our hearts! How?

Well, because, when the Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts, He *washes away* the filth/sin of our hearts! That's why Paul was able to say to Titus (in Tit 3:5) that Christ, "***...saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...***"¹⁷

See the *effect* of the Holy Spirit's regenerating work? Your & my sins are *washed away*! How do we feel about that?

Well, our hearts & faces show untold joy and peace, because now (as Jesus says in Jn 3:3 & 5) we are able to *see* and *enter* the kingdom of God!¹⁸

What *other proof* do we see that we have been born again?

¹⁴ ἔλκυση - an Aorist Active Subjunctive 3rd Person Singular of the verb ἔλκω: to pull or drag, requiring force because of the inertia of the object being dragged—'to pull, to drag, to draw' (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 207). New York: United Bible Societies).

¹⁵ δεδομένον a Perfect Passive Participle Singular Nominative Neuter of the verb δίδωμι: to give an object, usually implying value—'to give, giving' (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 565). New York: United Bible Societies).

¹⁶ Cf. Jn 3:8, "***The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.***"

¹⁷ Here is Tit 3:4-5 in full (NIV), ***But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...***

Re this washing aspect of our regeneration, also cf. Ezek 36:25-26 "***I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.***"

And also Jn 3:5 ***Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

¹⁸ Jn 3:3 ***Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God"*** (Emphasis mine).

Jn 3:5 ***Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God..."*** (Emphasis mine).

Well, that we now do believe in *Jesus*;¹⁹ that we can confess that He *is* who He claimed to be – the Son of God who came & died to make us right with God! That’s why John says (in 1 Jn 5:1), “***Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God...***”²⁰ What other effects of our rebirth do we see?

Well, that we now love to live holy lives and that we hate the life of sin;²¹ also, that we love others! After all, does not John say, “***Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God***”?²²

My brother & sister, no other hymn describes Christian regeneration/rebirth better than Charles Wesley’s “And can it be that I should gain.”²³ Hear again the fourth stanza...

*“Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee...”*

You ask what *instrument* the Holy Spirit uses to work our rebirth!?

The Word of God which pierces our heart & soul, as Peter says (in 1 Pt 1:23) ... ***you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...***²⁴

O, don’t we pray that all of us – even our children – will have this God-worked regeneration/rebirth; yes, especially those in whom we do not yet see the effects of having been born again!

Well, that was a brief summary of regeneration (of being born again). And regeneration is only one part of being *baptised with the Holy Spirit*!

Here is another part (point 2 in the sermon)...

¹⁹ Cf. Jn 1:12-13 ***But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God*** (ESV).

Also cf. 1 Jn 5:1 ***Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him*** (ESV).

²⁰ Emphasis mine

²¹ Cf. 1 Jn 3:9 ***No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God*** (ESV)

Also 1 Jn 5:18 ***We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him*** (ESV).

²² Emphasis mine. Also cf. 1 Jn 5:1 ***Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him*** (Emphasis mine).

²³ I agree with Reymond (ibid:721)

²⁴ Emphasis mine

Sealed

The Apostle Paul says (in our Ephesians passage 1:13)²⁵ that all who have believed in Jesus Christ, *were sealed²⁶ with the promised Holy Spirit!*²⁷ The NIV says, *were marked with a seal* – that seal being the Holy Spirit!

And the word used here for *were sealed*, describes a sure & firm fact!²⁸

Well, in the very next verse, Paul says that that seal (yes, the Holy Spirit in us) is also a *guarantee²⁹* of all the eternal blessings God has promised us!³⁰

So, how can we describe 1) this *seal* and 2) this *guarantee*?

Well, imagine I have a car for sale! A poor university student has come to me and said, “Sir, you want \$8,000 for your car!? But I cannot give you all \$8,000 upfront! So, I will give you \$2,000 now and pay off the rest over the next three months! So, you can keep the car in your garage until I have paid off the full amount, then I will come and get it!

See, sir? Here, on this paper, I give my *signature to seal* this deal with you!”

My brother & sister (and dear children), see? The signature of that student is like a seal – a seal which says the deal is now *sealed & closed*, i.e. I cannot now go and sell the car to another person! Yes, that student’s signature has made the car-purchase secure.

So, in a similar way, when I have been born again and have received the Holy Spirit dwelling in my heart, *that* works like God’s contractual/covenant signature. Yes, by this Holy-Spirit-seal in my heart, God is saying to me as much as, “Pieter, see, I have bound Myself to you!” “I *will* fulfil what I have begun in you!”

What’s more, my brother & sister, in a way similar (just much grander) than that student’s first instalment of \$2,000 on my car, God’s Holy Spirit who now lives in my heart, is not just a *seal/signature* – no, He’s also a *guarantee* – yes a *first instalment* (or *guaranteeing deposit*) of the full blessing I will receive from God on the Last Day!

See why Paul was able to say to the Philippian Christians (in Phil 1:6), “***And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ***”?

See how he/she who has been born again, now has the sure pledge of being God’s child *forever!!?*

²⁵ The only other place where Paul uses nearly the same words to describe the same action of God is in 2 Cor 1:21-22, ***And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²²and who has also put his seal*** (σφραγισάμενος) ***on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*** (ESV).

²⁶ ἔσφραγίσθητε Aorist Passive Indicative 2nd Person Plural of σφραγίζω: to use a seal to close or to make something secure—‘to seal, to put a seal on, to make secure’ (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 59). New York: United Bible Societies).

²⁷ Eph 1:13-14 ***In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.***

²⁸ In Greek *esfragisthete* (ἔσφραγίσθητε) is in Aorist tense – a tense which describes a complete and accomplished action.

²⁹ ἀρραβών, ὄνος *m*: the first or initial payment of money or assets, as a guarantee for the completion of a transaction or pledge (in the NT ἀρραβών is used only figuratively in referring to the Holy Spirit as the pledge or guarantee of the blessings promised by God)—‘first installment, downpayment, pledge, guarantee.’ ἔσφραγίσθητε τῷ πνεύματι τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῷ ἁγίῳ, ὃ ἐστὶν ἀρραβών τῆς κληρονομίας ἡμῶν ‘you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit which he promised and which is the first installment of what we shall receive’ Eph 1:13–14 (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 576). New York: United Bible Societies).

³⁰ Please cf. two footnotes back for Eph 1:13-14

If you have *been born again* from God, you have certainly also received the Holy Spirit as *seal/signature* and *guaranteeing deposit* from God!

Well, so far regarding being *sealed* by the Holy Spirit!
Here is now a third part of being baptised with the Holy Spirit...

Filled

My brother & sister, he/she who has been 1) *born again* by the Holy Spirit, will also have experienced 2) *the sealing* with the Holy Spirit, and will then also experience 3) *the filling activity* of the Holy Spirit!

And this filling by the Holy Spirit is a part of the Christian's *ongoing sanctification!*

Where does the Bible talk about this *filling* with the Holy Spirit?

Well, in Eph 5:18, where Paul says, "...***do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,***³¹ ***but be filled with the Spirit!***"

Imagine a drunk person! Such person is *under the influence*, shall we say, of the "*intoxicating spirit*" of wine!³²

That's so different to how the Christian should be, because Christian must ever live under the "*intoxicating influence*" of the Holy Spirit!

And you know what? The Spirit's "*intoxicating influence,*" far from taking away from us our self-control (as alcohol does), actually stimulates us for everything that makes us behave at our best and highest – including giving us self-control.

And remember, is self-control not a fruit of the Holy Spirit (as we see in Gal 5:23)!?³³

Perhaps you say, "But how can Paul give us a *command*, '*be filled with the Spirit,*' if it's the *Spirit* who fills us and not *us* who fill *ourselves* with the Spirit!?"

My brother & sister, all that Paul says is, "*Let the Spirit* be continually filling you!"³⁴

"Yes, *do not resist* the Spirit's filling work in you, for if you did that, you will grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (as Eph 4:30 says)!"³⁵

In other words, all that Paul is doing is he's saying: "You *say* you are born-again!?"

"Well, then *live* what you are!"

You ask, "But, Pastor, tell us in what ways Christians are filled by the Spirit – yes, tell us so that we can see how to honour the Spirit in us!"

Well, Paul gives the following examples of how the Christian's filling with the Spirit is seen by others.³⁶

³¹ ἄσωτία, ας f: behavior which shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action — 'senseless deeds, reckless deeds, recklessness.' μη μεθύσκεσθε οἴνω, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἄσωτία 'do not get drunk with wine, for that results in reckless deeds' Eph 5:18. In some languages ἄσωτία in Eph 5:18 may be rendered as 'what one does without being able to think about it' or 'what one does when the mind is absent' (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 752). New York: United Bible Societies). Also cf. Bauer who says that ἄσωτία literally means incorrigibility (Bauer, W. 1979. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. p.119).

³² Words borrowed from Reymond (ibid:765).

³³ Cf. Gal 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law*** (Emphasis mine).

³⁴ I agree with Reymond (ibid:765)

³⁵ Eph 4:30 ***And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***

³⁶ Cf. Eph 5:18-21 and its parallel passage in Col 3:15-17.

Here is Eph 5:18-21 ***And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.***

Says Paul (Eph 5:18-21 & in Col 3:15-17), “...***Be filled with the Spirit...
...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...***”

What does this mean? Well, it does not mean that, when we talk to one another, we will do so in a singing way (almost like in a musical movie). No, but that we will often, as we talk to one another, quote words from psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, and then tell one another how those words really comforted/strengthened us. It’s like Sally who says to Mary, “Mary, do you remember the words of Ps 46 – “***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble?***” “Well, Mary, I have experienced the truth of those words yesterday again when God answered my prayers re my troublesome child...”

Another example of this filling is (says Paul in Eph 5:19) that we will be ***singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart***. I remember a lady who, long, long ago, was a member in this church. She once invited us over for dinner. Well, *so Spirit-filled with the joy in the Lord* was she that we could all the time hear her whistling Christian hymns in her kitchen while she was preparing our food!

A third example, says Paul (in Eph 5:20), is that we will *always give thanks for all things in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father!* (Christian gratitude!)

A fourth example, says Paul (in v.21), is that we will always be submissive to one another! Why? Well, *out of reverence for Christ!*

Lastly, says Paul (in Col 3:15), *filled with Spirit* also means that we will be ***teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom***, i.e. we will look after one another’s spiritual wellbeing by counselling & encouraging one another in love!

Well, my brother & sister, it’s Pentecost Day!

You & I have just “scratched the surface” of what *baptism with the Holy Spirit* means for you & me!

I pray that, through all the exposure which you & I (and all our children) have had to God’s Holy Word...

- 1) He, through the Spirit, will work new birth in the hearts of those among us who might not yet have experienced it;
- 2) that we all will have the assurance that we have been *sealed* with the Holy Spirit, the *guaranteeing Deposit* of our redemption on the Day of Christ;
- 3) that we will not grieve the Spirit by resisting His ongoing filling of us with God-honouring & people-caring actions!

AMEN

(With the long introduction, 2804 words excluding footnotes)

(With the short introduction, 2240 words excluding footnotes)

Here is Col 3:15-17 ***And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*** (another way of saying ‘Be willed with the Spirit’), ***teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***